



The Devil I Never Knew

When Sebaga's fiancé leaves her on the isle, a lot of truths are revealed and she soon realizes that the people in her life are not who she thought they were.

You are going to need a box of tissues and a tub of ice cream to help with all the lumps that will be stuck on your throat. They say that all is fair in love and war, Is it?

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#01

Somewhere in Tswapong

Sebaga awoke to the sun piercing through the screen of her tent while stretching her arms out wide to nudge her sister to wake up. It was the morning of her lobola negotiations and her

mother had asked both her and Kgabiso to spend the night out. Everyone in the family knew how opinionated these two were and with them around, one or two relatives were bound to leave before the proceedings even began.

Sebaga : Finally the countdown is over.

Kgabiso: I just hope that everything is going well and malome is behaving. You know how he tends to be greedy.

Sebaga unzipped the screen door and they stepped out of the tent.

Sebaga: I hope not and if he is, mama better be putting him back in line. I don't want anything to ruin my day. I've waited my whole life for this day and finally it's happening.

Kgabiso: Ao mma! Just two years ebole you're calling it your whole life. Imagine how I feel after being with Batsile for ten years yet he hasn't said anything about marriage to me. You're really lucky to have Fela.

Sebaga smiled from ear to ear as she thought of her fiancé. Not only was he handsome but he was a gentle soul that always spoke life in every area of her life. Fela could walk into a room and change the entire mood with just his smile. Some called him dark and handsome but to her, he was Mr bright! She bit her lower lip and closed her eyes imagining her new life with the love of her life.

Kgabiso: Mmaetsho stop day dreaming and let's go and have some breakfast before we hit the road.

Sebaga: I don't know how I feel. Everything feels so surreal. Koore I'm really getting married?

Kgabiso: (Smiled) Yes, you are.

Sebaga: Let me walk around and see if I can't find any reception.

Kgabiso: What for?

Sebaga: I need to check on how everything is all going.

Kgabiso: Why? Mama told you that she has everything under control. This is happening with or without uncle. Tota hela it's happening with him because mama won't allow him to pull any of his tricks. I'm pretty sure that right now she is giving him a piece of her mind before the negotiations can begin.

Sebaga: Well I hope so.

Mahalapye, Botswana

Outside the Gabanne family house was a couple of cars parked. Amongst those cars was a red Range Rover that turned every head. The Molefes must have been rich to afford such cars. While Sebaga's cousins prepared some refreshments by the one room that had been turned into a kitchen, the Gabannes and the Molefe family gathered in the old living room which had furniture that was ready to fall apart. Rra Sebaga quietly observed how the rich carried themselves in their presence. To him life was beyond just having money. Any man that married his daughter had to be from a respectable Tswana family with values and from what he saw, the Molefes were nowhere close to having any values. To them everything was all about money.

Rra Fela: We're willing to pay anything. To be

honest with you, money is no object. Whatever our son wants.

Sebaga's uncle smiled from the end of the room. This was his chance to get as much money as he wanted. If only he could negotiate a higher amount then his share would be very rewarding.

Rra Moagi: I'm very happy to hear that gentlemen because the truth is that things of good quality cost a lot of money. I'm sure that your son told you about our beautiful smart daughter. If your son marries her, he will be very lucky because these days it's not easy to find educated beautiful women who are also submissive.

Rra Sebaga looked at his brother inlaw and

sighed silently hoping that this would not go south as he anticipated.

Rra Fela: So how much do you want for her?

At this point Rra Sebaga just wanted it all to end. Having his daughter being discussed as if she was some kind of property disgusted him however he had to sit tight, he had promised his daughter after all.

Rra Moagi: Fifty thousand.

Rra Fela looked around the old living room and chuckled.

Rra Fela: Well quite truthfully, you need it. Your

house could use a bit of an upgrade. Everything is all over the place and these chairs will collapse at any moment.

Rra Sebaga stood up fuming...

Rra Sebaga: You have absolutely no respect. Your son can not marry my daughter. If you as his parents are capable of insulting us then what more of our daughter? Le tlile go re sotlela ngwana. (You're going to ill treat our daughter.) Please leave my house.

Fela's uncle gently poked Rra Fela but he didn't care at this point. This family was way beneath theirs.

Rra Fela: We are actually doing you people a

favor. Fela can get any woman he wants. Gape hela what did I say that's wrong because you're the one selling your daughter?

Rra Fela: We don't want your money. Keep it and leave my house.

Rra Moagi: Everyone please calm down.

He turned to his brother inlaw...

Rra Moagi: Brother inlaw, I doubt they meant any harm. They don't even have a with problem paying that amount.

Rra Fela: To hell with that money. Follow them as well. You all want me to sit here and listen to you disrespecting my daughter like some bed in a furniture shop. Ntswelang ka ntlu. (Leave my house)

The Molefe delegation stood up in their expensive suits and left. Mma Sebaga gave her brother a sharp look as he attempted to stand and go after them.

Mma Sebaga: Koore wena Rra Moagi you couldn't stand knowing that my daughter is getting married? You just had to ruin it?

She clicked her tongue as he laid back and relaxed.

Rra Moagi: Yet you didn't say anything to your husband when he chased away his in-laws. Your husband is the one responsible for all this mess. We are poor and we shouldn't be offended by anything those people said. It is true that your furniture is falling apart.

Mma Moagi smiled silently enjoying the drama. Who did Mma Sebaga think she was? Did she really think that her daughter could marry into a family more rich and powerful than the one her daughter was married into?

Meanwhile outside the Molefe delegation all got into their cars and drove off leaving dust behind in the township.

Later that day...

Sebaga parked her car behind her father's van and stepped out while her sister remained inside. She was at a boiling point and no one would be able to cool her off. Just as she was about to step inside the house, a call from Fela

came through. She turned back and went back inside her car to take the call. After the circus her family had brought on, she wasn't sure how it would end.

Sebaga: Hello.

Fela: Mma Molefe.

Sebaga: Hey babe..

Fela: Cheer up. You sound really down.

Sebaga: After today I doubt I'll ever wear that ring. Apparently my father is very angry and he swore to never allow me to marry you. I honestly don't understand how three men out of the entire delegation from your side and mine ruined everything. Was everyone just quiet? No one really thought of putting in some order including their wives?

Fela: Hey... Calm down my love. You and I are

going to get married come hell or high water. I don't know how we will get your father to agree to another meeting but my family is not leaving Mahalapye without getting me a wife. I'll speak to my dad to tone it down. Wena handle your uncle and we will be ok.

Sebaga: (Smiled) How do you do it?

Fela: Do what?

Sebaga: Manage to remain calm in such crises?

Fela: Babe I told you that some things are meant to be and even worrying won't change them. Go talk to your parents and uncle. I'll mine to reschedule with them.

Sebaga: Thank you. I love you.

Fela: And I love you more. You're mine. Wa utlwa? (you hear me?)

She giggled then hung up.

Kgabiso: I swear that Fela is the best thing after tin roof. I mean look at how calm you are. Just a few minutes ago, you were ready to set papa's van on fire.

They both laughed...

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Welcome onboard 

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#02

That same evening

At the Garenne's

Sebaga walked into the house and greeted her parents who were having some supper. From their faces, she could tell that they had been arguing. She sat next to her mother and anxiously hoped that they would be the first to say something about what had taken place during the negotiations.

Rra Sebaga: I take it that your mother already told you what happened earlier on.

Sebaga: Not really. She just told me that things didn't go well.

He cleared his throat. These two talked about everything and he knew that his wife had given

their daughter every tiny detail of what had happened in that room.

Rra Sebaga: Well your uncle demanded for fifty thousand pula and your father inlaw seems to think that we are in dire need of it because our furniture is ready to collapse.

She swallowed then closely looked at her father imagining the humiliation that he had to go through. The man took pride in the little that he had accomplished and having another person belittle it must have been hard.

Sebaga: Malome is also to blame. Ele gore who has ever had their magadi set to fifty thousand? Ke raya ka le ene ngwana wa gagwe magadi a gagwe ane a sa hete twenty thousand. (His daughter's magadi didn't even exceed twenty

thousand.) I don't understand why he is sabotaging me.

Rra Sebaga looked at his daughter and smiled briefly. His little girl was still naive after all. Was this the kind of family she wanted to marry into?

Rra Sebaga: He might have been trying to sabotage you however the little stunt he pulled brought the truth to light about the kind of family you want to marry into. If they start insulting us as your parents before you even sign that marriage certificate then what will happen once you have married into their family. I understand that they are rich and have everything but that gives them no right to walk into my house and start insulting us. I love you so much and I would never allow you to marry into that family. I understand that the heart

wants what it wants but for now I'll never agree to it.

Tears rolled down her face as her father stood up.

Sebaga: Papa! But I love him.

Rra Sebaga: Ngwanaka these days love is not enough. There was a time where love could conquer anything however in these last days that we are living in, it no longer conquers anything. It's now money people trust to conquer everything. Find a young man from a good family that will love and respect you. Those ones will abuse you.

He walked out leaving his daughter in tears.

Mma Sebaga: Don't worry.. I'll talk to him.

Sebaga: This is malome's (uncle) fault. What business did he have asking for such a fortune? Now it's like our family is greedy.

Mma Sebaga: I agree but your father is right. If the Molefe's don't respect your family then what more of you? Do you understand that this is the life that you are going to live?

Sebaga: Fela will protect me.

Mma Sebaga: Till when? Do you want to live your entire life being defended? My child, blood is thicker than water. The truth is that sharing a bed with their son or sharing kids with him will not make you a part of their family if they don't see you as one. He will eventually get tired of fighting with his family and defending you. I don't know but maybe it's best to leave things as they are.

Tears welled up in her eyes as her mother's words sounded like those of a broken record. If Mma Seaga couldn't convince her father then who else could?

At Sego Hotel

Rra Fela sipped on his whiskey and picked his cigar as his son walked into his room.

Fela: Hie dad.

Rra Fela: My son.

Fela: Can we talk?

Rra Fela: Is it about what happened today?

Fela: Yes.

Rra Fela: I thought I told you that I won't be discussing it. You're not marrying into that

family and it's as simple as that.

Fela: I understand how you feel but what about how I feel? Dad I love Sebaga and she makes me happy. I know that you had your own expectations but this is the woman I want to spend the rest of my life with.

His father looked at him then pointed at the bottle of whiskey on the table as he sat down.

Rra Fela: Have a glass of whiskey. You need it.

Fela: If you're not going to be a part of my wedding then it's fine. I truly wanted my family by my side but if it means that I have to do this on my own in order to marry the woman I love then so be it.

Rra Fela: Fela!

He held on to his chest as it burned painfully...

Rra Fela: If you do that then I'll disown you. You will get nothing out of your own legacy.

Fela: I'm willing to lose it all.

He stood up and left...

A month later...

At the Molefes,

Mma Fela walked around her house and moved around every piece of furniture to inspect after her helper had done the cleaning. She looked up on the chandelier then screamed.

Mma Fela: Dineo!

The maid came running from the kitchen...

Dineo: Mma?

She stood before her boss with her head bowed.

Mma Fela: Look up at that chandelier and tell me how you missed the dust on it.

She looked up remorsefully then bowed to apologize.

Dineo: I'm really sorry. I will re-do it.

Mma Fela: And this time do it right. I don't want

to call you again.

Dineo: Ee mma. (yes ma'am)

Mma Fela: We have a special guest tonight so make sure that everything is perfect. Set the table on time, I want to inspect every detail.

Dineo: Ee mma. (Yes ma'am.)

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso picked up the room diffuser that her sister had bought earlier on and shook her head looking at the price.

Kgabiso: One point five just for a room diffuser?

Sebaga: I didn't pay for it if that's what you are asking. Fela picked it himself then paid.

Kgabiso: I admire how you two are fighting for

your love but I've got to admit that it's a lot of work. Sis you can't force someone to like you. The way I see it, the Molefes have already made a conclusion about you. Why do you feel the need to constantly force things?

Sebaga: Mme kana I am not forcing anything. They are the ones that invited us over for dinner. Fela hasn't been in contact with them for weeks now.

She looked at the diffuser and chuckled.

Kgabiso: Yet you agreed to him buying this gift so you can take it with you?

Sebaga: It's just a gift.

Kgabiso: Okay. If you say so.

Sebaga: Can you help me pick a dress?

Kgabiso: (Smiled) Sure.

Later that day...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#03

Later that day

At the Molefes

Fela drove through the gate of the family double story then parked by the driveway behind his father's Range Rover. He turned to Sebaga and

smiled as she fixed her dress.

Fela: You look amazing.

Sebaga: Thank you babe, I'm just nervous.

Fela: My mum likes you so you don't have to worry about a think.

Sebaga: Well your dad doesn't like me and he has never hidden it.

Fela: My dad doesn't like anyone.

Sebaga: I don't know if coming here was a good idea.

Fela: Come on babe. We're already here. If you are still uncomfortable after the first course then we will leave.

Meanwhile inside Mma Fela went around the table to check if it was well set. She fixed her

dress and moved back smiling as her husband descended from upstairs in a fine suit.

Mma Fela: That's what I'm talking about. I told you that this suit was the right one.

Rra Fela: I don't understand why I need to dress up for dinner with this girl.

Mma Fela: Well she is the future daughter inlaw of this family.

Rra Fela ignored her and sat by the table.

Mma Fela: James, it's rude to sit on the table before your guest arrives.

Rra Fela: Well it's my house after all.

She ignored him and beamed with smiles as the

front door opened and her son walked in with his girlfriend. If there was one thing that she loved about Sebaga was her ability to remain calm in any situation.

Mma Fela: My kids.

She met them halfway and embraced Seba while her son held the gift they had bought.

Sebaga: Good evening Mma Molefe.

The old lady shook her head and laughed.

Mma Fela: I told you that mama is just fine. You don't have to be too formal with me. Come on.

Sebaga: We bought you a gift.

Fela gave it to his mother.

Mma Fela: You didn't have to my girl. I will open it after dinner, put it in the living room.

She took Sebaga's hand and lead her to the dinning area where her husband was sited. She turned to Sebaga and gave her a smile of support.

Sebaga: Good evening Rre Molefe.

She said with her head bowed.

Rra Fela: Hello Sebaga.

Mma Fela: You can have a sit my baby.

Fela walked back and pulled out a chair for her to sit.

Sebaga: Thank you.

There was a bit of silence as everyone settled on their chairs.

Rra Fela: So Sebaga, tell me, what did your parents do for a living when you were growing up.

Mma Fela cleared her throat in disapproval but her husband couldn't be bothered.

Sebaga: They were both farmers. My mother

sold whatever produce dad brought home at the mall.

Rra Fela chuckled.

Rra Fela: I don't think that you understood me. I didn't say what were their hobbies. Kare what did they do for a living? As in what brought in the money to sustain the family? With our weather here, you can't farm all year or at least back in the days you couldn't.

Sebaga swallowed then held her head high. Her father had been disrespected before and she wouldn't allow this old man to have a second round.

Sebaga: That's what my parents did for a living

and till this day they still do it. I was able to become a lawyer through those sacrifices and my sister became a teacher. That hobby has sustained the entire family.

She kept her eyes on the old man as he failed to answer her.

Sebaga: Is there anything else you would like to know?

Mma Fela looked at her daughter inlaw then smiled at her son. This time the boy had picked the right woman to marry. If she could stand up to her father inlaw then she would survive marriage.

Mma Fela: So how's work?

Sebaga: It's been amazing. It's only been two months since they hired me but I'm confident that I choose the right company.

Mma Fela: Well they are lucky to have you. I'm pretty sure that you will do a good job.

She cleared her throat once again and her husband remained attentive. Anyone that knew her, knew how she liked being in control and most of the time she got whatever she wanted.

Mma Fela: I have spoken to your father inlaw and we have both agreed that things should have never been handled the way they were during the negotiations. The Molefe family is ready to make amends to your family and ask for your hand in marriage.

Fela looked at his father and almost burst into laughter but he held back. He could see it in his father's eyes that this was news to him.

Fela: Thank you so much.

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso turned off the stove with the phone on her ear. Having to make a whole meal for herself was torture. She looked at her nails and sighed.

Mma Sebaga: What's wrong? Did you burn the food?

Kgabiso: No. if Sebaga was here then I wouldn't have to do all this.

Mma Sebaga: (laughed) Gone mme ngwanaka
ako o mpolelle gore wa go dira jang ha ausi wa
gago a nyalwa? (What will you do when your
sister gets married?) I have never seen a girl as
lazy as yourself mme kana I did everything that
I could to teach you two girls how to cook.

Kgabiso: You say it like it will be anytime soon.
Nna tota I don't think that this whole wedding
with Fela will happen. Seba is just stuck in
dreamland. His parents will never accept her. I
don't understand why she is forcing this. Kana
today they bought a very expensive gift just to
impress the mother. If you ask me, that's
stupidity. She should have taken that money
and given it to you so that you buy some stock
for the tuck shop.

Mma Sebaga: And you let her do that? Aren't
you supposed to look out for her?

Mma Sebaga breathed heavily on the other end of the line feeling frustrated.

Kgabiso: Calm down. You will faint. If I was to tell you half of the things Sebaga does in the name of marriage, you would faint. I don't know what's so special about this Fela guy because he doesn't even have a degree. Without his parents money, he is nothing. He is just a handsome guy with some beard.

Mma Sebaga laughed as her daughter spoke.

Mma Sebaga: Hare pelo e ja serati. (The heart wants what it wants.) We are here judging her but behind closed doors, we would do exactly the same thing she is doing now.

Kgabiso: I don't know if I would but Sebaga is

now too desperate for marriage.

She stood up and peeped through the curtain in the kitchen as the gate opened.

Kgabiso: I will call you tomorrow. She is here.

Mma Sebaga: (laughed) Sharp.

She hung up and ran to the living room then sat down.

The following day

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Sorry for the delay

The Devil I Never Knew

#04

The following day

At Sebaga's

Fela opened his eyes and rolled over to Sebaga's side then kissed her. He gently got up then covered her with a blanket before walking into the shower. A few minutes later he stepped out after taking a cold shower. Sebaga slowly got up and sat on her butt.

Sebaga: Morning babe. You're up so early. I thought that you would still be sleeping since

it's a Saturday.

Fela: Morning my love. That was the plan but the office called so I need to go in and help my dad with a few things since he is not working today.

Sebaga: Okay. Are we still doing lunch with my sister and her boyfriend?

Fela: Ofcourse. I just hope that she doesn't grill me like the last time. She doesn't seem to like me.

Sebaga: You're overthinking.

Fela: I don't think that I am. Babe your sister kept mentioning your ex boyfriend during our last dinner together.

Sebaga: That's because she was still upset over what happened during the negotiations.

Fela: I hear you but I'm still not convinced.

Sebaga: And I understand but how about you

come and see the difference this time around? Kgabi is just the overprotective sister. In time you'll get to realize that.

Fela: If you say so.

He looked around the tiny room and sighed. As much as he was proud of how his woman wanted to keep things together and take care of her own bills, he still felt that she deserved a bigger space.

Fela: I know that we talked about this but I still feel like we need a bigger space. Babe kana we are getting married and very soon we will need our privacy. I can't stay with my parents forever and you also can't stay with your sister forever. Can't we find something bigger than this and share the bills?

Sebaga: Fela you know that I've just started a

new job and I need to save up. Paying for a bigger place will drain me even before I buy myself a car.

Fela: Then allow me to pay the rent. You can take care of things like utilities and food. Look, I'm not trying to take away your independency.

He sat down next to her on the bed and held her hand.

Fela: I support you and respect that you would like to do most things on your own but we are now a couple. In less than a month, we will be married. You need to get used to the idea of us sharing bills.

She looked at him and smiled. If there was one thing her man knew how to do so well was

remain positive and gently change the way she looked at things.

Sebaga: When do you want to start looking?

Fela: Anytime you're ready.

Sebaga: I will see if I can't come knock off early on Monday.

Fela: Thank you.

He kissed her and stood up then began to get dressed.

Later that day

At the Molefes

Mma Fela walked into the tv room and turned off the tv then sat next to her husband who had been watching news.

Rra Fela: I was watching that.

Mma Fela: I saw that. That's why I had to turn it off so that you could give me some attention.

Rra Fela: That was important.

Mma Fela: So is whatever I want to talk about.

Rra Fela: What is it Margret?

She held his hand and maintained eye contact with him. If there was anyone that could manipulate a person, it was this woman right here. He knew that whatever it was that she had brought, he would end up agreeing to without much of a choice.

Mma Fela: When will you call my brother to discuss that issue?

Rra Fela: What issue?

She laid back on the couch and gently brushed his back.

Mma Fela: The Gabanne issue. You said that you would think about it.

Rra Fela: That's right. I said that I would think about it and I was thinking about it right until you told that girl that we would make amends. Did I ever agree to making amends?

Mma Fela: Well you simply have to. In life if you make mistakes then you have to rectify them. You're not going to be the reason by my son ends up without a wife. You more than anyone know what it means to start from the ground up.

You were not born rich gape hela I don't understand why you have to judge Sebaga based on what her parents have achieved. She has a life and career of her own which is more than what we can say about Fela. I mean you and I both know that if it wasn't for us giving him a job at the company then he would be unemployed. Fela has more than enough because he had a great foundation. It's not everyone who is lucky enough to have that. I personally think that Sebaga also lowered her standards by agreeing to get married to a man without a degree but you don't see her throwing tantrums about it. Give these kids a chance.

The old man kept quiet.

Mma Fela: Make sure that you call him today so we get started on the wedding arrangements. I

have already hired and paid a wedding organizer to help my daughter inlaw with all the planning.

At the Gabanne's

Mma Sebaga walked into the kitchen and placed her basket on the table then opened the fridge and took out some peppers to fill her basket. Her husband walked in and helped her with the basket.

Rra Sebaga: Are you going to the market already?

Mma Sebaga: No. Today I won't be working from there. I am just going to deliver these for a client. Are she uses these to make her chili sauce.

Rra Sebaga: Ok. So have you heard anything from Sebaga? She hasn't called me in weeks.

Mma Sebaga: She is probably still upset over the lobola issue but she will get over it. You know how your daughter is very slow in processing her emotions. Mme hela she is a strong girl. Unlike her sister when she comes to terms with an issue, she moves on and never talks about it.

Rra Sebaga: Yeah. I know that she is old enough to make her own decisions but I just wanna protect her from this family. Those people will abuse and degrade her if she gets married into that family. You know how rich people can be.

Mma Sebaga: I understand where you are coming from and I know that one day our daughter will understand.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you. Let's go, I will drop you off.

Later that day...

At Elements Restaurant

Sebaga stepped out of the cab and stood by the passenger door to pay. She made small talk with her cab driver as he gave her some change. On the other side was a Mazda Cx3 with a red bow.

Cab driver: Someone is going home a happy person. Kare Batswana ba na le madi. Koore le ka di seven hela ba reka dikoloi. (Batswana have money, even on the seventh, they can still afford cars.)

Sebaga: Looks like a gift.

Cab driver: If only God could try me.

They both laughed.

Sebaga: Sharp rra...

She walked upstairs to meet up with her boyfriend and sister.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#05

At Elements Restaurant

Sebaga smiled and waved at her sister as she approached their table. Her man stood up to hug and kiss her then pulled out a chair for her.

Sebaga: Hey. Sorry I'm late guys. I had an emergency meeting with a client that's panicking about their court appearance on Monday.

Fela: It's okay babes. You're here and that's all that matters.

She looked at the empty sit next to her sister and forced a smile.

Sebaga: I'm guessing that I'm not the only one who's late. Batsile is also not here yet?

Kgabiso: He won't be joining us. He had an

emergency trip out of town.

Sebaga: Oh okay. So shall we order? You must be both starving.

Kgabiso: I'm good thanks. I'll just have a drink.

Each time she thought of the car that was parked outside, she swallowed. How was it that her sister's life was so perfect? Not only did she have a man that took care of her, he worshipped the ground she walked on and he was ready to leave his family and all their riches to be with her.

Fela: I have just had something to eat before you got here but I can order something for you.

Sebaga: I had lunch with my client.

Her boyfriend made puppy eyes.

Sebaga: She is going through a really bad divorce and barely eats so I had to share a meal with her in order to see to it that she eats.

Fela: It's okay. You don't have to explain. If that's the case then I'm guessing that we are all having drinks. A bottle of champagne perhaps?

Sebaga: Yeah sure but what are we celebrating?

Fela: Just life in general. We are alive and healthy. That's more than enough reason to celebrate.

She couldn't understand how one was able to remain so positive on a daily.

Sebaga: I feel like you should have been a counselor.

Her sister rolled her eyes and took out her phone.

Fela: Especially after today. Kana someone hit my car even though I didn't tell you.

Sebaga: Is it that bad?

Fela: It's really bad. It will cost me atleast ten thousand to fix it.

Sebaga: Ao rra. What about the person that hit you? Can't they meet you halfway?

Fela: He ran away before we could even talk. Le number plate tota ga ke a e tsaya, ke ne ke santse ke hakgametse. (I didn't even get the number plate, I was still shocked.)

Sebaga: Sorry babe.

Fela: Do you wanna see what it looks like?

Sebaga: Yeah. Let's go.

Fela: Kgabi?

Kgabiso: After you guys.

He stood up and pulled out a chair for his first lady then waited for her to take the lead downstairs. As soon as they got to the parking lot, he secretly gave Kgabiso his phone then took out the car keys to the Mazda CX3 and dangled them in the air.

Fela: Babe.

Kgabiso: What is it? Where is your car parked?

Fela: What do you think of this car?

He said pointing at the Mazda.

Sebaga: It's a beautiful car.

Fela: Well it's yours.

Sebaga: What?

He gave her the car keys.

Fela: Surprise.

Kgabiso felt a bitter taste in her mouth as she took a video of the love birds.

Sebaga: Babe!

Tears welled up in her eyes... In the past twenty four months, this man had done everything in his ability to make her happy. She had been with a couple of guys before but no one had loved her this hard.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say.

Fela: Don't say anything. You deserve to have a car of your own to run errands and go to work with.

He took her by the hand and lead her to the car.

Kgabiso: Stand by the front and let me take a picture of you two.

Sebaga: Did you know about this?

She wiped her tears and turned to her sister as Fela rubbed her behind.

Kgabiso: I only found out when I got here

otherwise I would have told him that you prefer a red car instead of a black one.

Sebaga ignored her sister and ran to the driver's side then got in and started the car..

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Bonus2

Goodnight

The Devil I Never Knew

#06

Later that day

Sebaga stood by the window and admired her car from inside as it parked in front of the house. Her sister rolled her eyes as she failed to contain her happiness.

Kgabiso: Come on, have a sit. That car won't go anywhere Seba. You have been standing there for the past thirty minutes.

Sebaga: It's just that I can't believe it. I've always wanted a car and even though I have been planning to buy one, I never thought that I would get it so soon.

Kgabiso: Well here it is now.

Sebaga closed the curtain and sat next to her sister.

Kgabiso: Why do you sound like you are

disappointed or something? Is there anything you would like to share with me? I may have been quiet but I've noticed how you have been passing funny comments ever since Fela gave me this car.

She shrugged her shoulders and turned on the tv but her sister picked up the remote and turned it off.

Sebaga: What is it? You're supposed to be my biggest cheerleader but right now your energy is telling me otherwise.

Kgabiso: How can I be happy for you when I know that in the end you and the rest of our family will end up getting insulted for it? I don't understand why you can't just let this relationship go and find someone else because clearly this is never gonna work. He might love

you but his family will never accept their son marrying a girl from a poor family and on the other hand, papa will never allow you to marry into their family. You accepting this car only makes things difficult because when his family finally succeeds and breaks you two up, he will take it back.

Sebaga stood up and took a deep breath then carefully picked her words. She was not the kind to speak anyhow without thinking of how her words would affect the other person.

Sebaga: As my sister supports me or just keeps your opinion to yourself. First of all, that car is in my name and second of all, the lobola negotiations will resume. The Molefes are willing to make amends with our family.

Kgabiso: It's not that I'm not being supportive.

I'm just being honest. You're only seeing this as an attack because I'm not telling you what you want to hear.

Sebaga: Ok.

Kgabiso: And can we talk about the house rules?

Her sister swallowed and forced a smile even though she felt like she was being attacked from all directions.

Sebaga: What about them?

Kgabiso: I know that we both agreed to having visitors but now that I think about it, Fela is constantly here. So he is practically living with us.

Sebaga: Kgabiso, do you have a problem with Fela or it's me you have a problem with?

There was an awkward moment of silence.

Sebaga: The last time I checked, Fela pays the utilities. I don't remember any of us buying electricity or paying for water. Le dijo hela we barely buy them. (We also barely buy food.)

Kgabiso: It's not about that. Sis we barely have some privacy around here. Koore when I go into the kitchen, he is there, when I want to watch a movie, you two are here cuddling on the couch.

Sebaga fixed her engagement ring and faced her sister.

Sebaga: Ee mma. I hear you and I understand your concerns. Fela and I will start looking for houses on Monday.

Kgabiso: That's not what I mean gape if you

move out then who is going to cover your rent for this month?

Sebaga: I will still cover it but I would really feel better if you're comfortable. After all the lease is in your name.

Kgabiso: Nna kana I'm not throwing you out or anything I just wa...

Her sister interrupted her.

Sebaga: I understand where you're coming from that's why I find it better to move.

A few days later

Sebaga stood outside the house in the driveway with the phone on her ear as the guys from the

moving company packed up her things in the truck.

Sebaga: No babe. Nna I'm not fighting with anyone. She is the one that locked herself in her room when I wanted to discuss with her on how we can split the furniture.

Fela: Then just leave it. Kana I just got off the phone with her just now. I honestly don't want to come between you and your sister. Sometimes you just need to let go and walk away peacefully for your own sanity.

Sebaga: Ok, Sharp.

She hung up and another call from her mother came through.

Sebaga: Hello.

Mma Sebaga: So you're now choosing a man over your sister?

She shook her head and furious sat down as her heart palpitated.

Sebaga: Hello mama. How are you? Well I am also fine.

Mma Sebaga: I didn't call to exchange pleasantries with you so answer me.

Sebaga: I didn't choose a man over anyone. I really wish that you could have called me to ask my side of the story but since we are here let me answer you. No mama. I'm not choosing a man over my sister. I love Kgabiso and anyone that knows me, will tell you that I will kill for her. I don't expect our relationship to be one sided. This is energy that should be reciprocated. I understand that to everyone I'm a bad person

right now but there is nothing I can do if you have already picked a side. I deserve to be happy too. I did nothing wrong.

She hung up then moved over to the truck and watched as they bubble wrapped some of her stuff.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#07

After the guys finished packing up her stuff in the truck, Seba went inside the house and knocked on her sister's room.

Sebaga: Kgabi!

There was no answer...

Sebaga: Thank you for accommodating me. I have left all the furniture including the kitchen stuff. I will send you an ewallet of my share of rent including utilities. Bye.

She looked around the house that she had once called home one last time then left...

That same evening

At Sebaga's apartment

Sebaga walked around the empty living room and sighed. The thought of starting over again left her feeling lonely but what choice did she have? She sat on the plastic chair that she had found when she moved in and browsed on Facebook for some second hand furniture. That's all she could really afford at the moment . Her heart skipped as a phone call from her father came through. She took a deep breath then answered it.

Sebaga: Hello.

Rra Sebaga: Hello my girl. How are you?

Sebaga: I'm well and you dad?

Rra Sebaga: I'm also well.

Sebaga: If you're calling about my fight with Kgabiso then I'm sorry but I...

Her father cleared her throat.

Rra Sebaga: That's not why I'm calling.. I am a parent and I know better than anyone that all siblings fight. I would never get involved or pick a side. You two can sort out your problems on your own. You are both adults and you don't need us to intervene. The reason why I called is because the Molefe family called us earlier on.

She nervously closed her eyes knowing what exactly he thought of the call. Her father was a stubborn man and no one could convince him or change his mind once he choose a certain path.

Rra Sebaga: I want to know if you really love that boy. Do you see a future with him and are you really willing to spend the rest of your life

with him?

Sebaga: Ee rra. I love him and I want to spend the rest of my life with him. I know that his family disrespected you and I'm sorry about that.

Rra Sebaga: They will be coming to discuss your lobola next weekend. This time I really hope that they are genuine seeing that they have apologized.

Sebaga: Really?

She said in excitement... One could tell from the sound of her voice that she wanted to scream ontop of her lungs.

Rra Sebaga: Yes. I won't lie and say that I have changed my mind but a part of me realizes that you're old enough to make your own decisions

and even as your father, I can't choose who you love. That is why you are now cohabiting.

She bit her tongue and held back her laughter.

Sebaga: Thank you papa. I really appreciate it.

Rra Sebaga: You're welcome my girl. Bye.

Sebaga: Bye.

She hung up and put the phone away to celebrate.

At the Gabanne's

Mma Sebaga cleared her throat and stood the bathroom door as her husband put back his

phone on the charger.

Mma Sebaga: I don't understand why you agreed to this. Weren't you listening to what Kgabiso said? Your daughter has changed ever since meeting this guy. Apparently she spends her money trying to impress his family. Is this what you want for our daughter?

Rra Sebaga: And did you ask her about it?

Mma Sebaga: I didn't have to.

Rra Sebaga: So you choose to believe some hearsay? By now you should know never to take sides. If Sebaga is buying the love of that family of which I doubt because even her salary can never match their wealth then that's her baby. We can not tell her how to live her life. I don't like it and accepting it is not easy but it's a fact we have to live with.

Mma Sebaga ignored him and got ready for bed.

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Fela stood by the verandah as the furniture shop car reversed with some furniture behind. Two guys stepped out of the car and greeted him.

Man1: We are here to deliver some furniture for Mr Fela.

Fela: That's me..

Man1: Ok.

One of them gave him a clipboard with some

paper work.

Man2: Can you please sign for me. It's a fridge, microwave and couch. We will deliver the rest on the second load.

Fela: Unload first and let's see if everything is in a good condition before I sign.

The guys laughed then one of them jumped at the back and grabbed the microwave box passing it to the other one.

Man1: Sure boss.

Meanwhile Sebaga played worship music as she drove back home. The last couple of months had been nothing but a blessing.

Sebaga: And now?

She said pulling over at her yard as she saw a furniture shop car parked by. She parked outside the yard and stepped out of her car and went inside.

Sebaga: Hey.

Fela: Hey love.

Sebaga: And now?

Fela: I thought we could use some furniture. I was tired of sitting on that plastic chair.

She laughed and wrapped her arms around him then kissed him.

Sebaga: Thank you. You have already done so much for me, you don't have to.

Fela: Well I want to. For my wife.

Sebaga: It's not official yet.

Fela: Well it will be in two days after your dad accepts that lobola.

Sebaga: I still can't believe that this is happening in two days.

Fela: Same here.

Sebaga: So I will be driving to Mahalapye tomorrow first thing in the morning.

Fela: (Smiled) Ok.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#08

The following day

Mahalapye, Botswana

At the Gabanne's

The Gabanne family gathered around the mophane tree to discuss the lobola proceedings that would be taking place in a day. Rra Sebaga stood up to say an opening prayer then thanked everyone for attending. He turned to his brother inlaw.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you so much for attending. I

appreciate that you were able to avail yourself on such short notice. Re a itsi gore ga gona lenyalo ntleng ga malome. (we know that there is no wedding proceedings without the uncle.)

The ladies ululated appreciating Rra Sebaga's kind words.

Rra Moagi: Thank you for that.

Rra Sebaga: Even if that's the case, I want you to know that my child is not up for sale. We are not in any way running a businesss. Marriage is meant to bring two families together. We shouldn't be taking this as a quick scheme to get rich.

There was silence as Rra Sebaga spoke.

Rra Sebaga: We won't be charging anything more than twenty thousand for lobola. Tota hela le ene ten thousand one a siame. (Even ten thousand is enough) but because we are going to give Sebaga part of the money so she can get her things done for the big day, twenty thousand is fine.

The elders murmured but he ignored them. If he was going to marry off his daughter then he would do it right and no one would mess it up.

Gaborone, Botswana

At Sebaga's

Sebaga stepped out of her car and took a deep breath as her sister walked through the gate.

God knew how much she was not in the mood to fight. She shook her head to express her disappointment to her fiancé who she knew had invited her over.

Kgabiso: Hey.

Sebaga: Hey.

Them standing outside without much to say to each other made things super awkward even for Fela.

Fela: Do you ladies wanna come inside for a bit?

Sebaga forced a smile and lead the way.

Sebaga: Sure.

Her little sister followed her in.

Kgabiso: Thanks for not throwing me out. You have a beautiful home.

She looked around the spacious living room which only had only one couch.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Kgabiso: Sorry for coming unannounced but I wasn't so sure that you would agree to see me so I asked Fela for some directions. I apologize about that as well.

Sebaga: Ok.

Kgabiso: I came here to apologize for the way that I have been acting. I honestly should have

never treated you the way that I did. As a sister I should be your biggest cheerleader not worst enemy.

She looked down to wipe a tear that had rolled down her cheek.

Kgabiso: You've been my biggest support system. From the time that we moved to the city, we've done everything together. I won't lie, watching you evolve into a different phase and seeing you leaving me behind hurts. Knowing that we will never do everything together hurts. There was a time where it was just the two of us and now that's not the case. Soon you're gonna have a family of your own and maybe children too.

She took her sister's hand and smiled.

Kgabiso: I should have never been jealous in the first place.

Sebaga: Yes you shouldn't have been. You're my sister and my achievements are as good as yours. No matter what I do in life, you will remain my sister. Nothing can ever change that.

Kgabiso: I love you.

The hugged..

Sebaga: I love you too and nothing can ever change that.

She wiped her sister's tears and laughed.

Sebaga: Can I drop you off at home? I need to

go. The Lobola negotiations are tomorrow.

Kgabiso: Can I come with you?

Sebaga: Yes you can but you need to pack up quickly. I bought some ginger from here so I don't want it to ferment any further because of the heat.

Kgabiso: I am already packed up. I was gonna take a bus had you refused to give me a ride.

Sebaga: Wena kana o motho wa ditori.

They both laughed as they headed out. Fela smiled as he noticed the change of mood.

Sebaga: Babe I need to go.

Kgabiso got inside the car to give them privacy.

Fela: You good?

Sebaga: (Smiled) Yeah. Thank you babe.

Fela: You're welcome. I know how much you love and want her around on your special day so I had to try. Family is important.

Sebaga: Yes it is.

They kissed.

Fela: Go sharp akere monyadi. (Bye bride.)

Sebaga: Bye hubbs.

She waved at him and got into the car then drove off with her sister.

At the Molefe's

Fela's uncle sipped on his juice then. placed it back on the dinning table and picked up a paper that had the proposed dates of the wedding day.

Malome: I see that you have already chosen dates and a venue for the wedding but have you consulted the couple?

Rra Fela: Is there any need for all of that? Seeing that we are the ones that will be paying for everything including the wedding planner.

Malome: That one serves no importance. What if they are both not available or the family of the bride is busy then? What will happen? I respect you as my brother inlaw but you need to consider the way that you do things. If this trip fails again then I won't be going anywhere to negotiate lobola with you. I am a responsible man and I know our traditional way of doing

things. Don't make me look incompetent again.

He stood up and went outside for some fresh air...

Later that day

At Mahalapye

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The Devil I Never Knew

#09

Later that day

At Mahalapye

Kgabiso wrapped a kikoy around her waist then wore her sneakers. She got up and picked up a Setswana broom to clean outside.

Mma Sebaga: Where are you going?

Kgabiso: I'm going to clean the yard. I can tell that it was cleaned this morning but the leaves are now all over the yard. That tree needs to be cut.

Mma Sebaga: We can't cut it just yet. That's where we sit for some shade.

Kgabiso: Gone. (That's true.)

Mma Sebaga looked around to see if there was

anyone coming from outside.

Mma Sebaga: So you are suddenly supporting this marriage again?

Kgabiso: He makes her happy. What choice do I have? Gape hela I don't want to be fighting with Seba. I don't really like Fela and his family but if he makes her happy then who I'm I? I have just accepted that this is what she wants.

Mma Sebaga: I hear you my child but even so I'm scared for her. What if he changes over night and leaves her? Kana your sister is too soft. The car he bought her is probably not in her names.

Kgabiso: It is. It's really hers and she has the blue book.

Mma Sebaga: At least she was wise about that.

Kgabiso: Let's just be supportive towards her. If

this is what she wants then we can't do much about it.

Mma Sebaga: I hear you my child.

Kgabiso: Let me go outside and clean.

Mma Sebaga: Ok my girl.

She thoughtfully sighed. She and her daughter hadn't spoken for days since their last fight and she wasn't sure on how to approach her. She walked into the kitchen and poured a glass of juice then took out her daughter's favorite cookies from the cookie jar. She walked to her bedroom and stood by the door and knocked.

Sebaga: Come in.

She opened the door and greeted her in high spirits then handed her the snack.

Mma Seaga: Ao monyadi! (hello bride.)

Seaga: Ee mma.

She could still sense a bit of sadness in her voice.

Mma Seaga: I brought you your favorite biscuits and juice. Have something to eat. You need to start gaining weight so you look fresh on your wedding day.

Seaga: Thank you.

Mma Seaga: You must relax and let us do everything kana you are not supposed to lift a finger.

Seaga: Ee mma.

Mma Seaga: Let me know if you need anything.

Your sister is outside cleaning. And this time around, you don't have to worry about anything, your father has warned your uncle. Go sharp akere?

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Sebaga rolled her eyes and chuckled as her mother walked out. Whoever had told African parents that apologizing to their children was forbidden had ruined a lot of children's mental health.

Gaborone, Botswana

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela walked out of the house with a bottle of whiskey and approached her brother who

was starting his car.

Mma Fela: Travel safely. We will meet you guys there tomorrow.

Malome: I'm not happy about you two remaining in the city and only coming on the day of the lobola negotiations. We are supposed to be well rested and prepared mentally.

Mma Fela: Don't worry. We are ready this time around.

Malome: I hope that your husband doesn't insult his in-laws again or else my nephew will be aging alone.

Mma Fela: He won't try anything funny this time. I spoke to him and he understood how important this is to our son.

Malome: And those dates?

Mma Fela: Forget about them. I spoke to him.

Malome: I don't understand how you managed to stay married to that uncivilized man for so long but I must admit that no one knows how to handle him better than you. If you tell me that it's all sorted then I am at rest. And please make sure to be on time tomorrow. I don't want any stories.

Mma Fela: Trust me.

She said putting the bottle of whiskey on the passenger sit.

Mma Fela: A little something to celebrate tomorrow after the negotiations.

Malome: Now we are talking.

He picked it up and smiled.

Malome: Macallan?

Mma Fela: You know that I wouldn't give you just anything. It's the best of the best.

Malome: I trust that. That husband of yours doesn't compromise when it comes to the good stuff.

Mma Fela: You know that better than anyone.

Malome: Let me go and pick up the others. See you tomorrow.

Mma Fela: And be very careful when you drive. There are only three of us with those cars in Botswana.

Her brother laughed as he rolled the windows up and turned on the music. Her husband's attitude had rubbed off on her through the years.

At Sebaga's

Fela turned the music off and grabbed his phone from the bed as it rang.

Fela: Hey babes.

Sebaga: Hey love . How is everything going on your end?

Fela: All good and you?

Sebaga: I don't wanna speak too soon but everything seems to be in order. Even mama is nice to me. I haven't heard anything negative about my uncle. From what I hear, he is behaving. Tota the entire family seems to be on the same page.

Fela: Same here.

Sebaga: I have a feeling that everything will go well tomorrow.

Fela: Same here.

Sebaga: I will see you then.

Fela: I will see you then baby. I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too baby.

Fela: Night.

He hung up then continued playing some music as he packed his overnight bag.

The following day...

At the Gabanne's

On that morning, Sebaga woke up and sat on her butt to say a prayer. With how things had gone south the previous meeting, only God could set it straight. She got up and looked at

herself in the mirror after her prayer and morning devotional. There was a soft knock as her uncle's wife stood outside her bedroom door.

Sebaga: Come.

Mma Moagi walked in and embraced her ululating.

Mma Moagi: Monyadis! (My bride)

Sebaga: Hello aunt.

Mma Moagi: I came to gossip with you before anyone comes to see you.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#10

Mahalapye , Botswana

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga picked up her phone from the bed and forced a smile as her uncle's wife fixed her traditional shawl. They had been told about their aunt's witchcraft from an early age and they knew exactly how to behave around her.

Sebaga: Ee mma. Is everything going well?

Mma Moagi: Everything is going well but there

is something that I picked while outside.

Sebaga: Ke eng ne mma malome ga o bo o ntshosa yaana? (What is it aunt? You're scaring me.)

Mma Moagi: I don't know if I'm the only one that picked it but your sister is not happy about this whole thing.

Sebaga: (forced smile) I think you're overthinking it. She is probably just stressed because of how the lobola negotiations went the last time.

Mma Moagi: I know that I'm considered the witch of this family but at-least I don't pretend in anyone's face. Sebaga ngwanaka o tshabele motho yo o tshegang le wena ere o pota ka ha a bo a go buwa bosula kgakala. (The person you must be afraid of is the one that laughs with you then goes to speak ill of you on the side.)

Sebaga: Thank you mma malome but I think we

now know that some of these challenges are a part of life. Today we celebrate love and the union of two families. Let's remain cheerful and positive. The rest let's leave to God to deal with.

Her aunt shamefully fixed her dress and forced a smile.

Mma Moagi: Can you do my make up even if it's something light. The Molefes must see that we take ourselves seriously in this family.

Sebaga: Sure. Let me apply some foundation.

She reached for her handbag by the side of the bed and grabbed her foundation.

Outside

Kgabiso and her cousins stood under the temporary shade that had been erected to cook for the visitors. She took out her phone and read out the dietary guidelines her sister had sent to her.

Cousin1: What kind of dietaries are those? Didn't they know that they are going to a village. Kante what's the deal with rich people? Can't they humble themselves for once? Kana it's not like they are going to die from consuming any of the food we made.

Kgabiso: These guidelines are not too bad guys. Can't we just make this work? We all know how important this is for my sister. We have bought everything we need to make the lunch they want.

Cousin2: It's not about that. This family clearly doesn't respect your sister or her family. Waitsi

gore these days women are desperate for marriage. I wouldn't marry into a family like that no matter how rich they are.

Kgabiso: Say that again. Please say that again because I didn't hear you properly.

Everyone remained silent...

Kgabiso: Don't think that this day will fail without you or your help. If you are here to gossip about my sister then you might as well as leave and let those that came out of love to stay and help.

She shook her head out of annoyance.

Later that day...

The Gabanne and Molefe women ululated as the uncles came to an agreement over the price of lobola. Mma Fela secretly smiled at her husband from the other side. This was the first time he had ever behaved and kept his thoughts to himself. Although the meeting had been long, it had yielded some results and everyone was equally happy.

Rra Moagi: So when would you like to get started on the wedding? By that I mean when should we expect you again?

Fela's uncle chuckled and rubbed his hands together.

Malome: When can you have us again? Tota

rona we are ready on our end. We are waiting to hear from you.

Rra Moagi: Even tomorrow is fine.

Everyone laughed...

Rra Moagi: We can give it another week or two weeks then have the proceedings. If the bride and groom would like to have it on the same day with their white wedding then they can tell us which dates they are comfortable with.

Malome: That's fine with us. We are aware that when a man picks the most beautiful flower in a garden, he needs to work very hard to water it. We won't tire from making all these trips until we have finally picked our flower.

Mma Fela whispered something to her brother's

wife and she respectfully passed the message to the other aunt who told her brother.

Malome: From what I hear, the children are comfortable with anything we decide for the traditional wedding. What they would like to plan and choose dates for is the white wedding so we would like to come back again next weekend if that's fine with you.

Rra Fela looked at his wife and sighed... His wife was determined more than ever to push this wedding and knowing her, nothing would stop her.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#11

That same evening

At the guest house

Fela stood outside his father's room and fixed his shirt then knocked on the door. He knew how the old man felt about his union with Sebaga but for the mere fact that he was making an effort, he also had to meet him halfway as a son. A few minutes later the old man opened the door and let his son in.

Rra Fela: Man of the moment, I hope that you're happy.

Fela: Thank you so much dad.

Rra Fela: You're welcome. I hope that you know what you're doing.

Fela: I love her dad. I know that you have your doubts but I wanna spend the rest of my life with her.

Rra Fela: Does she feel the same way?

Fela: Yes. Absolutely.

Rra Fela sadly looked at his son and sighed.

Rra Fela: Well for your sake I hope so son. I hope that her love for you is genuine and not about what you can give her. I know that everyone thinks that I'm a bad person but I've seen a lot of fortunate boys like yourself, fall in-love and marry women who claimed to be in-love with them only for the women to turn

around and leave once they have accumulated enough wealth for themselves.

Fela: I understand where you're coming from dad but I can assure you that Sebaga is nothing like those girls. My woman is a hardworker. She hates handouts.

Rra Fela: Well good and if that's the case, make sure that you marry out of community of property.

Fela: How do I separate what I have from myself and the woman I love? Isn't marriage about building together? What use is it marrying someone only to build different lives?

Rra Fela patted his son on the shoulder.

Rra Fela: Yes. Marriage is all about building a life together. It's got nothing to do with wealth

and property. If she really loves you then she shouldn't have a problem with it.

Fela: I appreciate your advice but I'm not doing that. I trust Sebaga and I won't make her feel otherwise.

Rra Fela: I don't think you understand me son so let me make myself clear. If you want to keep everything you own which is basically what we own then you have to get a prenup otherwise the two of you can start this life you want so bad from the ground up.

Fela: What? Are you giving me an ultimatum?

Rra Fela: I'm just looking out for my family.

Fela: Then I guess I have to look out for mine. If it means giving up everything for the woman I love then so be it. I'm sure that you understand this.

He stood up and walked out of the room.

A week later...

At Sebaga's

Fela laid on the bed and watched as his wife to be packed up her things. This would be their last night together as boyfriend and girlfriend. The next time they came back home they would be husband and wife.

Fela: I can't believe that very soon you and I will be married traditionally.

Sebaga: It's finally happening and in a month we will officially be husband and wife.

Fela: I still don't understand why we can't just walk into the district commissioner's office and get married. I don't care what you're wearing or what you look like when we get married.

Sebaga: (laughed) Well I do. You only get married once for the first time.

Fela: For the first time? Well I hope that you won't be ditching me in a few years Ito get married for the second time because I won't let you.

Sebaga: I wouldn't dream of it.

He got up and pulled her to the wall then locked eyes with her.

Fela: Because I do all the right things?

He kissed her then pulled back as he slowly

unbuttoned her shirt.

Sebaga: Babe.

He lost his patience and tore the rest of the buttons then reached for the back of her bra with one hand while maintaining eye contact. She could feel her cookie jar throbbing as he kissed her neck. He turned her around slowly and gently pulled down her pants as she faced the wall. She breathed heavily feeling his hands rubbing against her cookie jar as he forced her to open her legs.

Fela: I want you so bad.

She bit her lower lip as he picked her up then laid her by the edge of the bed and dropped his

pants. She closed her eyes feeling bad for her flower pot. He had a look on his face that assured her that he would destroy it. The man was gifted and knew his way around her body.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#12

The following day

At Sebaga's

Sebaga stood by the verandah and smiled from ear to ear as her man checked her car. He

turned around and blew a kiss at her then closed the car bonnet.

Fela: Looks like someone knows all the right things to do. The water and oils are fine.

Sebaga: I told you that I check them regularly.

Fela: Yes love but I just need to check that everything is fine before you leave.

Sebaga: I appreciate you.

Fela: Do you have everything you need? Have you checked if the decor lady is ready? What about the catering company? The girl that does your hair?

She pressed her lips together and approached him then gave him a tight hug.

Sebaga: Everything is going according to plan. I called mama and checked this morning and from what she says, everything is going very well. The house has been painted, the guys that were doing the durable wall also finished yesterday morning. Tota hela there is nothing to worry about.

Fela: Ok. I'm so glad to hear that. I want you to get everything that you want for our big day. I don't want any compromises.

Sebaga: Your mum has already done so much to help. I think you need to relax.

Fela: Eish Maggie! God bless her soul. I don't know what we would have done without her. That woman is a rare blessing in our lives.

Sebaga: She truly is.

Fela: I still can't believe that my dad is not attending the magadi.

Sebaga: I told you that I'm happy to sign a

prenup. There is no need to prove a point. I understand how much family is important and I more than anyone, I know how much you love your father and he loves you.

He looked into her eyes. The kind of look that gave a woman assurance and left her with no questions. The man was as a lover and more than anything, he understood how exactly to love his partner.

Fela: I'm not doing this marriage half heartedly. I'm all in. I refuse to have someone tell me to walk in with one feet behind. You're my girl, my ride, my die and a woman I want to share everything with. I value your presence in my life.

A tear rolled down her cheek but she wiped it off quickly before he could see it.

Sebaga: I don't know what on earth I did to deserve this kind of love but I know I ain't letting go. This one is the kind of love I'll walk through fire to fight for.

They kissed then said their goodbyes.

At Mahalapye, Botswana

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga walked around the yard in a traditional dress and trainers directing everyone around on what was to be done. Her sister inlaw stood by the side with other women and gossiped.

Mma Moagi: Nna I know that the mother of the bride should be relaxed while we the aunts do everything. Nna mo ke lantlha ke go bona. Kana ke dilo tsa ga mmangwato? (this is my first time seeing this.or it's something that's done around this area only?)

Woman1: This is exactly what I'm going to do when my daughter gets married. You aunts have a tendency of spoiling and sabotaging our children's big day. Koore you will make sure that everything is disorganized and even steal food as if you haven't done enough damage. Nna ebole I'm the one that's going to buy the food.

The ladies they were with laughed.

Woman2: On my daughter's wedding day, her

uncle's wife stole half of the cow that she had given out to us. Waitsi gore I was so sick and because traditionally the women are supposed to be quiet during these proceedings, all I could do is cry. So yes sometimes you have to act like a bully and defy tradition. They will gossip but what matters at the end of the day is if things go well on your child's big day.

Mma Seaga approached them and greeted.

Mma Seaga: Ladies, you came.

Woman1: How can we not. We heard that your daughter's magadi will be bigger than any other white wedding we have seen in this street.

They all laughed...

Mma Seaga: Owaii mme kana it's just a small affair.

She said feeling very confident.

Woman2: Yet a wall was made within a week and you have gamazined your house. Go tla nna maswe ntsalaka. (It's going to be very busy.) I even saw the boys unloading boxes of wines and grates of alcohol.

Woman1: Nna for this one I won't be wearing any traditional shawl. My husband will excuse me. I will be losing control for once.

Mma Moagi: Heela Mma Tumiso! You are a married woman.

Woman1: So what? I hope that when you give my cousin's daughter some marriage advice you don't tell her that rubbish about being a

good wife, she must get down once in a while and drink like she doesn't have parents. Once in a while her husband must pick her up from the floor.

Mma Moagi: I am not going to allow you to come into the Iwapana for the traditional women's talk otherwise you are going to ruin my niece's marriage before it even begins.

At Kgabiso's

Sebaga stepped out of the car after hooting for several minutes outside the yard. She ran into the yard with the car engine still running and knocked on the door. Just when she had given up and was ready to leave, her sister opened the door still in her pjs.

Sebaga: Morning.

Kgabiso: (Yawning) Hey..

Sebaga: Care to explain why you're still not ready? I thought that we agreed that we would be leaving town before ten.

Kgabiso: I know sis but I had quite a lot to drink last night.

Sebaga: Did you at-least pack your bags?

Kgabiso scratched her head and looked the other way.

Kgabiso: Not yet.

Sebaga: Ao mma!

Kgabiso: I'm sorry. Just give me a bit of time to get ready.

Sebaga: Time is what I don't have. You know

that I have a meeting with the elders in the next four hours. I can't afford to be late because they are already mad that I am only coming home three days before the big day instead of a week before. You have to take a bus.

Kgabiso: Just like that? You want me to take a bus when you have a car? Le gone where do you think that I will get the money when I already spent everything on some of your things?

Sebaga: You know what sis, I'm not in the mood to argue. I'll send you some money. Sharp.

She rushed out of the house and got inside her car then reversed out.

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Goodmorning

The Devil I Never Knew

#13

Later that day

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga walked into the room with a tray of food then greeted her daughter. She placed the tray on another chair and sat next to her. She could tell from her face that she was not happy.

Mma Sebaga: Is everything going well on your side?

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Mma Seaga: I don't like what your sister did as much as you don't but you need to remember that this is about you my girl. You can't let her ruin your happiness. Eat and relax. Ko ntle kwa I have everything under control. Ba utlwa hela ka nna. (I have everything under control out there. Even Mma Moagi is dancing to my tune.)

Seba laughed as her mother picked the food and passed it to her.

Mma Seaga: Make sure that you only eat food brought by me. If anyone brings you food then tell them that you are full. Wa utlwa? (Do you hear me?)

Seaga: Ee mma..

Mma Seaga: Have you spoken to Kgabiso?

Seaga: No. Her phones are not going through.

Mma Sebaga: Maybe she is on the way here.

Sebaga: I hope so.

Mma Sebaga: Let me try her .

She took out her phone from the pocket and tried her daughter's number. She smiled at Seba as Kgabiso's phone rang..

Kgabiso: Hie mama.

Mma Sebaga: Hello. Where are you?

Kgabiso: At home?

Mma Sebaga: Good. Make sure that you come to your sister's room now. We have been waiting for you.

Kgabiso: Mama when I said home I meant in Gaborone.

Mma Sebaga: Ele gore ga o isi o emelle Kgabiso

nako e tsamaya ha? (You still haven't left at this time?)

Kgabiso: I will come tomorrow. The buses were full.

Mma Sebaga: O buwa maaka kana Kgabiso. (You are lying.) I am so disappointed in you especially after your sister sent you money for transport.

Kgabiso: So because she gave me money for transport, it means that I must drop all my things and come running to Mahalapye? You haven't even asked me why I didn't come.

Mma Sebaga furiously stood up and fixed her dress.

Mma Sebaga: Don't ever think that you won't need any help from your sister because you will.

Le gone I hope that when you really need her help, she makes you suffer first.

She clicked her tongue and hung up.

Sebaga: It's okay mum.

Mma Sebaga: No it's not okay. Your sister is full of herself. Why did she promise to come with you when she knew very well that she wouldn't make it?

Sebaga: Remember what you just told me now? Let's just focus on the most important thing here which is my day.

Gaborone, Botswana

At the Molefes

Mma Fela picked up her dress from the bed and admired it. Her designer had done such an amazing job and she couldn't stop looking at it.

Rra Fela: So you're really going to defy me and get this boy married without a prenup?

Mma Fela: If I don't stand up for my child then he might end up old, alone and miserable. I have no problem with signing half of my assets to him and his wife. I more than anyone knows how hard it is to start a family from the ground up. When you and I got married, none of us had anything. I can't let the children go through that.

Rra Fela: I don't think that this is the right choice. He is making a mistake.

Mma Fela: His choice and his mistake to make. Let the boy do what makes him happy. You can either go with us or spend your entire old age

regretting on what a bad father you were.

Rra Fela: What?

Mma Fela: Your choice.

She picked up her dress and walked into the closet.

Three days later...

On that morning, Seaga woke up earlier than everyone and began to do her skin routine. She had only a few hours before her in-laws came through. She looked at the time then picked up her phone and called the make up artist.

Make up artist: Hello Monyadi. I'm on my way to your house. You have absolutely nothing to

worry about tlhe mma.

Sebaga: (laughed) Well I had to check.

She put the phone down and smiled as she looked at herself in the mirror. Her glow was out of this world and her skin routine had done wonders for her in the last couple of months. She had never had skin this clear.

Meanwhile in Gaborone, Kgabiso reduced the volume as her boyfriend parked by her gate.

Batsile: I'm surprised that you are respectful this time.

Kgabiso: I have had such a great night and the last thing I want is a committee of old women complaining about loud music.

Batsile: Gone mme mma it's still very early.

She looked at the time.

Kgabiso: Ao? It's only four.

Batsile: Can I ask you something?

Kgabiso: I hope that this is not about my sister's wedding because I have already told you that I don't want to discuss it.

Batsile: I hear you but I still don't understand how you can miss the best day of your sister's life.

Kgabiso: Tswa hela mo go tsone Batsile.

At the guest house

Fela parked his car behind his mum's and adjusted his sit to take a nap...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#14

Later that day

The old women that were sitting in the lapana ululated as Sebaga came out of the house in her traditional dress adorned by a blue traditional shawl. She went around with her uncle's wife greeting her in-laws. On the other side was Fela who kept smiling from ear to ear as he sat on a chair and watched his wife. The Molefe aunts celebrated and took out their phones to capture the beautiful moment. Mma Sebaga wiped her tears as they rolled down her

cheeks. Being able to witness her first born daughter tie the knot was a blessing she didn't take for granted.

Seba looked at her husband and smiled. After all that they had been through, this day had finally come. It was indeed true that the plans God for each of us was beyond comprehension. Rra Moagi stood up to say a few words as Seba sat down on a straw mat with the other aunts.

Rra Moagi: I want to thank each and everyone of you that has made it. We don't take it for granted. We understand that you left behind some of your chores to be with us here today to celebrate my beautiful niece. The Molefes have indeed hit a jackpot.

Mma Fela looked at her husband and smiled.

The fact that he had made it here was enough reason to be grateful.

Rra Moagi: Re na le metsinyana ka ko tanteng.
(We have some refreshments in the tent.) Our job as the elders is complete. We are happy to welcome a son inlaw into our family and gift the Molefe family with a daughter inlaw. Bo ngwanaka, re le eleletsa tsotlhe tse dintle. Lenyalo ke tshegofatso go tswa go Modimo. A Modimo a le tshegetse banake. (I wish you all the best in your marriage. My children, marriage is a blessing from God. May he strengthen you as you journey into it.)

Gaborone, Botswana

Kgabiso washed her face then looked at herself in the mirror. So much was going wrong in her

life yet she had done her best to have a good life. She was young ,beautiful and the first to get it right with her studies and job. Wasn't she the one that was supposed to be progressing first? She grabbed a face towel and wiped her face then walked into the living room and picked up her phone. She browsed through some WhatsApp statuses and came across one where her cousin had posted her sister's magadi picture captioned, "Officially a daughter inlaw to the Molefes, congratulations cousy."

She put her phone down and rolled her eyes then sat next to her boyfriend.

Batsile: Babe kante what's going on? Don't tell me that you don't want to discuss this because we will have a discussion about it. Is it just me or you're jealous of your sister?

Kgabiso: Gatweng? (Excuse me?)

Batsile: You heard me right. This thing of acting up when your sister is winning ain't cool. I will never understand how you missed her lobola day. I mean how would you feel if roles were to be reversed?

She looked at her boyfriend and laughed.

Kgabiso: How would I feel if roles were to be reversed? Should I remind you that we have been together for ages yet you have never mentioned marriage before? You and I have dated for ten years yet you have never mentioned marriage on any given day so how else can I imagine the roles being reversed? If I don't suggest that we go out for dates then you also don't. What about gifts? When was the last time you bought me a gift without me asking

for one? Should I keep going? The sex? You don't initiate shit or even make an effort to atleast learn new sex positions.

He quietly stood up...

Batsile: And have you ever asked yourself why?

Kgabiso: Oh please! If you wanna talk about me cheating on you then you might as well as shut up because that was years ago.

Batsile: But did I heal? Did you take responsibility for your actions?

Kgabiso: One stupid mistake and you punish me with your whack sex forever? Waitsi keeng a re tlogele. (You know what, we might as well as leave.)

Batsile: And if you think that any other man will be able to stand you then you are sadly

mistaken. The reason why women like Sebaga are getting married is because they have manners and their hearts are clean.

That evening..

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The Devil I Never Knew

#15

That evening

Mahalapye guest house

Fela gently got out of the bed and picked up his phone from the side table. He stood by the side of the bed and watched his wife sleeping peacefully. How was he ever going to explain to her the mess he had landed himself in? He swallowed as his phone rang for the fourth time. This wasn't something that would just go away. He needed to attend to it before it ruined his life.

Fela: Eish.

He stepped out of the room to answer his phone.

Fela: What do you want? I thought I told you that what happened last night was a mistake.

Her: I didn't call to argue with you. Please send me some money for some morning after pills. I

don't like this as much as you don't. Believe me, unlike your girlfriend I have other dreams bigger than marriage.

She hung up and left him fuming. How had he slipped? He was usually really careful when it came to such things. God only knew what his wife would do if she found out. He bit his lip and copied her number then went in his banking app to send her an ewallet. Once the transaction was sent, he went on WhatsApp and sent her a message.

“ I don't know what the hell I drank last night and how I ended up in bed with you but nothing like that can ever happen. I'm committed to my wife and I can never want or love any other woman. Please use the money I sent to buy morning afters and whatever you may need.

This never happened and you can never reach out to me.”

He blocked her then deleted the message and walked back inside.

The following day

Rra Fela sat next to his wife and shared a moment with her as they went through the pictures from the magadi ceremony. Their son had finally grown up and taken space of his own.

Rra Fela: It was a beautiful ceremony.

Mma Fela: It indeed was.

She looked at her husband and smiled. As much as she was dying to be petty, she remained humble. If her husband could meet them halfway then she could also do the same.

Rra Fela: Maybe you are right.

She had been willing to it it go till now. If he was going to admit to his mistake then he had to do it right.

Mma Fela: About what?

Rra Fela: Don't you just love being right?

She wore a straight face even though she was dying to laugh.

Mma Fela: No I don't. I just want to understand what you are talking about since we have discussed so many things.

Rra Fela: About this marriage. I have never seen our son so happy. The girl also looks like someone that loves him genuinely.

Mma Fela: Don't just call her a girl. She is now your daughter inlaw. Tota ebile she is now your child.

Rra Fela: Yes our daughter inlaw.

Mma Fela: So you have left all that nonsense about them getting a prenup?

He was sadly mistaken. His wife was not easily going to let go of this one. She would shine through it just to prove her point.

Rra Fela: As long as our son is happy.

Mma Fela: Nna kana I long told you to let the children be. Do you see how freeing it is to be a supportive parent? If you keep up with that attitude where you are forever angry then you will age very quickly. You barely have anything to hang on to, you are already old after all.

He quietly swallowed regretting everything he had just said.

Rra Fela: Can we take the children out for breakfast in Palapye?

Mma Fela: That would be lovely. It's been a very long and stressful week. They deserve to lay back and relax for once.

Rra Fela: Ok. Can you talk to them?

Mma Fela looked at him and laughed shaking

her head.

Mma Fela: If you're going to make an effort then do it right. They are in room five. I'm going to take a shower. Let me know what time they will be ready.

She stood up and went into the bathroom.

In Sebaga's room

Fela sat by the bed and gently rubbed his wife's shoulders. The guilt was weighing down on him and he was ready to confess.

Fela: Babe.

Sebaga: Mma?

Fela: Would you ever forgive me for cheating?

Sebaga: Ele gore where is that question suddenly coming from?

Fela: I'm just asking akere now that we are married things are different.

She got out of bed and picked a bath rob from the chair.

Sebaga: The only thing that's changed is our level of commitment to each other. My principles haven't changed and yours shouldn't either. If you cheat on me then I will walk away without looking back. Cheating for me is a sign of a loveless relationship so I would never allow myself to be stuck in one.

Fela: I hear you.

Sebaga: If you ever think of doing it then you

should remember that whatever we have would never survive.

Fela: Got you.

He forced a smile and stood up as someone knocked on the door.

Fela: Let me get that.

Sebaga: I'm going to take a shower.

Fela: Ee mma.

He kissed her on the cheek before she left. His heart palpitated as he got to the door.

Fela: Hey dad.

He released a sigh of relief...

Rra Fela: Hie. Are you okay? You look shaken.

Fela: No, I'm good. Is everything ok?

Rra Fela: Yes. Everything is fine. I came to invite you and your wife for breakfast.

Fela: What?

He looked at him puzzled...

Rra Fela: I'm doing my best here. Meet me halfway.

Fela: Ee rra.

He wrapped his arms around his dad...

Fela: Thank you dad.

Rra Fela: You're welcome son. And are you sure that you are okay?

Fela: Yes yes.

He let go.

Fela: Let me take a bath. We will meet with you at the reception area in an hour.

Rra Fela: Thank you son.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#16

That same morning

Sebaga stood by the mirror and pulled down her dress then fixed her wig. She took deep breaths and turned to her husband.

Sebaga: How do I look? Do you think that this dress is long enough?

Fela: Babe you look incredible and quite honestly, my parents don't really care about what you wear.

Sebaga: Well your dad might just care.

Fela: I agree that he's been difficult in the past but he's trying. At first he wasn't going to come to our magadi celebration but he did and even invited us for breakfast. I think that's a man that's making an effort so let's appreciate this.

You're now my wife and there is not a thing that anybody can do about it. Embrace it and take some pride in it.

Sebaga: I love you.

Fela: I love you too. More than you will ever know. At times I wish that you could cut my chest open and see how I really feel. I know that I make mistakes at times and I may not be what you deserve at some instances but I love you. I love you more than you will ever know.

Sebaga: Batho babe, that's so sweet. You know that the feeling is mutual. Thank you for honoring me by making me your wife.

Fela: And thank you for taking this imperfect man to be yours till the end of time.

He kissed her then took her hand.

Fela: Shall we?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Meanwhile in the parking lot Fela's father started the car and turned to his wife as she fiddled with her phone.

Rra Fela: I know that I'm not perfect but I'm doing my best. Meet me halfway and support me through this.

His eyes lit up as his son and wife walked up to their car and stood by the passenger door. He rolled down the window and they all exchanged pleasantries.

Rra Fela: A o teng ngwetsi yame? (How are you my daughter inlaw.)

Sebaga instantly grew some wings.

Sebaga: I'm well, thank you.

She bowed down as a sign of respect.

Mma Fela: (Smiled)O teng moghel wa tsala.
(How are you girlfriend?)

Sebaga: Ee mma, ke teng. (I'm well.)

Fela: So where are we headed to?

Rra Fela: Palapye. I assume that's where we can get some breakfast to celebrate this union.

Fela: Amazing. We're right behind you.

He said unlocking his car from a distance with

the control.

Rra Fela: Ok son.

He rolled up the windows as the couple walked off to their car.

Mma Fela: See how refreshing that is?

Rra Fela: Well I hope that it is always this refreshing as you say.

Mma Fela: I wish that was the case but that's not always the case. There will be times where she boils your blood and you wanna shout because that's just how every kid is. Le ene she will feel the same way about us once in a while. No relationship is perfect, we just need to treat her right. Remember that she is now our daughter.

Rra Fela: I hear you.

He said reversing out of the parking space.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga pulled out the envelope with her daughter's magadi money from under the bed and sat next to her husband smiling like a toddler.

Rra Sebaga: When are you taking that money to the bank?

Mma Sebaga: It's only been just one night since we got it. Waitsi gore I have never seen so much money in my life. Koore this is really ours. That family is really generous, so they added an extra five thousand for firewood? Nna I thought

it was less than a thousand.

Rra Sebaga: I hope that you remember that it's not all yours. We need to give some to Sebaga so that she buys whatever she needs for the big day.

Mma Sebaga: Does she really need it though? I can only imagine how much that family will contribute for the big day. They are the type that want everything to be perfect. I mean just look at the deco those two had for a simple magadi celebration. Kana e ne e kete lenyalo la mma nnete. (It was like a white wedding.) I can't wait for the big day. All these witches in Mahalapye are going to die a painful death from jealousy. Did you see Mma Moagi when the catering company came? She wanted to faint there and there.

Rra Sebaga: You women observe very irrelevant things. We should be talking about how our daughter missed her younger sister's big day

not gossiping about your sister inlaw.

She put the envelope under the pillow and laid down.

Mma Sebaga: I can't tell you how hurt I am. I didn't think that Kgabiso would do that to her own blood sister.

Rra Sebaga: Mme kana nna I have been telling you about this. Had you reprimanded both those girls and brought them together then we wouldn't be here instead you took sides.

Mma Sebaga: I don't understand why you are blaming me for someone's fault. I'm not the one that told Kgabiso not to come home for her sister's magadi celebration. That was a decision she made on her own.

Rra Sebaga: Golo ko Gaborone satane o

tsamaya ka dinao. Nna re itsi bana ba motho ba tshwaragana. (The devil is indeed walking on his feet in Gaborone. Siblings are supposed to support each other.) What exactly do we call this? Has she spoken to you yet?

Mma Sebaga: Forget about her. It's all done.
Can you smell the money?

She said kicking her feet in the air.

Rra Sebaga: Continue kicking those feet like a teenager. In the evening o ta bo o kuwa a thunya mangole akere o tsohetse kana le hale wa itebala. (In the evening you will be crying from the pain of those knees. Or you have forgotten that you have aged?)

Palapye, Botswana

Just outside the restaurant, Rra Fela pulled his son to the side as the ladies walked into the restaurant.

Rra Fela: Hey son. How are you doing?

Fela: I'm good dad. Couldn't be better.

Rra Fela: That's wonderful. So when did you arrive in Mahalapye on the day before the magadi?

Fela: What?

Rra Fela: I only saw you that morning pulling up behind your mum's car early morning. There was no news of you ever arriving in Mahalapye the previous day and according to the househelper, you were in Gaborone that night.

He scratched his head...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#17

Fela scratched his head and cleared his throat then forced a smile as his father looked him in the eyes.

Fela: Come on dad. Do you really wanna do this before breakfast? I mean I'm really starving. Can't we discuss this after eating?

Rra Fela: No we can't. Dineo says that she saw some really disturbing things that night.

He looked the other way and laughed.

Fela: What disturbing things? It's not like Dineo has never seen me drunk before.

Rra Fela: And what about the other person you were with?

Fela: Ok. Look dad I can explain.

His heart palpitated as the old man kept his eyes fixed on him. Maybe it was better that it was his father that their helper had told. God knows what his mother would do to him. She was very fond of Sebaga and hearing this would break her.

Fela: Nothing happened. I came back home from a party my friends invited me to. Tota ebile it was not a party, they asked me to have a beer

with them before I left for Mahalapye since they couldn't make it here so I agreed.

Rra Fela: You agreed to go get drunk right before driving here for your big day?

Fela: No. I knew that it was just a beer or two. I swear to you that it wasn't more than six beers. We bumped into some old friends and Seba's sister and after that things just got out of control. Next thing I know Kgabiso was driving me home because I couldn't even stand on both my feet. Something still doesn't add up because I have never been that drunk in my entire life.

Rra Fela: What exactly are you saying son?

Tears built up in Fela's eyes as he vividly remembered that morning.

Fela: I don't know what the hell I drank but I woke up in bed with her.

Rra Fela: What the hell son!?

He felt anger consume him and everything that he had just celebrated before suddenly meant nothing.

Rra Fela: Do you understand what this means? Did you at least use protection?

He shamefully bowed his head.

Rra Fela: You are kidding right? Do you understand the kind of mess you have gotten yourself into? What do you think your wife will do when she finds out? And her father? That entire family is gonna tear you down. Weren't

there any other woman on the streets? Couldn't you at least pick up a prostitute? Ke raya hela gore nne go sena basadi ba bangwe?

He kept his head down.

Fela: I know I messed up dad but what do I do now? How do I fix it? I sent her money for morning after pills but what if she tells Seba? Should I tell her first?

His father breathed heavily as he paced around.

Rra Fela: You will tell her nothing. This was just one night of insanity. Right?

Fela: Yes. It was.

Rra Fela: Good. So you tell her nothing and

forget about this day.

Fela: And what about her sister?

Rra Fela: You pay her off and we all move on. You said that you wanted to get married and now that you are, you will not fu*k this up boy! Everyone has a price and I am pretty sure that's why she slept with you. I will not let you embarrass me especially after everything we have had to go through to get you married.

Fela: Maybe if I tell her then we can figure it out together.

His father clicked his tongue and shook his head.

Rra Fela: Then you are a fool if you really think so. You slept with her sister! She is going to grill you alive and I won't get to the father because if

he gets hold of you then we won't even get a chance to burry your ashes. Stop being an idiot and think. And don't you think of telling this to your mother because you will regret the day you were born.

Mma Fela came out of the restaurant and approached her boys.

Mma Fela: What's taking you two so long?

She could see guilt written all over their faces.

Rra Fela: I just needed to properly apologize to my son and give him a few marriage advices that he will need and now the boy is crying.

Mma Fela laughed and hugged her son.

Mma Fela: Well done my boy. You are a man amongst men.

Just that sentence was enough to suffocate his father.

Mma Fela: Thank you Daddy. We appreciate you. Now come inside. We are hungry. Gape we don't have much time akere we said we would be passing by the Gabanne's for lunch.

Rra Fela: Right. Let's go in.

They followed her inside...

Later that day

Gaborone, Botswana

Dumi sat next to her friend and browsed through Sebaga's magadi pictures as her friend had her lunch.

Dumi: I don't know what you're thinking but babes this could be your chance. The Molefes are rich and there is nothing that they can't afford. I say take this as your chance to build the life that you want. You and I both know that the money you get as a salary isn't enough. If you were to end up as this guy's baby mama then your sister would also be at your mercy. If he can buy his girlfriend an expensive car then what can you get as the mother of his child? Think outside the box and stop acting like a saint when we both know that you ain't one.

Kgabiso: And who said that I want a child? Those little devils suck the life out of a human being.

Dumi: Well that wouldn't be your problem. They would probably hire a nanny and all you would do all day is twiddle your fingers. Ha re tsena mo dijong mmata. (Take this chance!)

Kgabiso: Well I took those morning after pills.

Dumi looked at her and laughed.

Dumi: You're my friend and I know that you are lying. You want her life and you would never let go of any opportunity you get to do that. Start picking out baby names my girl. Whatever you're carrying right there is your ticket to luxury.

Kgabiso: At this point, you might be right. It's not like I have anywhere special to be in the

next nine months. I would like to see the golden child of the family choke from her own happiness.

Dumi: Yes my friend. God helps those that help themselves. No one is going to take you out of this shi*thole you call a home.

Two weeks later..

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The Devil I Never Knew

#18

Two weeks later...

Kgabiso laid back on the comfortable couch and sipped on her juice while Rra Fela spoke. Her sister had told her about this old man before and she had come prepared.

Rra Fela: I don't know what expectations you had when you slept with my son but you need to know that to us you are just a weed.

She chuckled and put her glass on the table.

Kgabiso: If I was you, I would pick my words old man. After all you are not the one that slept with me so you don't have any right to summon me here and speak to me anyhow. If your son didn't want to deal with ho*s as you put it then he shouldn't have slept with me. The fact that he slept with me the night before his magadi proves that he is not as innocent as you want to

portray him.

The truth in what she had just said left him bitter. What kind of mess had their son gotten them into?

Rra Fela: And since you haven't thought of your sister then atleast think about your parents. How do you think they will feel once they find out that the night everyone was working so hard to put everything together for the magadi celenebrations, their daughter had tied down their son inlaw. And let's face it, those two are now married. The official marriage is just a formality but according to our culture, they are now husband and wife. Nothing will break them apart including your little story so if I was you I would take whatever money I am being offered and keep my mouth shut.

Kgabiso stood up and fixed her dress then giggled giving the old man more chest pains.

Kgabiso: That's my decision to make not yours.

Rra Fela: I know that I have been nice till this point but you need to understand that it's now important for you to keep your mouth shut in fact it would save your life if you shut up.

Kgabiso: And I guess that was a threat.

She took out her phone and saved the recording then sent one to her friend.

Kgabiso: If anything happens to me then you will be the first suspect. My friend has a recording of this entire conversation. I guess you're not so smart after all old man.

She left him with more questions than answers as she trotted out.

Rra Fela: Fu*! This is Fela's fault.

He picked up his phone and dialed his number but it wasn't going through.

Rra Fela: Koore he can't keep his pants zipped or answer his phone.

At the Mall

Fela and his mother stood by the counter while his wife tried on her wedding gown. A few minutes later a lady called them out to take a sit

by the waiting area near the fitting rooms.

Lady: You can have a sit here and wait for her.

Fela: When can we come and have a look?

Lady: (Smiled) I'm sorry sir but she said that only her mother can come when she is ready, wena you are not allowed in.

Fela: Come on. I'm her husband and probably the only one with a great sense of fashion taste between her and you. My mum is old.

He chuckled as he teased her.

Mma Fela: Nice try but you're not seeing the dress till the wedding day.

Fela: Not even a glimpse?

Mma Fela: No. Go reserve a table at that new

sea food restaurant that's just opened and leave the dressing matters to women.

He laughed as he stood up..

Fela: Oh nice one mother.

Mma Fela: We will see you in a bit.

She waited till her son had left the bridal shop then approached the fitting room.

Mma Fela: Baby, are you okay in there?

Sebaga: Ee mma.

She said with tears building up in her eyes.

Mma Fela: Can I come in?

A few seconds later Sebaga came out in her mermaid dress that had snatched her curves in all the right places.

Mma Fela: My baby!

She smiled fighting back her tears.

Mma Fela: And here I was thinking that God had denied me the chance to be a girl mum but look at you. Look at me now.

She wrapped her arms around Seba then kissed her on the lips.

Mma Sebaga: I know that there are so many things that happen between mother and daughter inlaw but I promise to love and care for you as my own. You look amazing my child.

They hugged each other crying.

Sebaga: (took a deep breath.) Thank you for loving me and being a mother to me even before things became official. You really fought for me and I appreciate you.

Mma Sebaga: I have always known that you were the one since I set my eyes on you so I would have fought for you till it all came together. You're now my child and anyone that touches you has to deal with me.

The shop assistant stood by the side and

admired them.

Shop assistant: This is so refreshing to see. I didn't think that we would get to a time as this where the relationship of mother inlaw and daughter inlaw transforms. I hope that when my time comes, God gifts me the same way.

Mma Fela: I'm sure that he will grant you the same my girl.

At the restaurant

Fela settled into his sit and took out his phone to check his messages as he waited for his girls. He sighed heavily as he saw a couple of missed calls from his dad. Each time they spoke, it ended up into a fight. He reluctantly called him back.

Fela: Hie dad. I'm sorry I was with mum and...

Rra Fela: I didn't ask you where you were, you have bigger problems than that. I don't see your mistress keeping quiet about your night of passion. You need to do something before the wedding because she seems like someone with plans.

Fela: She and I haven't talked since the day I sent her money for you know what so I doubt she will do anything about it.

Rra Fela: I'm telling you what I saw. That girl is far from letting things go. She is just waiting for the right moment to strike. I told you to offer her money or a car. Fix it because I'm not going through a moment of embarrassment.

Fela: I'll see what I can do about it.

Rra Fela: Don't see what you can do. Fix it!

He hung up on him leaving him bitter and anxious.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#19

Later that day

Fela parked his car outside his parents house and stepped out to get the door for his wife and mother.

Mma Fela: You guys are not staying long?

Fela: I just remembered that there is something dad asked me to do for him at the office so I will let you two wrap up with the wedding plans. Babe can I pick you up when you're done?

Sebaga: (Smiled) Sure.

Mma Fela: Ok well, I guess we will see you later because we also need to talk about a few things with you.

Fela: Sure.

He leaned against the car as the ladies went inside the yard then jumped into his car as soon as they disappeared into the house. There was no way that he was going to let one stupid mistake ruin his life especially one he didn't remember making on purpose. He dialed

Laone's number and connected his phone via Bluetooth to the car radio.

Laone: Hey man. I was just about to call you. The guys and I have been talking about making a stag party for you. I know that you don't like those but there is no way that we can let our boy start a new chapter without appreciating him.

Fela: I appreciate that man but it won't be necessary. Can I ask you something about the night we all had drinks at Mecs?

Laone: Yeah sure, what's up?

Fela: Did you notice anything weird on that day?

Laone: No man. Apart from the fact that you got sloshed from just a six pack,I don't remember anything.

Fela: That's what I'm talking about. Something

must have happened for things to end up like that. There is no way that I can get mad drunk like that from a couple of beers.

Laone: I don't know man. I didn't see anything strange apart from a guy that was happy to celebrate a milestone.

Fela: I think someone spiked my drink.

Laone: You're kidding right? You know that we all love and support you right? I understand that this thing of friends spiking each other is now a trend but i swear to you that we would never do that. If any of us had any other intentions then we would have spiked you a long time ago or even refused for your sister inlaw to take you home. The fact that we were concerned about your safety and picked someone we trusted to take you home should mean something.

Fela: I'm not saying that any of you did. I mean for all we know it could have been someone

else because on that morning when I woke up, everything about me seemed different.

Laone: I hear you man but it must have just been the excitement and alcohol. Nothing happened.

Fela: Ok. Thanks man. Sharp akere.

Laone: I will come past your office sometime to discuss about the party. We ain't letting it go.

Fela: (laughed) Sharp.

He hung up and took a deep breath as he drove through Kgabiso's gate. He looked at himself in the mirror and rubbed his face. If only he knew that a couple of drinks would ruin his life then he would have driven straight to Mahalapye that day.

Meanwhile inside Kgabiso peeped through the

window and giggled. She had always known that it was only a matter of time till her sister's husband started chasing after her. She quickly ran to her room and sprayed on some perfume then went back to the living room and waited. A few minutes later Fela stood by the door and knocked.

Kgabiso: Who is it?

She said getting the door.

Fela: Hie.

Kgabiso: What are you doing here? Isn't it enough that your father is already threatening me? Kante what do you people want from me because I already took the morning after pills as you asked gape hela I told you that I have bigger

dreams than popping kids and getting a ring.

Fela: Can we please talk. I'm not here to fight.

Kgabiso: Yet you sent your father after me.

Fela: I didn't send anyone after you. I honestly just wanna talk. Can you atleast hear me out?

There was an awkward moment of silence as they both stood by the door and thought of what they wanted out of the conversation.

Kgabiso: Come in.

She moved back and let him in.

Fela: Thank you. This won't take long.

Kgabiso: Good. What is it?

Fela: I'm really sorry for how things turned out that night. You're my little sister and I should have never allowed us to be in that position. The truth is that I don't remember much except the morning I woke up.

Kgabiso: (Chuckles) Yet you were on top of me the entire night.

He shamefully bowed.

Fela: I'm really sorry.

He licked his lips and the desperation on his face was visible.

Fela: I really love your sister and I respect her. I understand that I have now portrayed a different picture to you mme nne ke kopa gore

o intshwarele. (I'm asking for your forgiveness.) Please don't say anything to her and give me a chance to make it up to her. I swear that I will spend the rest of my life doing right by her. I know that we both love her.

Kgabiso: I have no intentions of saying anything so you don't have to worry about a thing. Your little dirty secret is safe with me.

Fela: I understand that I have emotionally damaged you so I would really like to make it up to you. So what can I do to help you.

Kgabiso: Help me how?

He shamefully bowed. He wasn't sure what was worse, the fact that he was here or being here to offer her a bribe.

Fela: I know that there are a couple of things

you may want to do. Maybe start up a business or get a new car. Please understand that I'm not trying to bribe you in anyway, I'm simply trying to make it up-to you.

Kgabiso: I hear you.

She looked up at him and smiled.

Kgabiso: I appreciate the fact that you're thinking of me as well in all of this so maybe that could work.

Fela: Thank you. Anything you want.

Kgabiso: A car would be nice. I'm currently struggling with transport.

Fela: Ok. Let me know what you have in mind.

She visualized herself living the same exact life

as her sister's.

Kgabiso: I want the same exact car as Sebaga's.

Fela: I'm not following.

Kgabiso: It needs to be in the same color and you need to find me a bigger house.

Fela: Umm...

He froze realizing that his father was right. This girl would stop at nothing to punish him.

Fela: Can't you get a different car?

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#20

At Kgabiso's

Fela swallowed a painful lump when he realized that Kgabiso was serious. This was no longer just about getting compensated. This woman was after something else and the more that he thought about it, it was actually her that had spiked him.

Fela: Same car, same color?

Kgabiso: Yes. Will that be a problem?

Fela: Yes. Absolutely. There is no way I can buy you the same exact car as my wife. That would

be disrespectful. Le wena hela it wouldn't look good on your side.

Kgabiso: You asked me what I want and i told you.

Fela: I can get you a bigger space and pay rental for the rest of the year but that's all I can offer in terms of rent. As for the car you want, it needs to be something a bit more affordable.

With the wedding happening in two weeks, I have very limited funds and I probably won't be able to afford some things for a few months.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry but I have told you which car I want. If you can't afford it then that's fine.

Kana if this is so important to you then ask your dad to help you out since he doesn't seem to have a problem with threatening me.

Fela: Ee mma, I have heard you but you need to understand that with the car issue, it won't happen. I bought that car for your sister out of

love and respect. She is my wife and there are certain things only she is entitled to.

Kgabiso: Yet you didn't have a problem to share your dic with me which should be something only she is entitled to. Legale what do I know about marriage.

Fela: I will let you know about the places I find. Go sharp.

He opened the door and left without giving her a chance to respond back.

At the Molefes

Mma Fela stood up and went into the study then got back a few minutes later with the folder that their wedding planner had left behind.

Mma Fela: I'm going into the kitchen to make some refreshments. Have a look at those color schemes for now. I will be back to see what you have chosen.

Sebaga: Ee mma.

She nervously smiled as her father inlaw walked into the room and sat next to her.

Rra Fela: So how was lunch? And the dress fitting?

This was the first time that the old man had taken an interest in finding out how the preparations for the wedding were going.

Sebaga: It all went well.

Rra Fela: Are you happy with the venue and everything kana there is something that you would like to change? I hope that your mother inlaw is not forcing her way. This is your big day after all.

Sebaga: Ee rra I can't complain.

Rra Fela: Are you ready to commit your whole life to another person?

At this point she was getting uncomfortable...

Sebaga: Ee rra.

Rra Fela: That's good because marriage is a life long commitment. I know that you have probably heard this so many times but that's the truth. Choosing to stay committed to another person for the rest of your life means that you take on so many responsibilities. Now

you see, commitment doesn't come with conditions. Even on days you don't feel like loving them or staying with them, you practice commitment. You love and commit to them twenty four seven. It's a non ending circle, there is no rest. When they make stupid mistakes and when they do right by you.

She nodded her head in agreement.

Rra Fela: Love each other in that manner my children. For the years that I have been committed to your mother, I have never looked back. I can say the same about her confidently because even when I made unforgivable mistakes, she loved me and stayed to make things work. I ask that you love my son in the same manner. I know for a fact that he loves you this way and he would do anything to fight

anything or anyone that stands in his way of loving you.

At the Mall...

Fela stepped out of the car and dialed his friend's number. He held back his breath as it rang hoping for the best.

Laone: Hey man. Please tell me that you called to pick a date for the stag party.

Fela: We can talk about that later. I need a favor from you. Akere you are friends with the guy that owns Mercs?

Laone: Yeah what's up? You wanna host anything there?

Fela: No. I need him to give me a footage of the night that we were there. I know that it sounds

crazy but something happened that night.

Laone: Ne monna you are serious? Kana nna I just thought that you were joking.

Fela: As a heart attack. If I don't find out what happened that night then my life could be over.

Laone: Ok. Give me a few minutes ke mo lletse.
(Ok give me a few minutes so that I can give him a call.)

Fela: Thanks man. I truly appreciate this. I'm just outside so let me know if he agrees then I can walk right in and get it.

Laone: Waitsi kana! I don't know what to say bro but let me see what I can do. I feel like there is something you're not telling me so you better tell me after you sort this out.

Fela: I will man. Sharp.

Laone: Sure.

He hung up and waited outside hoping for the best.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#21

At Mercs

Fela sipped on his beer and impatiently leaned back as he waited for his friend's call. At this point, the footage from the restaurant was the only thing that would save him. A few minutes later, his phone rang.

Fela: Hey man.

Laone: I just spoke to him. You need to give him a little something to appreciate him.

Fela: But he will give me something?

Laone: Yes absolutely. He is in his office sorting it all out as we speak.

Fela: Thank you so much man. You have no idea how much this means to me.

Laone: Make sure that when everything is over, you come to me and explain what is going on. I'm worried about you.

Fela: Sure. I'll do that man.

Laone: I have shared your contacts with Tebla. He will send you the footage from that night. You can go home. You don't have to stick around.

Fela: Thanks buddy.

Laone: I will drop his banking details. He wants one thousand. Sort it out.

Fela: On it.

A message with the banking details reported and he immediately copied them then went on his banking app.

At the Molefes

Sebaga put away the samples of the food menu and stood up from the dinning table as her phone rang.

Sebaga: I'm sorry I have to take this. It's my sister.

Rra Fela felt his heart pumping blood backwards as his daughter inlaw excused herself and went out.

Mma Fela: Poor thing. I hope that whatever is going on between her and her sister, they sort it out. No one deserves to go through the happiest phase of their life on their own.

Rra Fela: She is not alone. She has us and Fela.

Mma Fela: As much as that is comforting, the truth is that we can not offer the same support as her sister. From what I heard, those two used to be really close. So you can imagine the pain of not having that one person that has always been by your side on your wedding day.

Rra Fela: If she missed her sister's magadi celebration then I doubt she truly cares about her. Who knows maybe she is jealous of her.

Mma Fela: I doubt that's it. Nna I just hope that

they sort out whatever it is.

In the other room...

Sebaga: What do you want?

Kgabiso: I probably deserve this especially after what I did to you on the most important day of your life but I promise you that I had my reasons. Can you just give me a chance so that I can explain?

Sebaga: I don't wanna hear any of it anymore Kgabi. For as long as I remember I have always shown up for you yet you disappear when it's my turn. What will be different this time around? You will come back and apologize then do the same exact thing on my wedding day? I love you to death and it really hurts that you're not a part of my journey but I have accepted it. In two weeks, I will be celebrating the most important

day of my life and I have made peace with you not coming.

Kgabiso: Where are you? I will come and explain everything in person.

Sebaga: I'm afraid it's too later.

She hung up then blocked all her numbers on WhatsApp and through the phone then wiped her tears as they rolled down her cheeks.

A few blocks away from the Molefe's

Fela locked his doors then turned off the engine and took out his phone then emailed the footage he had received on WhatsApp to his email address. He put away his phone and leaned down and grabbed his bag pack from the back seat which had his laptop. Today he

would finally put an end to the circus he had created. He turned on his laptop and impatiently waited for it to start up.

Fela: Come on!

His phone rang and he chuckled looking at the caller identity.

Fela: You don't give up hey. It hasn't been a day since I have unblocked you and you're already calling.

Kgabiso: I'm on my way to your house to tell my sister everything that happened that night and how you offered to bribe me so I don't tell her.

Fela: Do whatever you want and see if you will succeed at breaking my marriage.

Kgabiso: I'm not bluffing Fela. You either buy

me that car and find me a proper house or else your marriage will end even before it begins.

Fela: Tell me something, how do you sleep at night knowing that you wanna ruin your sister's life. The one person that would do just anything for you? Do you really think that you can ever be her? I don't love you and I will never love you gape hela you are not my type. I don't know what makes you think that you can ever take Sebaga's place. O na le mathata nnaka. (You have a problem little sis.) If you don't cleanse your heart then you're going to die from jealousy.

He hung up and called his dad immediately.

Rra Fela: Hie son.

Fela: Can you talk?

The old man excused himself from the table.

Rra Fela: Now I can.

Fela: I think that I might have found something that will prove that this was not just a mistake but a set up. Is Seba still there? Can you keep her there till I come home? That little devil is on her way to our house and if she gets to her first then I might lose my woman forever.

Rra Fela: Do what you need to do. I will find a way around.

Fela: Thanks dad.

He hung up and went to join his wife and daughter inlaw in the dinning room.

Mma Fela: I was wondering what was taking you so long. I'm heading out with Seba.

Rra Fela: Where are you going?

He nervously asked and held on to both his hands as he began to shake.

Mma Fela: I'm dropping her off. She has work tomorrow morning. Doesn't look like Fela will be back anytime soon.

Rra Fela: Why don't you stay over tonight?

He quickly suggested...

Sebaga: I would love to but I would need clean clothes and some toiletries which I didn't bring.

Rra Fela: Come on child, your husband can take

care of that on his way here. Gape hela you don't look ok. What kind of parents would we be if we allowed you to go home re ntse re bona gore ga o sharp? (Yet we can tell that you are not fine.) Wait up with your mother and have a look at those books you two have been busy with.

Finally things were falling into place with her new family. She smiled and reluctantly agreed.

At Sebaga's

Dumi and Kgabiso stood outside the gate and rang the intercom a couple of times but there was no answer.

Kgabiso: This idiot knew that they were not

home. That's why he didn't care about me coming here. What on earth I'm I going to do because Sebaga has blocked me?

Dumi: Shit mme kana le nna my battery is dead. Why don't you call your mum and tell her everything? You know that she is always on your side. Once she knows, you don't have to lift a finger. She will do everything without you even asking.

Kgabiso: Waitsi gore you are right. I don't know why I didn't approach her in the first place.

She cleared her throat and dialed her mother's number.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#22

At Mahalapye

Mma Sebaga stood by the bedroom door and admired her husband as he fitted his new suit on. It had been ages since she had last seen him this handsome.

Mma Sebaga: O bona gompieno mogatsaka ga o re ke go neele hela ke e tsisa gotlhe le masika a yone. (You see today my love, even if you were to ask me to get intimate with you, I would give it to you from all sorts of directions.)

The old man shyly looked away.

Rra Sebaga: So do you think I look ok?

Mma Sebaga: Ok? You look like the next president. No man in Botswana has anything on you today.

Her phone rang as she giggled and drooled.

Mma Sebaga: Who could that be?

She said pulling out her from pouch from inside her top.

Mma Sebaga: Change into that other one and let me see which one looks better. I will be back in a minute. Your daughter is calling.

She left the room and closed the door behind.

Mma Sebaga: Hello.

Kgabiso: Mama?

Mma Sebaga: So you have suddenly remembered that you have a mother?

Kgabiso: I didn't call to fight. There is something important that you need to know.

Mma Sebaga: What could be so important apart from your sister's wedding?

Kgabiso: Fela is not who you think he is including his family. If Sebaga goes ahead with this marriage then he going to hurt her.

Mma Sebaga: What will it take for you to be happy that your sister is doing well in life?

Kgabiso: He and I slept together.

Mma Sebaga: Excuse me?

Kgabiso: He and I had sex.

Mma Sebaga: I understand what sleeping together means, what I don't understand is why you would make up such stories about your sister's husband. Will it kill you to accept and celebrate her?

Kgabiso: But I'm telling you the truth. I'm not making this up mama.

Mma Sebaga: I don't care whether you're making it up or not. Leave your sister's husband alone and find your own man.

Kgabiso: I didn't g...

She cut the call and clicked her tongue...

At Sebaga's

Dumi impatiently looked to her friend as she put her phone away.

Dumi: And what did she say? I doubt that it went well based on your tone.

Kgabiso: She thinks that I'm making it all up.

Dumi: Maybe she is still in denial. Give her a bit of time to process it.

Kgabiso: I don't know man. Maybe I just need to let it go.

Her phone rang...

Dumi: Who is it?

She looked down at the screen.

Kgabiso: Mama.

Dumi: Answer it. Maybe she has changed her mind and she wants to hear you out.

Kgabiso: Maybe.

She picked the call up and put the phone on loudspeaker.

Kgabiso: Mama.

Mma Sebaga: If I ever hear about this madness from you or anyone then I will disown you. My daughter has finally found a man that loves her and cares for her. Leave her alone. This wedding is happening even if you don't like it. If you want to see that I can be cruel then tell your sister about what you have just told me. I'm warning you my girl. Try me! Not even your

father will be able to stop me from shredding you into pieces.

She hung up and clicked her tongue.

Mma Sebaga: So what if she slept with him? Who told her to offer herself to him. If this girl thinks that she is about to ruin my daughter's life or the life we are about to experience then she has another thing coming.

Meanwhile Fela cursed as he watched the footage from the restaurant in his car. The footage from where they were sited wasn't very clear and for as long as he couldn't prove that Kgabiso had spiked his drink then he could lose Sebaga. He turned off his laptop and laid back on his chair thoughtfully. Maybe it was time to come clean. Deep down he wanted to believe

that their love was strong enough to survive this. Maybe if he just told her the truth then she would forgive him or even better yet believe him. He breathed heavily as he took out his phone to call the father.

Rra Fela: Son. What's taking you so long?

Fela: I didn't find what I was looking for but I'm on my way home. I've decided to tell her the truth. I mean isn't it better if she hears it from me? I spoke to Kgabiso earlier on and I can tell that this is about more than money. This is very personal and if I pay her off, she will keep coming.

Rra Fela: Son, you're making a big mistake. No woman can forgive you for such a mistake.

Fela: Dad you always tell me that good has a way of winning. You know my heart, you know how much I love this woman and how I would

never hurt her on purpose. That has to count for something, right?

He rested his head on the steering wheel as tears built up in his eyes.

Rra Fela: I don't know son but I just hope that you know what you're doing because once you do this, there is no turning back. You might lose her forever.

Fela: I believe in love. I believe that it can conquer everything.

He hung up and pulled himself together then drove home.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#23

That same night

At the Molefe's

Fela stood by the main door and looked up hoping for some sort of escape but even he knew that nothing or nobody could help him. It was either he told the truth or stayed at the mercy of Kgabiso. The thought of having to tell the woman that he had promised to love and be faithful to that he had slept with his sister left him broken. He took deep breaths and fixed his shirt then took out his key and unlocked the door before walking in.

In the living room was his woman and parents who all seemed to be getting along. This was all that he had wanted yet it was just about to end. He greeted his family then sat down.

Mma Fela: Are you ok? You don't look fine. What took you so long? Is everything in place at the office?

He cleared his throat and turned to his dad.

Fela: Yes. Everything is fine. I have a bit of a headache. Dad we have a few things we need to discuss. There are some pending matters at the office that need your go ahead. Babe I'll be back.

He kissed his wife then gave his dad a look that

got the old man to quickly stand up.

Rra Fela: Monna I told you that it's not a good idea to bring the office home but since you have already mentioned it, come with me to my office so you tell me exactly what is going on.

Fela: Ee rra.

He followed him...

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga paced around the living room then finally rushed outside for some privacy. There was no way that she would allow Kgabiso to ruin the life that they were about to live. It was quite clear that marrying their daughter to the Molefes would elevate their life. She took

out her phone and called Kgabiso. This girl was not going to ruin their life let alone embarrass them. She breathed heavily as the phone rang.

Kgabiso: Mama.

Mma Sebaga: Kana I didn't hear you properly earlier on. Ware what happened?

Kgabiso: It's fine. You don't even believe me.

Mma Sebaga: How can I believe you when you haven't come home or even made an effort to come see me. What was that you said earlier on about Fela and his family?

Kgabiso: We slept together.

Mma Sebaga: Oh I see. So who else knows about this apart from me and Fela?

Kgabiso: No one.

Mma Sebaga: Good. You keep it that way. Don't think of breathing a word to your sister or any

other person. Do you understand?

Kgabiso: If not then what?

Mma Sebaga: Do you remember that abortion you had a year ago?

She felt her entire body turning cold.

Mma Sebaga: Ee molato ga o bole. You and I know very well that it's a crime to commit an abortion in this country so one word from you to anyone to your sister then I will personally hand you to the police station.

Kgabiso: Are you blackmailing me?

Mma Sebaga: Call it whatever you want to call it but I'm just a woman looking out for my children and family.

Kgabiso: It might be a little late for that. For all I know Fela could be telling her the truth as we

speak.

Mma Sebaga: Well I don't know what you will do but you better make sure that your sister knows nothing about this.

Kgabiso: So you are seriously threatening me?

Mma Sebaga: You are the one that choose this road, I'm just following your lead.

The old woman hung up and went back inside the house.

At the Molefe's

Fela and his father walked into the office and closed the door behind.

Rra Fela: I'm sorry that it had to get to this. I

wish that there was something that could be done but I guess you are right after all. The only thing you can do at this point is tell her the truth.

Fela: I don't have any other option dad.

Rra Fela: She loves you and she is a good woman. From the little time I got to spend with her, I can tell that she has a good heart. Let's trust that your love can save you son.

His phone rang and there was a sudden change of mood as he turned the phone screen towards his father.

Rra Fela: Tell her to go to hell.

Fela cleared his throat and took the call.

Kgabiso: I won't tell her anything. You can go ahead with your pathetic wedding.

Fela: You're bluffing and quite honestly I'm not giving in to your games.

Kgabiso: Go and tell her and see if she forgives you. I know my sister more than anyone and one thing about her is that she doesn't forgive cheating.

Fela: This was not cheating. I was set up.

Kgabiso: Do you honestly think that a woman that's hurting will believe that? Marry her and move on with your life otherwise my mother will make mine a living hell. We both win if we leave it.

Fela: Your mother?

Kgabiso: Welcome to the family of snakes. Survival is important to us. Just make sure that you never step on their toes otherwise you will live your entire life regretting that you know

them.

She hung up...

Rra Fela: And now?

He widened his eyes and took a deep breath.

Fela: Saved by the mother.

Rra Fela: I'm not following.

Fela: Seba's mum knows and she somehow managed to tame Kgabiso by blackmailing her or something. I don't know.

Rra Fela: And it gets worse. I knew that there was something about that family. Son I don't know about you but I don't trust anyone in that family.

Fela: I hear you dad and I think you're right. I will tell her after the wedding.

Two weeks later...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#24

Two weeks later...

At Mahalapye Guest house

Sebaga closed her eyes as her make up artist

pulled the ring light closer to her face and took a couple of snaps.

Sebaga: All done?

Make Up Artist: Yes. You can stand up and have a look on the mirror.

Sebaga stood up and went towards the mirror. She smiled as she admired the work of her Make Up Artist. She looked at her dress and turned around then looked up to fight back her tears.

Make Up Artist: Don't cry otherwise we might have to start over. You look amazing.

Mma Sebaga: Waitsi gore ngwanake o ntse montle mo eketeng o ka phadisanya le bo Mma Botswana.

Mma Moagi stood up and ululated.

Mma Moagi: Sebaga sa lorato!

Sebaga: I can't believe that this day finally came.

Mma Sebaga: It's here my baby. Ba swabile baloi. (Witches have been put to shame.)

Mma Moagi: I still can't believe that your sister didn't come. How does she miss the most important day of your life?

Mma Sebaga: Mma Moagi out of all the things that you could have mentioned, you choose to talk about the negative. Instead of applauding my daughter for such a beautiful day that she and her husband have planned for all of us, you want to talk about Kgabiso? Does it even matter if she is not here? Akere the pastor is the one getting Sebaga married? Kana Kgabiso has

taken something that will make it impossible for my child to get married?

Sebaga looked at the two and cleared her throat to calm the situation down.

Sebaga: Can you guys not fight please. Mama can you please check how far the florist is with my bouquet. Mma malome, how far with the car?

Both ladies excused themselves to attend to the tasks they had been given.

Make Up Artist: Heii manyalo! (Weddings neh.) I don't know if it's a norm or some kind of tradition but the family is always fighting.

Sebaga: Mme tlhe mma I won't allow them to ruin it for me. My man and I worked so hard to

plan this day so nothing will ruin it.

Make Up Artist: That's the spirit my girl. This day comes once in a lifetime. You need to have fun gape hela I can imagine how much you spent for this event so have fun my girl.

At Lacky Guest house

The groomsmen gathered in the garden and rehearsed a few steps while the groom and his father got ready in the other room.

Fela: Finally it's happening.

Rra Fela: It's happening son and no one can ever stop it.

Fela: Thank you dad. I don't know how I would have gotten through these two weeks without your support.

Rra Fela: I'm sorry that I came to the party late.
You're my son and you will always have my
support.

Fela: I love you dad.

There was a knock on the door...

Fela: And even when you ask for a bit of privacy!

They both laughed...

Rra Fela: Do you blame them? This is a very
exciting moment for all of us!

Fela: Maybe it's mum. Let me open up.

He got the door and his eyes met with
Kgabiso's.

Kgabiso: Hey brother inlaw!

She giggled and trotted in.

Rra Fela: And what exactly are you doing here?

Kgabiso: Is that how you talk to the mother of your grandchild?

The old man looked at her and laughed.

Rra Fela: You're bluffing.

She opened her bag and took out her blood report.

Kgabiso: Here.

Rra Fela's hands shook as he read the report.
She was indeed pregnant.

Rra Fela: There is no way you are expecting my grandchild.

Kgabiso: Well you have all the time in the world to digest this and think things through before you two can get a DNA test.

Fela: Your mother would never allow you to ruin our lives.

Kgabiso: I thought you were smart. Didn't I warn you about my family? My mother would do anything for survival.

The door opened and Mma Sebaga walked in.

Mma Sebaga: Dumelang. (greetings)

Fela: Hello Ma. Kgabis...

Mma Sebaga reached out for the blood report from her child then threw it on Fela's face.

Fela: You would never hurt Sebaga that way.

Mma Sebaga: I have two daughters and every parent knows that you go with the one that can help you. This one here is carrying your child, the other one might leave. You will understand one day when you are a parent. The minute you tell Sebaga that this one is expecting, she is going to leave so if I was you then I wouldn't bother myself by turning up to the wedding. Take the one that can give you a family and leave.

Fela: What kind of a criminal are you?

Mma Sebaga: A smart one that knows how to make the right choice.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#25

At Mahalapye guest house

The florist stood by Sebaga's room and knocked a couple of times before the best lady got the door.

Melitah: Finally! We were starting to wonder where you are.

Florist: Mme kana I have been standing outside for a while.

Sebaga: Ao? You didn't see my mum? She came to look for you.

Florist: No I didn't. Your aunt is the one that sent me out here.

Sebaga: Where is she? We are supposed to leave to the venue. I long sent her to check how far the car is.

Florist: She was right behind me. Someone called her to the side. I'm pretty sure that she will be here.

Sebaga: Thanks.

Florist: Tlhe mma you look so beautiful.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Florist: Good luck with everything and God bless

your marriage.

Sebaga: Thanks love. Love the flowers by the way.

Florist: Sharp. I'm glad to hear that. I hope you also like the ones at the venue.

Sebaga: I'm sure that I will.

She waved at her and left...

Sebaga: I don't understand why everyone is dragging their feet today.

Melitah: You know how these wedding things are.

Sebaga: I can't wait till the end of the day when everything is done.

Melitah: Yes babe. By the end of the day, you will be Mrs Molefe.

Sebaga: I still don't understand why I choose to get a pastor to officiate this marriage today. I don't even go to church regularly. We should have just done it at the district commissioner's office.

They both laughed.

Melitah: Well you know what they say about God and marriage my friend. If he is not invited from the beginning then he won't appear. He has to be Alpha for him to become omega.

Sebaga: And thanks for doing this the mma. I know that I asked you at the fifth hour but you still showed up.

Melitah: You have done so much for me in the past. I'm glad that you asked me.

The door opened and Mma Moagi walked in.

Mma Moagi: Are you two ready?

Sebaga: Yes. Where is my mum?

Mma Moagi: She has already left to the venue. She said that we would find her there. She wanted to make sure that everything was going well.

Sebaga: Well let's go and get me married.

She giggled as she stood up and the ladies helped her with her dress.

At Lacky Guest house

Mma Fela walked into her son's room in high spirits.

Mma Fela: What are you still waiting for? Let's go. We are running late.

Rra Fela: You might want to seat down.

Mma Fela: Heelang, we don't have much time. Can't we do this later? Sebaga's aunt just called and they will be leaving to the venue.

Rra Fela: Sit down Margaret!

He said with a reprimanding voice.

Mma Fela: What is it?

Rra Fela: Son, do you want to explain?

He swallowed a couple of lumps which left his throat dry.

Fela: Mama I messed up.

Mma Fela: What is it? Tell me so I help you fix it son.

He stood up and grabbed his car keys.

Fela: I got involved with Sebaga's sister the night before the magadi celebration and now she is pregnant.

Mma Fela held her chest as the mother of all chest pains attacked her.

Mma Fela: What exactly are you saying? I don't understand.

Rra Fela: The girl is pregnant with his child and she is now threatening to tell her sister.

Mma Fela: How long have you known?

She said turning to her husband. He kept quiet and shamefully bowed guilt stricken.

Mma Fela: And you are only telling me now?

She said furiously.

Mma Fela: Wena Fela, how the hell did you get yourself involved in such a mess? You f...

Her son rushed out before she could even express her frustrations and disappointment...

At the venue

Everyone sat down and waited for the bride...

Rra Sebaga: Have you seen your sister around?

Rra Moagi: Owaii, that one has been running around the entire morning to see to it that everything is going well. Who knows where she is. You know how your wife is. She believes that everything is indeed going well when she is the one running the show.

RraSebaga: Well she should relax. Today she is meant to be relaxed. It's her day to celebrate raising such a responsible girl.

He looked at his wrist watch then to the side where the in-laws were sited.

Rra Sebaga: The pastor is here. I don't see the

groom.

Rra Moagi: I can understand the bride being late but the groom?

Meanwhile Sebaga sat in the car waiting to be told to come out.

Sebaga: I don't understand what's taking so long. Akere they said we should be here at nine.

Melitah: Probably still sorting out the sitting arrangements or fighting over something.

A few minutes later Mma Moagi tapped on the window and Seba opened the door.

Sebaga: Should we come out?

Mma Moagi: No one knows where the groom is.

Seaga: What do you mean?

Mma Moagi: He isn't here.

She picked her phone from the seat and tried Fela's number but it didn't go through so she called her mother inlaw.

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Bonus

The Devil I Never Knew

#26

Later that day...

Mma Moagi rubbed Seaga's back as she rested on her lap crying. It was all she had been doing since morning.

Mma Moagi: Let me try his mother one last time. I don't understand where he could be. Melitah will you look after her?

Seaga: What's the point? The guests have already left and...

She broke down and cried. It was embarrassing to tell the rest of the family and other guests that the wedding would not be taking place but what was worse was not having her calls answered by the one person that had an explanation of why all this was happening.

Seaga: I don't understand how this is

happening. Everything was just fine when we spoke this morning. We have planned this day together. He kept calling to check if everything was going well and...

The more she talked about it was the more she cried.

Outside...

Mma Fela greeted Mma Moagi then pulled her by the hand to the side.

Mma Moagi: Where is your son? We have been waiting for him all morning. The guests have now left and everything is a mess. E le gore if he didn't want to pitch up then why did he give Sebaga the impression that he wanted to marry

her? Do you people understand how embarrassing this is for us as a family? And what about all these expenses? So much money was used just for this day.

Even though Mma Fela was getting impatient, she understood where Mma Moagi was coming from especially as a parent.

Mma Fela: I don't know how to apologize eibile I don't know where to start because nothing I say will fix the situation. Mma we are just as embarrassed and disappointed as you. I came to check on my child, I can only understand how she is feeling.

Mma Moagi: I don't even know where to start. That poor girl is broken. I don't think that there is anything that we can do or say that can make her feel better. What your son did is very

inhumane and I don't see that poor child healing from this.

Meanwhile Rra Sebaga parked his car outside Lacky guest house and stepped out. He was fuming and at this point no one could calm him down. Just as he was about to reach the reception area, Rra Fela walked out.

Rra Sebaga: Where is your son?

On any other given day Rra Fela would have made his life difficult but even he was being consumed by guilt from every angel.

Rra Fela: Can we go inside and talk?

Rra Sebaga: I don't want to talk. Where is your son, I need to understand how he finds it ok to

embarrass my child like that. Your boy is a coward and I have always known that my daughter marrying into your family was a mistake.

Rra Fela: I understand how you must be feeling at this moment and I'm very sorry for what you are going through as a father. Please come with me so that we can talk about this calmly.

Rra Sebaga looked at him and this time he could tell that the man was talking from a place of humility.

Rra Sebaga: I honestly just want to see your son and understand why he had to cause my daughter so much pain and embarrassment.

Rra Fela: I understand. Please come with me.

He followed him inside.

At the venue

Mma Fela and Mma Moagi walked into Sebaga's room and found her sleeping.

Mma Moagi: When did she fall asleep? Her mother inlaw wants to talk to her.

Melitah: She just fell asleep now.

Mma Moag: Wake her up.

Mma Fela: Let her be. I will stay here till she gets up. She must be tired.

Melitah: She cried herself to sleep.

Mma Fela sat next to her daughter inlaw and rested by her side. Poor thing, she couldn't

imagine how she was feeling.

At Lacky Guest House

Rra Sebaga: So you are telling me that your son got my other daughter pregnant and my wife knew about it?

He stood up and paced around laughing.

Rra Sebaga: Heela rra kare ngwana wa gago o kae o mpollela ditori tsa difilimi. (I asked you about your son's whereabouts and you are telling me about things that only happen in movies)

Rra Fela: I understand that all this maybe be hard to accept but twenty minutes before the ceremony was supposed to start, your daughter

and wife walked in here threatening to tell Sebaga the truth about the pregnancy.

Rra Sebaga: (Laughed) What does my wife know about making threats? All my wife has ever done is grown vegetables. And how on earth did your son get my child pregnant?

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Bonus owed

The Devil I Never Knew

#27

That same evening

At The Gabanne's

Rra Sebaga sat outside with his brother in law

while the ladies took his daughter inside the house. He took out his phone from the pocket and tried his wife's phone but it went straight to voicemail.

Rra Sebaga: Where could she be?

Rra Moagi: I know my sister to be a lot of things but whatever that man said is far from the truth. You know how these rich people are, they are always looking for someone poor to blame.

Rra Sebaga: Then where did she disappear to?

A cab pulled up to the gate and Mma Sebaga and Kgabiso stepped out.

Rra Sebaga: Satane o mala mantsho! (The Devil)

He said standing up to meet them halfway.

Rra Sebaga: Where are you two coming from?

Mma Sebaga: Hello to you too.

He looked at his daughter and clicked his tongue.

Rra Sebaga: How do you feel after everything you have done to your sister? Do you understand that we had to cancel everything because of you? And what about us? Do you understand the kind of embarrassment you have subjected us to?

Mma Sebaga: Leave the child alone. She is not the one responsible for her sister's failed marriage. Clearly those two had problems because if they were happy he wouldn't have

come to her. Accept that the boy fell out of love with our other daughter and fell in-love with the other.

Rra Sebaga: And what does that have to do with you? How do you find yourself supporting such rubbish? Our other daughter was left at the alter yet you are here speaking like someone that doesn't care.

Mma Sebaga: How I'm I supposed to speak to show that I care? Rra wee, I have two children and the last time I checked, being a mother means attending to the both of them. Akere wena you are here attending to Sebaga so what's wrong with me attending to Kgabiso?

Rra Sebaga looked at his daughter with disgust as she attempted to open the front door.

Rra Sebaga: Go into that house and see what I

will do next.

She stood by the door feeling helpless.

Mma Sebaga: Kgabiso go into the house. Akere
le wena this is your home.

Rra Sebaga: Heela mosadi ke wena! Stop
testing me.

Mma Sebaga: You are the one testing me. Try
me today and you will understand who I am.

Rra Moagi shook his head and held on to his
brother inlaw for some support as he felt dizzy.
He was aware that family became a bit jealous
of each other at times but what his sister had
portrayed was scary.

Rra Moagi: Let them go in. We will deal with this later.

Rra Sebaga: Nare wa roroma? (Are you shivering?)

Meanwhile in Sebaga's room Mma Fela held on to her daughter inlaw as she broke down and cried.

Sebaga: Are you saying that Fela slept with my sister?

Mma Fela: He believes that she drugged him.

Sebaga: Yet he is not here and he never said anything to me?

The thought of two together left her feeling shattered...

Sebaga: What did I..

Her tears choked her and the more she tried to speak was the more her heart broke.

At Lackey Guest House

Rra Fela stood by the parking lot and tried his son's number one last time but it went straight to voicemail. He left a message.

“I thought that you were smart and most of all, I thought that you loved her. Son when you love someone, you don’t leave them with questions through such madness. You avail yourself to answer every stupid question even if it leaves you with a few bruises. I admit that I’m also to

blame for this. As a father, I should have advised you to tell the truth right away however the damage has been done. You can't run! Come back and fix your mess”

He finished recording the message then got into his car.

At Rra Sebaga’s

Mma Sebaga stood by her daughter’s room and knocked. Before anyone could let her in, she opened the door and walked in.

Mma Sebaga: Seba!

She looked around the room with annoyance.

Mma Sebaga: Can you all excuse me, I want to speak to my daughter.

Mma Fela: God will deal with you. What kind of a mother are you?

Mma Sebaga: Heiiii! Who do you think you are judging me when your son can't keep his pants zipped. Put your own house in order before you come and tell me about how I'm such a bad mother. Le gone look around you, you are in my house. Wa itebala. (You seem to be forgetting yourself.)

Mma Fela and Melitah followed each other out of the room.

Mma Sebaga: My baby!

Sebaga sat up on the bed as tears rolled down her eyes.

Sebaga: Is it true?

Mma Sebaga: Is what true my child?

Sebag: Did you really tell Fela to leave me?

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#28

Mma Sebaga looked at her daughter's eyes that were swollen and reddish then pulled the plastic chair on the side and sat down.

Mma Seaga: Yes. Everything they told you is true.

Seaga: Mama!

Tears welled up in her eyes as she looked at the woman she had called a mother her entire life. How was it that one could be so calm yet cruel to a child they gave birth to?

Seaga: Do you really hate me that much?

Mma Seaga: No. I don't hate you and there is no way that I can hate you especially when I gave birth to you. I don't know if I ever told you this but I almost lost you during labor. We were told that you would never live a year but here you are. You fought so hard to stay alive and when you turned a year, I knew that you were a

really strong baby and that's what you would grow into.

She looked at her daughter and chuckled.

Mma Sebaga: And I wasn't wrong. I mean look at you. You have fought for everything that you have including your profession. You have always wanted to be a lawyer and failing senior school has never made you change your mind. You re-wrote those exams till you could qualify for law school and here you are, the lawyer of the Gabanne family. Our pride and joy.

Sebaga: Why did you choose to hurt me this way?

She said as every part of her became numb.

Mma Sebaga: It's simple my baby. I'm a mother. I had to make sure that you both won. With your sister, she has always been the slow one. She doesn't have the spirit of a fighter and she fails at almost everything that she does. Instead of re-writing to get better points at school that would enable her to pick a course of her choice, she went with teaching because she didn't have to put much of a fight. Everything that she has is because of fate. She doesn't fight for or put any effort in anything. Well until today. Today your sister left me amazed. I'm still surprised that it's her that's calling the shots. I mean on any other given day, I would have been on your side but I realize that even as a parent, you have to pick the winning team. You have lost your spirit to fight these days. I can't be too sure with you. I'm sure that you understand that I have to pick one person that won't let this guy go. You can see our living condition ngwanaka. Nna I don't want to depend on you two forever or be a

farmer till I age. I simply secured my future.

She stood up and wiped her daughter's tears.

Mma Sebaga: Like I said, you're a fighter. Apart from picking the winning team, I know and believe that you will pull through this. Unlike your coward sister who might have decided to end her life because a man left her, you're strong and I know that you will use this experience to be even better.

She kissed her on the cheek.

Mma Sebag: Now do you see that I thought of you both as my children.

Sebaga's throat became dry and she failed to find the words to express herself. It felt like what her mother had just said was a total dream.

Mma Sebaga: Be strong my baby. It's life, you win some and you lose some.

She smiled at her then walked out of the room.

A few days later...

Sebaga stood by her car and watched her father as he loaded her things into the trunk. After he had finished loading her things, he went over to her.

Rra Sebaga: Travel safely my girl. It is well. Remember that if you need anything then I'm just a phone call away.

She hugged her father.

Sebaga: Thank you dad.

Her mother and sister watched her from a distance as they sat under the morula tree for some shade.

Mma Sebaga: She hasn't talked to me since that night.

Kgabiso: Same here but you know what she will be fine.

Mma Sebaga: And what about Fela?

Kgabiso: He only called to say that he would take responsibility of the child.

Mma Sebaga: And that was it?

Kgabiso: Yes.

Mma Sebaga: Then you need to find a way to get close to him because I didn't settle for a loser. That boy still needs to bring more cows here.

They both laughed..

At Gaborone

At the Molefe's

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Your are owed two more bonus inserts.

You had a total of 4. 1 was posted yesterday,
this is the second one ❤

The Devil I Never Knew

#29

Gaborone, Botswana

At the Molefe's

Mma Fela stood by the kitchen and clapped her hands then moved back as she watched her son making a snack. She couldn't understand how he was still able to go on with his everyday life after hurting his partner.

Mma Fela: It must be nice hey?

Fela: Mma?

Mma Fela: Being able to eat and grow fat while someone's child suffers from pain you caused them and can barely get anything into their mouth because it just hurts a lot.

Fela: Mum please. You know that I'm also hurting.

She clapped her hands and chuckled.

Mma Fela: Are you? I mean are you really hurting Fela? Because if you were hurting as much as you say you are then you wouldn't have left that poor girl at the alter.

Fela: I know I messed up and nothing can ever fix it but I did the only thing I thought was best for the both of us. Had I pitched up and married her then she would have been hurting even

more.

Mma Fela: What about telling her the truth right after it happened or at least while you were planning the wedding? And what about your mother? You really thought that you could tell a man that disliked her the first time he heard about her and he would advise you properly? Why the hell didn't you come to me son?

Fela: I wasn't so sure that you would forgive me or even want anything to do with me because I know how much you love her.

He said putting away his food.

Fela: I know that you all think that it was easy to leave or even keep this to myself but it's been a nightmare. A part of me felt like removing myself from the equation would hurt her a whole lot less. Her having to deal with her pain

with me around would have been worse mum. I know that you think that things ended up here because I took some advice from dad but that's not true. That man did everything in his power to help me save my marriage. Koore he even went to an extent of threatening Kgabiso yet it didn't work.

Mma Fela: Waitsi gore nna I don't know what to say about you two. Koore things always happen and I am forever kept in the dark. Kana this could have been simply solved by telling her the truth. Right now it might be too late. Son, running is never a good sign of sincerity. If anything it's an act of cowardice. O thubile ngwana ole wa batho pelo. (You broke that poor girl's heart.) And your new girlfriend and her mother? How do you plan to get rid of them because from what they have shown us, it's going to take a whole lot more than just telling her you don't love her to get her to understand

that.

Fela: I don't know mum. I'm just going through a series of emotions right now. I don't know ok.

She sadly sighed then walked out of the kitchen and joined her husband in the bedroom.

Mma Fela: So you're also relaxing?

Rra Fela: I understand that you are angry but you need to know that there is nothing I could have done to make things better or different.

Mma Fela: You could have told me.

Rra Fela: Then what? I hate how this turned out but there is nothing that you and I can do about it. This is Fela's mess and only he can fix it. Let it go.

Mma Fela: That poor girl is hurting. The least he can do is go and see her. Maybe seeing him in

person will give her closure.

Rra Fela: I have already spoken to him about that.

Mma Fela: And?

Rra Fela: Our son is a weakling that we raised. By making everything available to him, we spoiled him and now he expects us to hold his hand in everything.

Mma Fela: Maybe it's about time we changed that.

Rra Fela: What do you have in mind?

Mma Fela: I don't know how to approach the matter yet but when I think of a way around it, I will let you know.

At Sebaga's house

Sebaga parked her car in the driveway then grabbed her handbag from the passenger seat and dug for her house keys. She stepped out of the car and stood by the door dreading to go in.

Sebaga: It is what it is.

Her phone rang bringing her back to life. She quickly picked it without looking at the caller identity.

Sebaga: Hello.

Fela: Hey.

She hung up and held on to the burglar door as she felt dizzy. It rang again and this time she answered with so much anger.

Seaga: What do you want?

Fela: I am three minutes away from our house.
Are you home?

Seaga: Go to hell.

Fela: I truly deserve that. I can imagine the amount of questions you have right now.

Seaga: Sebono Fela!

Tears built up in her eyes as the gate opened up but she wiped them off with the back of her hand. She approached him as he stepped out of the car.

Seaga: What the hell do you want?

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Bonus 3, Last one coming through just before
our morning insert ❤

The Devil I Never Knew

#30

At Sebaga's

Fela stepped out of the car and greeted Sebaga but she remained mute. Her pale face and reddish eyes left him guilt stricken as she opened the door.

Sebaga: Come in and say whatever the hell it is that you came to say then leave.

He kept quiet and swallowed painfully as he followed her inside.

Sebaga: Tla re utlwe maaka, buwa. (Go ahead and lie.)

Fela: I deserve all this and I'm sorry that I hurt you this way. I never wanted things to get this far. I just wish that I had come out with the truth to you from the beginning.

Sebaga: You don't have much time so you better start explaining then get the fuc out.

She sat on the couch and rested her back as every part of her body ached. She wasn't sure if it was from the driving or the pain that she had endured in the past few days.

Fela: Can I sit?

She kept quiet and looked the other way.

Fela: I don't know what to say tota.

He took a deep breath then sat down.

Fela: Everything that I'm about to tell you is nothing but the truth. I know that it will sound like I'm saying all this to defend myself because I ran away at a time I was supposed to tell you the truth.

She looked away as he spoke. The truth was that even his presence left her angry.

Fela: The day that I was supposed to leave to

Mahalapye for the magadi celebrations, the guys invited me over for a drink at Mercs. It was only meant to be a drink then I hit the road so I decided to go. I got there and we had a few drinks. On the same evening I met Kgabiso and her friend there. She joined us and even offered to drive with me for the celebration. One drink made way for another.

She rolled her eyes and waited for him to blame it on the alcohol. After all it was a story all the men preferred to use.

Fela: I didn't have too much to drink because I knew that I would be driving but something was quite unusual about the way I quickly got drunk. I couldn't even stand on my own by the time I was on to my sixth beer. I don't know what the hell happened but the following morning I woke

up at my parents house in bed with your sister.

Sebaga: What's your point? You're wasting my time.

Fela: I didn't think much of the night, in fact I sent Kgabiso money to get some morning after pills and wrote it off as a mistake that I would do everything in my power to keep as a secret. As time went by, I thought to cover my bases by buying her a car or helping her start a business because I felt like I somehow damaged her emotionally. It was until she asked for the same car as yours that had me thinking that she had spiked my drink. I have done everything in my power to find proof that she did but up until this day, I have found nothing. The day that I had decided to tell you the truth, she called to say that your mother had threatened to make her life a living hell if she told you the truth so I secretly hoped and assumed that it was over.

Sebaga stood up and clapped her hands once then laughed.

Sebaga: You poor thing. So she drugged and used you?

She held her waist and looked up to fight back her tears.

Sebaga: You know what, don't answer that question. If everything that you're saying is true then why didn't you come to me? Why didn't you tell me all this while we were preparing for our wedding? Why couldn't you let me in?

He shamefully bowed.... Every question that she had asked was relevant which left him exposed.

Fela: That's what I should have done in the first place but I kept thinking that I could fix things and avoid losing you forever because I knew what cheating meant for you. Babe when you said that if I ever cheated on you, you would walk away without looking back, I already knew my fate. That's why I kept quiet hoping that something would come up.

Sebaga: And when it didn't you left me at the alter? Do you understand the pain you left me in? After making a fool out of me and allowing me to waste my time by planning this day. What about the friends and family that I invited? How do you think I will face the entire office? Do you understand what you have done to me?

She felt her soul leaving her body.

Sebaga: What did I ever do to you? Ke go irileng

Fela?

She broke down and cried.

Fela: Babe tlhe mma intshwarele. Allow me to fix all this.

Although every part of her body was sore, she found the strength to take off her shoes.

Sebaga: Get out! Get the fuc out! I never wanna see you again Fela.

She said pointing to him with her shoes.

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Bonus 4

The Devil I Never Knew

#31

Sebaga laid on the bed helplessly as Fela packed his clothes. She sat up and looked at him and it broke her heart that there was still a part of her that loved this man.

Fela: I didn't plan for this. I also can't explain how it all happened. Tota my reason for not telling you was also the manner I would tell you it happen. I didn't know where to start.

Sebaga: Get your clothes and get the fuc out. If you want any of the things you bought me then let me know and I will return everything.

Fela: You know I would never go to that extent.

Sebaga I bought you everything out of love.
Even if you never take me back, I would never
want you to return any of the things I bought
you.

He finished packing up and walked over to the bed then kissed her on the forehead.

Fela: I know that it's hard to believe this right now especially after how I left you without answers on the day of our wedding but I love you and you're the only woman I want to be with. Let me know if you need anything.

He pulled his luggage bag and stood by the bedroom door for a while before leaving.

Mahalapye, Botswana

At Mma Sebaga's

Rra Sebaga walked into the kitchen then immediately turned around to leave when he found Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: Dad?

He turned back to her.

Kgabiso: You can't avoid me forever. Can we talk?

Rra Sebaga: What's there to talk about?

Kgabiso: I'm also your daughter you know. Don't you think that you also need to give me a chance to hear my side of the story.

Rra Sebaga: If you were concerned about me hearing your side of the story then you wouldn't have ran to your mother and planned everything with her. If at all you also considered me as your parent then you would have spoken to me in the beginning. I don't need to hear your side of the story. Your actions told your side of the story very well.

Kgabiso: When will you just be on my side? When will you stop taking her side?

Rra Sebaga: I'm not your mother. I normally don't pick sides but you see what you did today? This will forever teach me which side to take because your actions show me that you're capable of killing me as your father.

Kgabiso: Why is it my fault alone? I don't hear anyone blaming Fela. He is the one that was committed to Sebaga and he is the same person that made his decision to leave her on the day of their wedding. Why must everything

be my fault?

Rra Sebaga: The last time I checked, Fela wasn't related to Sebaga. You're the one that has the same blood as her running in your veins. Same mother and same father. Segolo if she was your half sister not that it would make it ok.

He looked at her for a while before trying to understand how someone could be so cruel to her blood sister.

Rra Sebaga: I hope that you are strong enough to live with yourself because your actions will come back to bite you.

He walked out...

That same evening

At Sebaga's

Melitah took off her shoes and sat next to her friend on the couch. She had called her a couple of times during the day and eventually decided to drive to her place when none of her calls were being taken.

Melitah: You had me worried.

Sebaga: Mme I'm ok. There is nothing to worry about.

Melitah: Well now I know. Akere you weren't taking any of my calls so I wasn't so sure that you had arrived here safely.

Sebaga: Sorry friend. I don't even know where my phone is honestly.

Melitah: How are you feeling?

Sebaga: I don't know friend. I don't know.

Tears rolled down her cheeks.

Sebaga: It hurts so bad that I wish my heart could stop for a bit so I don't have to feel all this pain. Earlier on Fela was here and trying to explain himself but it still hurts so bad. Each time I try...

She broke down into tears.

Sebaga: Each time...

She winced at the pain she felt.

Sebaga: Each time I picture my husband with

my sister in the same bed, my heart breaks into pieces. He claims that Sebaga set him up and you know what hurts?

Her friend wrapped her arms around her to comfort her.

Sebaga: I believe him because I know what my sister is capable of but what I can't forgive is the pain and embarrassment he put me through. On that morning, he knew that he wasn't going to pitch yet he allowed me to get ready and he allowed my entire family to prepare for this wedding. Melitah the embarrassment that man put me through. My phone has been ringing the entire day because people want answers. No one cares about how much I'm hurting. They just want the tea. How do I face my bosses and the entire office? And how do I accept that my

mother is the same person that played a role in all of this? A woman that carried me for nine months was willing to see me broken and she doesn't care. To her it's about winning and losing. What did I ever do to them?

Melitah: I'm sorry my friend. I don't know what to say to you. Waitsi gore I'm so disappointed in Fela. I didn't think that he would pull a stunt like this one. My heart breaks for you.

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1st insert of the day ❤

The Devil I Never Knew

#32

The following day

Mahalapye, Botswana

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso stood by the mirror and fixed her make up then turned around to face her mother.

Kgabiso: So what do you think?

Mma Sebaga: You look ok.

Kgabiso: I'm going to see Fela later when I arrive.

Mma Sebaga: Then wipe off that stuff.

Kgabiso: This is what Sebaga wears most times. I'm trying to make a good impression. How else will I win him if I don't make an effort?

Mma Sebaga: Your sister has a very clear skin

so even when she is wearing that, she doesn't look like a clown.

Kgabiso: Who pissed you off? You have been in a foul mood this whole morning.

Mma Sebaga: Has Fela called to check on you or show any interest in this baby?

Kgabiso: It's still too early. I'm not even showing so it doesn't feel real to any of us.

Mma Sebaga: I hope that it starts to feel real to the both of you because my husband is not talking to me at this point. If you fail at this then it means I also fail.

Kgabiso: You're just worried mama. Fela maybe be angry right now but you need to believe me when I tell you that he's not the type to abandon his child. He and I are going to be a family.

Mma Sebaga: Get ready so that you can leave early. The buses are usually full in the afternoon. Akere wena you don't have a car.

Kgabiso: That won't be for long. Fela wants to buy me a car. I told him that I want the same exact one as Sebaga's.

Mma Sebaga looked at her daughter and laughed.

Mma Sebaga: I'm starting to wonder if I made the right decision. Kgabiso if you're going to do this then be smart. What was the need to ask for the same car as your sister? Do you want to be Sebaga or you want a man that will take care of you for life?

She picked her daughter's luggage bag.

Mma Sebaga: Let's go before it gets late.

Gaborone, Botswana

At Sebaga's

Sebaga walked around the living room spraying some room spritzer then fixed the cushions on the couch. She admired the neatly arranged room and walked into the kitchen where Melitah was washing the dishes.

Sebaga: Good morning love.

Melitah: Morning babes. How did you sleep?

Sebaga: Ok I guess.

Melitah: Ok. So what's good about this morning? I can tell that you're in a good mood.

Sebaga: I can't cry forever Mel. At some point I need to get up and start living. Fela might have

left with my heart but he didn't leave with my life and it's purpose. I'm going to the office today to notify them that I will be getting back to work.

Melitah: Can't you do that over the phone?

Sebaga: Even if I do that over the phone, I will still be the girl invited the entire office to her wedding then got left at the alter. If they are going to laugh at me and make fun of my misfortunes, they might as well as do it now.

Melitah: I admire how brave you are.

Sebaga: I don't have a choice babe. At this point I don't know how I will face this life or what's ahead for me but I know that I need to keep moving.

Melitah: And Fela? Do you think that you can ever take him back?

Sebaga: I don't know, it's still too early to tell but the truth is that it would never be easy. Taking

him back means that I have to deal with my sister and mother for the rest of my life and right now I don't think that I even want them in my life. The thought of him with Kgabiso in the same bed doesn't give me peace. I'm trying to be strong but that.

She sighed heavily...

Sebaga: Maybe I would have tried to forgive him or get over it but knowing that there is a child and having to accept that this man left me at the alter when he could have pulled me to the side to tell me or made any other excuse not to have the wedding yet he choose to leave me there is too much. I believe him to a certain extent and don't deny my love for him.

Six months later...

At the Sonographer

Mma Fela walked into the waiting room and greeted the other patients that were waiting to see the sonographer. She took a sit next to Kgabiso and took off her shades.

Mma Fela: Hie.

Kgabiso: Hie. What are you doing here and where is Fela?

Mma Fela: He couldn't make it so he asked me to come with you.

Kgabiso: He didn't say anything to me about that.

Mma Fela: Well now you know since I'm here.

Kgabiso: I hope that he told you that it's his turn

to pay this time around.

Mma Fela: I can afford to pay for a scan so relax.

At Capable Lawyers Firm

Fela parked his car in the parking lot and stepped out. He stood by the side as he waited for Pako. Once Pako had grabbed his saxophone. He locked the car.

Pako: You know that I didn't have a problem with driving myself here?

Fela: I didn't wanna take any chances. My woman hates anything that's done half heartedly. If I am to win her back then everything needs to be perfect.

Pako: You must really love her.

Fela: You have no idea man. This one is the reason my heart is still beating.

Pako: Well I wish you all the best. Let's hit her with some of that PakoDerrick on Sax effect.

Fela: What do you think about these flowers?

Pako: (laughed) They look very heavy.

Fela: (laughed) They are.

In the Office

Sebaga sipped on her drink and giggled as Lebone played with her hair.

Sebaga: Babe tthe rra stop kana I told you that this hair is dirty. Look at all that dandruff.

Lebone: Well you still look sexy to me.

Sebaga: (Rolled eyes) Then give me money to

do my hair.

They both laughed.

Lebone: Women and money!

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The Devil I Never Knew

#33

At Capable Lawyers Firm

Sebaga: What's that? Can you hear that?

Lebone: What?

Sebaga: Sounds like music coming from the passage.

Lebone: I doubt you heard right? Who can be playing music in the office.

Sebaga: Sounds like a saxophone.

She said as she stood up and opened the door to peep through. She smiled and turned to Lebone as Pako approached her.

Sebaga: Oh my! Did you do all this for me?

She smiled from ear to ear but her smile soon faded as Fela appeared with a bouquet of flowers. She held her waist and shook her head as Pako stood in-front of her and serenaded her.

Sebaga: What's this?

Fela: Hey babe.

He tried to give her a hug but she moved back.

Sebaga: I'm really sorry, that's some great music you have going on here but can you stop.

She said tapping Pako on the shoulder.

Fela: Babe I love you.

He went on his knees holding the flowers.

Lebone: So there are men this stupid? Dude get the hell up, she is not interested in your cheap

music.

He said turning to Fela.

Sebaga: Babe can you give me a moment?

Lebone: You're kidding me right?

Sebaga: No.

He walked away shaking his head.

Sebaga: Your music is beautiful and expensive.
I loved it.

She said to Pako.

Sebaga: Come here.

She took Fela by the hand and walked out of the office with him.

Sebaga: Can you please respect the fact that I said I have moved on. I like how you have constantly fought without giving up but this is disrespectful not only to me but my partner.

Fela: The one that still wears happy socks?
Come on Seba.

Sebaga: I have told you why I can't get back with you. That child will always be a reminder that you cheated on me gape hela there is a lot of dishonesty with you. Please leave and don't come back again.

Fela: I know that you love me and for that reason I can't stop. I will keep fighting for us with everything I have.

Pako played some music behind them setting the atmosphere.

Sebaga: Do you love me?

Fela: With all of my heart and soul.

Sebaga: Then set me free. Allow me to live my life without you constantly showing up. I will never be able to accept your child and forgive the fact that you left me broken at the alter the day of our wedding. Let it go so that we can both heal.

She hugged him briefly then left.

Pako: Sorry man. I feel you.

Pako patted his shoulder as he looked up fighting back his tears with flowers in his hands.

Fela: Are you booked for the day?

Pako: No. Why do you ask?

Fela: Can I book you for the rest of the day? We will wait for her till she knocks off.

Pako looked at him and forced a smile.

Pako: You know what man, I believe in love. I believe in whatever this is that you two have or had going on but she is right. Let it go. Give her a bit of time to heal and try again when she is open to having you around her. Right now it just sounds like you are hitting a stone with another one.

Fela: I don't know if I have told you this but I

love that woman with every fiber of my being. I was just stupid to do the right thing six months ago but she is the one.

Pako: Yes. You have told me that over ten times today and I believe you. When I look at you, I see a guy that's sincere. Believe me, I have seen a couple of guys in this situation and I will tell you the same thing that I always tell them. If it's meant to be then it will be.

Fela smiled and quickly wiped his tear as it rolled down his face.

Fela: Thank you man. That's the most comforting thing I have heard all month.

Pako : We all make mistakes. Don't beat yourself up.

Fela: Thanks man. I like you.

Pako: Dude!

Fela: As a brother.

They both laughed as they got into the car and drove off.

Meanwhile in the office Lebone packed away all his files into his bag then grabbed his tea mug.

Sebaga: Are you leaving?

Lebone: Clearly I'm not wanted here.

Sebaga: Babe listen I had to...

Lebone: I don't wanna hear any of it. This is the second time that rich boy of yours has tried these funny distasteful surprises yet you are not doing anything about it.

Sebaga: I spoke to him and I'm pretty sure that

he understands this time around.

Lebone: Well that's not enough. Ban him from coming here or get a restraining order against him.

Sebaga looked at him and laughed.

Sebaga: Oh my God! You're a lawyer and you know very well who files for restraining orders.

Lebone: You're enjoying these cheesy cheap surprises, aren't you?

Sebaga: I spoke to him.

Lebone: You know exactly what I expect from you as my partner.

Sebaga: And I was very honest when I told you that I'm still healing and I am not looking for anything serious.

Lebone: Get rid of that clown and let me love you. I can tell that you haven't experienced real love. I'm not talking about being bought off by these young boys. Babes I wanna take you to the farm with me, I want you to meet my parents, I wanna farm with you and do meaningful things. These things of buying roses and gifts are for people that can't comprehend love.

She widened her eyes and leaned back on her chair. So this guy had not heard a single word she had said in the last three months? So till this day he didn't understand her love language?

Later that day..

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#34

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Sebaga kicked off her shoes and sat on the couch next to her friend as she turned on the tv. She looked at the time and it was almost time for their favorite soapie.

Melitah: You look tired. How was your day?

Sebaga: If I told you then you wouldn't believe me.

Melitah: What did this light guy do again? Please don't tell me that he brought you some more sour milk from his farm because this time I will throw it away.

Sebaga: (laughed) This time it was Fela. He brought PakoDerrick On Sax with him to my office.

Melitah: That guy with a saxophone?

Sebaga: That same one.

Melitah: Waitsi wena friend you are living my dream. Koore what kind of prayer did you pray? Last month it was a limousine full of flowers and now this.

Sebaga: (Smiled) I must admit that it was quite romantic.

Melitah: Just take him back already. I feel like

you two still love each other and if you worked things out then you would still be an amazing couple.

Sebaga: That's the problem. Everything about it sounds romantic but realistically it would never work. I'm all for love but at the same time I'm also a realistic person. Fela is expecting a child with my sister that hates me with everything that she is. To her, that pregnancy is her saving grace that she will use to get anything that she wants from him.

She sadly sighed as she thought of everything that the girl had done to her.

Sebaga: My sister is capable of killing me just so she gets Fela. I may sound like a loser but I value my life more than I value love.

Melitah: I wish that there was a way that you

two could start over. Maybe relocate far from your insane sister and mother.

Sebaga: I have worked hard to build my career and even though it's only been a few months, I'm not giving it all up for love.

Melitah: I hear you. And how is our farmer?

Sebaga: I'm not sure about this relationship any more. That man is very difficult. Koore you can't tell him anything. It's his way or the highway.

Goriana gatwe this weekend we should go to Sehithwa and meet his parents. He even wrote me a list of what I can wear and what I can't say in-front of them. Waitsi keeng, I have never seen such a handsome guy this rural. You would think that because he is a lawyer, he understands most things but no!

Melitah: I knew that there was something wrong with him when he blocked you on WhatsApp because you went down on him. Chaisa tsala.

(let it go.)

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela picked up her reading glasses from the side table and read through Kgabiso's list for the confinement period.

Mma Fela: You want a personal helper and one that's responsible to care for the baby?

Kgabiso: Yes. That way my personal helper can attend to me without having to divert her attention from me to the baby.

Mma Fela: And who is going to pay for all of that?

Kgabiso: Fela?

She shook him...

Kgabiso: Fela!

He jumped and forced a smile.

Fela: What is it?

Kgabiso: Are you even listening?

Fela: What do you want? We already said that we would take care of the expenses during your confinement period.

Kgabiso: You're never present. What kind of father will you be if you are failing at caring for the mother of your child before pregnancy?

Fela: I don't even know if it's my child.

Mma Fela: A Mima Xari? A whole twenty thousand stroller?

Kgabiso: Yes.

Mma Fela stood up and held her waist.

Mma Fela: Have you seen your baby daddy's payslip? Kana you are just demanding for these things while you're in the dark? This boy doesn't even own the car that he drives. If we decide to fire him from the family business tomorrow then you're gonna end up with a broke baby daddy.

The old woman tore the paper.

Kgabiso: What are you doing with that?

Mma Fela: All of this is rubbish. We will make our own list and tell your mother to take care of you during confinement period. My husband

and I worked our butts off so we could live comfortably not so gold diggers like you could enjoy the fruits of your labor. Fela please take your person home. We're done.

She stood up and left and her son stood up almost immediately smiling from ear to ear as his phone rang.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Hie.

Fela: I'm so glad that you called.

Sebaga: Can we talk?

Fela: I'm all ears.

Sebaga: I mean in person. How soon can you get to my house?

Fela: Give me three minutes.

Sebaga: I moved. I will pin you the location on WhatsApp.

Fela: Can I bring you anything?

Sebaga: No. I'm good.

Fela: I will see you now.

She hung up and sighed regretfully. What if she was making a mistake. Her friend looked at her and chuckled.

Melitah: I wouldn't judge you if you took him back. The heart wants what it wants babes.

Sebaga: Who said anything about taking him back? I just wanna talk.

Melitah: And you're also sex deprived from Mr two minutes.

Sebaga: He is actually a very respectful guy.

Melitah: And we all know that respect is boring especially in the bedroom.

Sebaga stood up and went into the bathroom to freshen up.

At Mma Fela's

Fela stood before Kgabiso and fiddled with his phone to make a transaction to her.

Fela: I have sent you two hundred pula for transport. You will take a cab.

Kgabiso: What?

He ran out and left her...

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#35

At Sebaga's

Fela turned on the air conditioner and swallowed as he watched Sebaga walking out of the yard in a red maxi dress. He had forgotten how good his woman looked in long dresses. She had gained a bit of weight and even though her hair was due for an appointment, she was still beautiful.

He unlocked the door and leaned in to the passenger side to open the door for her.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Hie.

Fela: Thanks for inviting me over. I wasn't so sure what to bring after what happened today but I went past that fruit store you like and picked a few things. She looked at the plastics at the back that filled the entire back sit and shook her head smiling.

Sebaga: A few things?

Fela: I couldn't decide on what to take or leave so the lady from the store said that it was better to take a bit of everything.

Sebaga: I see that.

Fela: I missed you.

She kept quiet and looked the other way trying to avoid the can of worms that he was just about to open.

Sebaga: So how have you been? How is work?

Fela: Honestly?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Fela: It's been hell. I haven't been doing well ever since you left me. The office is hell. My mother is back to being my boss and she is not making anything easy.

Sebaga: Sorry to hear that man but at least you still have a job.

Fela: I guess. And you? How is work?

Sebaga: It's been amazing.

Fela: I'm happy to hear that.

There was an awkward moment of silence as they both kept quiet. What do you say to someone whose heart you broke or to the man that broke your trust?

Sebaga: I honestly just wanted to see you. I have nothing to talk about. I haven't changed my mind about us.

He looked at her and swallowed but maybe this was a step in the right direction. She had not wanted to see him all these months and for her to finally make that call and sit in the same space as him was a blessing.

Fela: What do you wanna talk about? Sports? The weather?

Sebaga: Nothing. I just wanted to see you.

She looked at him and smiled inwardly. He still smelt so good and did a great job at grooming his beard. If only she could hold and kiss him one last time.

Fela: Thank you.

They sat quietly for a while taking in the moment and the rare occurrence of each other's presence before Sebaga broke the silence.

Sebaga: Thanks for coming. I better go back inside.

Fela: Ok.

He opened his door and went around to get hers.

Fela: Thank you for letting me see you.

He closed the door and gently pushed her against it then looked into her eyes.

Fela: Just let me come back home and let's work on our marriage.

Sebaga: It ended even before it could begin.

Fela: That's not true. Traditionally we are married.

He leaned in and gently kissed her. God she tasted so good. Her lips were still soft and

sweet like cherries.

He moved back and bit his lower lip then parted her lips dipping in with a kiss that left her entire body numb. Fuck! How she missed this. A man that kissed with passion and intention. He put his arms around her waist and slowly moved them up as they both breathed heavily.

Desperate and hungry for this, they kissed each other hard. Tears rolled out of Seba's eyes as they held on to each other tightly. She loved this man so much it hurt. She broke the kiss and took his hand.

Sebaga: Let's go in.

He took out his keys and locked the car then followed her inside as they snuck in like two naughty teenagers.

Sebaga: Shh... Melitah is home.

She unlocked the door slowly without causing much noise then lead him to the bedroom.

Fela: Babe I'm in no rush. We don't have to do this.

She shut him up with a kiss then pushed him to the bed and took off her dress exposing her curves.

Fela: Fuc!

He held his head as she went ontop of him. She moved her waist up and down rhythmically as

she kissed and unbuttoned Fela's shirt. Oh baby girl had moves for days!

Fela: I love you.

He flipped her over and pulled down her thong then slowly moved down as if he was approaching a cave.

Got spicey

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Bonus3

The Devil I Never Knew

#36

Sebaga rolled to the other side and caught her breath as Fela took off the condom. He grabbed the tissue box and picked out one then wrapped it to put it away. He moved closer to Seba.

Fela: Hey.

He cuddled her...

Fela: I'm really sorry for everything. I love you and I wanna make this marriage work with everything that I am.

Sebaga: Can we not rush into anything. It was just sex.

Fela: Really?

Sebaga: Yes.

Fela: Well I feel like you're lying. I know what I felt and I know that you felt it too. This can't just be sex.

She pressed her legs together as he rubbed her round behind.

Sebaga: I don't want to complicate my life.

He kissed her neck and she closed her eyes and bit her lower lip.

Sebaga: Fela go home.

Fela: Ok.

He said softly as he slowly got ontop of her and kissed her. This time she could feel his erect van diesel poking at her. Oh God, oh God! She had to have some of that sweetness one last time.

She moaned softly as he let go of her then reached for another condom by the side table. She impatiently waited as he rolled it on then hung both her legs ontop of his shoulders. She closed her eyes taking in all that pleasure.

At Mma Fela's

Kgabiso wandered around outside the yard as she waited for her cab to come pick her up. She frustratedly dialed her friend's number for the forth time and this time she picked up.

Dumi: Hey girl.

Kgabiso: Hey. I've been trying to call you.

Dumi: Sorry love. Been busy. What's up?

Kgabiso: I wanted to ask you to come pick me up at Fela's.

Dumi: Girl! So you really have this hey?

Kgabiso: I wish that was the case but that idiot just abandoned me and ran off.

Dumi: Could he be with you know who?

Kgabiso: No. Those two will never get back together. That relationship has run it's course. I hear that she is now dating a lawyer.

Dumi: Lucky girl. I guess she has a thing that pulls in men with money.

Kgabiso: I'm starting to doubt that Fela has all that money she kept praising. The guy can't

even send me a proper allowance for cravings. I'm forever begging and he is forever complaining. I mean how is that possible when he always made sure that my sister had enough?

Dumi: Maybe he ran out.

Kgabiso: So can you come pick me up? I called a cab ages ago but it's still not here.

Dumi: Sorry friend but I'm low on fuel. Why don't you ask your mother inlaw to drop you off. Ele gore how far with them getting you a car? I'm pretty sure that they don't expect you to walk for long especially when you're carrying their grandson.

Kana o queen. (you're a queen after all.)

Kgabiso: It's fine. Next time.

She hung up and frustratedly sighed as she looked at the time. This has not been an easy

pregnancy at all. The people that were meant to make it count didn't seem to care. She rubbed her belly and swallowed.

Kgabiso: Hold on baby.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga picked up her toiletry bag and threw it at Fela.

Sebaga: There is a face towel and tooth brush I haven't used in there.

Fela: Umm... thank you.

Sebaga: You can spend the night.

He smiled from ear to ear as she walked around

the room naked.

Fela: Can we talk about us?

Sebaga: It's like I said, there is no us.

Fela: Just like that? You do know that we are still married right? You're my wife whether you like it or not. I've only kept my distance because I know that I'm the one that did you wrong.

Sebaga: What? You want your cows back?

He looked at her and laughed.

Fela: I wouldn't take them back even if you wanted to return them.

He stood up and wrapped his hands around her from behind.

Fela: I won't give up on us. I'll keep fighting till you take me back. And tell Mr happy socks that he better not be sleeping with my wife.

Fela: When you slept around no one said anything.

He picked her up and put her on the bed then spread her legs apart.

Fela: Tla ke bone gore a dilo tsame di mmogo.
(Let me see if all my things are in the right state.)

She closed her legs and clicked her tongue.

Sebaga: Wa ntlwaela wena.

Fela: (laughed) Mme o santse ole monate mogatsaka. (You're still very sweet my love.)

They both laughed....

Sebaga: Ijaa.

Meanwhile Melitah shook her head and smiled as she could still hear the two. That was a lot of sex for just one night but what did she know? She was single after all.

The following day...

Fela slowly opened the bedroom door and tip toed out making sure not to alarm Melitah.

Melitah: I know that you spent the night here. If you were so worried about me knowing that you are here then you could have done that last night.

He turned to the other side and found her standing by the dinning room then shamefully turned away.

Fela: Goodmorning. It was nice to see you. Bye.

He rushed out quicker than lightning feeling embarrassed.

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Bonus 4

The Devil I Never Knew

#37

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela walked into the living room dressed in her formal clothes while her husband laid on the couch and read his newspaper in his sleepwear.

Mma Fela: Are you not coming to the office with me today?

Rra Fela: No. I would rather stay home than to be ordered around by my boss.

Mma Fela: There is a lot of things that need to be fixed in that office. I can't believe that I

stayed away for all these years.

She looked at her wrist watch and shook her head.

Mma Fela: And this boy just keeps getting worse each day. Yesterday he missed the scan and spent the night out.

Rra Fela: Why do you want to keep treating him like a child?

Mma Fela: Because that's how he has chosen to behave.

Rra Fela: Well there is nothing wrong with spending the night out. He is an adult and he knows what he is doing.

Mma Fela: It's almost time up for work yet he is nowhere to be found. You can't tell me that's a man that knows what he is doing.

The front door opened and they both curiously looked as their son walked in wearing the same clothes as yesterday.

Mma Fela: Finally!

He greeted them then carried on whistling as he walked about.

Mma Fela: Where did you spend the night?

Fela: Mma?

Mma Fela: Ware nywaa, you heard me.

Fela: I had a few things to do at the office so I crushed over there.

Mma Fela: The laziest person in the office has suddenly become the most hardworking one?

When you lie, lie about things that will make sense. I can smell that shower gel from over here.

Rra Fela: Leave the boy alone.

Mma Fela: He ruined his marriage because you kept allowing such things. I really hope that whoever you're sleeping with this time is sane because the last thing I want is a house filled with grandchildren whose parents will insult us at every chance they get.

He ignored her and went upstairs.

Rra Fela: The boy made a mistake and admitted to it. There is nothing that he can do about it. Let's support him as he tries to pick up the pieces again. None of us is perfect so let's accept his flaws.

Mma Fela: This is not about perfection. It's about stupidity.

At Sebaga's

Melitah giggled and continuously stole glances at her friend as she unpacked the plastics that were on the kitchen counter.

Sebaga: What's wrong?

Melitah: Shall I make you a fruit salad? You look like you could do with a bit of energy.

Sebaga: I'm good thanks.

Melitah: Obviously still full from the morning glory.

Sebaga pressed her lips together and tried to

maintain a straight face but even she knew that Mel had caught on.

Sebaga: Sorry about the noise. We will keep it down next time.

Melitah: (Smiled) Does that mean that you're back together since there is a next time?

Sebaga: (Smiled) No. It just means that I have a healthy sex life now. I'm not looking for anything serious at the moment.

Melitah: As long as I don't have to listen to you complain about not getting enough sex.

Sebaga: As if you ever get some.

Melitah: Oh trust me, I might be single but that doesn't mean I let everything run dry.

Sebaga: I would like to see that one.

Melitah looked at her friend long and hard then sighed.

Sebaga: O sharp? (Are you okay?)

Melitah: The mma wena don't get hurt in the process. Make sure that this is what you really want and maybe pick one.

Sebaga: I hear you but you have nothing to worry about.

Melitah: Ok. Tell him thank you for the entire shop by the way.

They both laughed.

Later that day...

At Fela's office

Fela took a deep breath and stood up with his phone as it rang. After such a great night with the love of his life, the last thing he wanted to do was talk to Kgabiso but now that they shared a child together, he had to take some kind of responsibility.

Fela: Hie Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: Hie.

They both kept quiet for a bit.

Kgabiso: Before you get into your fighting mode, let me make it clear that I didn't call to fight. I understand that things are a bit tense between us but that doesn't mean that we can't co-parent well.

Fela: True.

Kgabiso: I'm not happy with how you missed our scan yesterday and failed to communicate. I understand that you hate me and I get that but this child did nothing to you. After you left last night, I spent over an hour waiting outside for a cab in the cold. I probably deserve all these things that you're doing to me but our child doesn't. I won't lie, there is nothing easy about being pregnant. I don't have any support and the fact that I took out a loan to renovate my parents house doesn't make it easy. Can't you find a way to be a father to this child? I'm not asking you to like me or anything. I'm asking this on behalf of my child.

She sniffled as tears welled up in her eyes.

Fela: I'm sorry you feel alone.

Everything that she had just said was the truth and maybe he needed to start playing his role as the father of the child she was carrying.

Fela: What time do you knock off?

Kgabiso: My last lesson is at twelve.

Fela: Ok. I will pick you up so that we can discuss a few things.

Kgabiso: Thanks.

He hung up...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#38

That same afternoon

Fela drove through the gate of Rhymes secondary school and parked his car in the parking lot. He turned on the air conditioner and picked up his phone then dialed Kgabiso's number.

Kgabiso: Hie.

Fela: I'm by the parking lot. We can go whenever you are ready.

Kgabiso: Ok. I'll be there in a bit. Let me grab my things.

A few minutes later she walked to the parking lot dressed in a colorful knee length dress that complimented her baby bump. She walked over to her baby daddy's car and jumped in.

Kgabiso: Hie.

Fela: Hey. How are you?

Kgabiso: I'm ok. I guess I have learnt to live with being uncomfortable half the time.

Fela: Yeah neh. So what do you feel like eating?

Kgabiso: I honestly don't know.

Fela: Pick a restaurant. I don't want to pick one where you will end up getting uncomfortable.

Kgabiso: How is Dross? It's closer to here and I go there quite a lot ever since I fell pregnant.

Fela: Let's do Dros then.

Kgabiso: Thank you.

Fela: We can do lunch there and maybe talk. Is that ok?

Kgabiso: I would love that. I'm starving.

Fela: Has your appetite changed ever since the pregnancy? What's it like?

She smiled and took his hand.

Kgabiso: Do you wanna feel? He's kicking.

Fela: Ok.

He forced a smile and placed his hand over her belly. For a few seconds, there was no movement but as soon as the baby started kicking they began to feel a different kind of peace.

Fela: Thank you.

Kgabiso: For what?

Fela: For this gift. I honestly had no plans to have a child till next year or so but a child is a blessing.

Kgabiso: You're welcome.

He started the car then reversed out of the parking lot.

At Sebaga's Office

Lebone stood by Sebaga's office door then knocked and waited to be let in. He blew kisses at her as he sat down.

Lebone: Hey baby.

Sebaga: Hey.

She greeted him with her mood at her feet. Apart from failing to understand her love language, this man had been so good to her and looking at him right now after what had transpired the previous night felt like some kind of betrayal.

Lebone: So are you ready for the farm? My parents are so excited.

Sebaga: (forced smile.) Eish! Something came up.

Lebone: Then cancel it. What could be more important than meeting my parents and spending a weekend with them at the farm? Sebaga my parents barely invite anyone to their farm. If they do then it means that they love you.

Sebaga: But they don't even know me.

Lebone: Exactly! They need to know you.

Sebaga: I'm really sorry but my dad is not well so I might have to drive to Mahalapye.

Lebone: Your dad is as good as mine so tell you what, I will cancel this entire trip and drive you.

Sebaga: I... I would rather not do that to you.

Lebone: Is there something that I'm missing?

Sebaga you're a very good lawyer but one thing you're not good at is telling lies.

She shamefully bowed and licked her lips.

Lebone: He got to you, didn't he?

Sebaga: Who?

Lebone: Cheese boy.

He looked at her and there wasn't any need for her to answer him.

Lebone: Don't come to me crying when he gets your mother or another family member pregnant because boys like that don't learn.

Sebaga: Lebone!

Lebone: Don't bother yourself. This is why women like you will remain broken forever. You always go for the bad boys and leave the ones that love you and mean well.

He left the room leaving her ashamed and hurt.

At Dros

Fela put away his menu then cleared his throat

as the waiter left their table.

Fela: Thanks for agreeing to this. I wasn't so sure if you would agree after our conversation yesterday.

Kgabiso: It's okay.

Fela: I want to apologize for making you feel alone in this pregnancy and for not playing my role as the father of this baby. I will start being more involved.

Kgabiso: Thank you. That's all I want.

Fela: There is something that you also need to know.

Kgabiso: What is it?

Fela: I'm seeing someone and it's serious.

Kgabiso: Do I know her?

She said as her throat dried up.

Fela: No. She just relocated to Botswana.

Kgabiso: Yet it's serious?

Fela: Yes. We have known each other for years. The reason why I'm telling you this is so I don't raise your hopes about us ever getting together. I love her and I'm committed to building a family with her. I won't forsake my responsibilities as a father however you need to know that there are lines that you can't cross. You and I only talk to each other about this pregnancy. We don't randomly call each other or cross lines we shouldn't.

Kgabiso: I hear you.

She swallowed a painful lump then picked up her juice instantly.

At Mma Sebaga's

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#39

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga and the builder walked around inspecting the house which had just been renovated. She pointed out at a few areas which she wasn't pleased with.

Builder: The reason why the edges are rough like that is because we ran out of cement. Remember that I asked you for a top up last week?

Mma Sebaga: Yes. I have spoken to my daughter that is a teacher in Gaborone. She will send the money in a few days.

Builder: You have very obedient children. I was surprised when you called to say that you would be extending this one room. Not so long ago we were working on the main house before your daughter's wedding.

She forced a smile and continued pointing around.

Builder: Wena just get your daughter to buy

everything that we need and this house will be exactly what you want.

Mma Sebaga: Now you are talking. I want the entire village to see that we are in a class of our own. Very soon my daughter will be getting married. I don't want these people to think that they can compete with us.

Builder: Wow! God really loves you. It hasn't been a year yet you are marrying off another daughter. What a blessing.

At Kgabiso's

Fela parked his car in front of the gate and looked outside with his hand on the steering wheel.

Kgabiso: Would you like to come in?

Fela: Thanks but I need to rush somewhere.

Kgabiso: You're going to see her aren't you?

Fela: It's like I told you, I love this one and it's serious. Maybe even more than I loved your sister.

A sharp pain pierced through her heart.

Kgabiso: Ok. Congratulations.

Fela: Is your mum coming here to help or you will be going home?

Kgabiso: Why do you ask?

Fela: If you're gonna stay here for confinement then you're gonna need a bigger space and if you are traveling to Mahalapye then I have to make a plan to take you there or ask someone to do that on my behalf.

Kgabiso: I will let you know. Thanks for lunch.

Fela: Sure. Let me know in advance so that I can get you guys a bigger house.

Kgabiso: Thank you daddy. I would really appreciate that.

Fela: Sure. Sharp.

She stepped out of the car and walked into the yard. He took out his phone from the pocket and blushed as he dialed Seba's number.

Sebaga: Hello.

Fela: Hey babe. I'm on my way to your office.

Sebaga: I don't remember us appointing to meet up today.

Fela: I know but I thought that an ice-cream date would be nice. I can bring a cooler box and

buy that pack of magnum then we drive out of town. Just for the serenity and peace.

Sebaga: I'm sorry but I don't feel like company today.

Fela: You want me to cause drama at your office akere?

Sebaga: Are you threatening me?

Fela: I don't think I have any other choice.

Sebaga: I will meet you by Game-city. You can get the ice-cream. We will drive to Otse.

Fela: Your car or mine?

She reluctantly agreed to his demands.

Sebaga: We can leave yours by the parking lot in the mall then use mine.

Fela: I will see you then.

Sebaga: Sure.

She hung up and leaned back on her chair. The truth was that even though she knew how much they loved each other, she had her doubts about how the relationship would survive given the current circumstances. Was she even ready to spend the rest of her life fighting for this love? Maybe she needed to go on this drive with him to get clarity on things after all.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga held her waist with her other hand while the other one held her phone to the ear.

Mma Sebaga: So when will you send the rest of the money? The builders need to finish off.

Kgabiso: I told you that I don't have money at the moment.

Mma Sebaga: Then find it. Aren't you the one that told me that you would have everything that you ever want from Fela?

Kgabiso: Things are not going according to plan. Today he told me that he found another woman.

Mma Sebaga: That soon? I doubt that's the case. Maybe he is back with your sister.

Kgabiso: They are not back together. Apparently Sebaga is dating a colleague from the office so it can't be her gape hela she wants nothing to do with him.

Mma Sebaga: Then make a plan to get him back. That man is the father of your child and you can't just allow a new woman to just get him. How stupid can you be? You are already expecting. What can be hard about making him love you? Fall sick at every chance you get and

let him spend time with you. That should work.
Wena mma le wena. Taking your side is a risk.
You're not smart and you never want to think.
Ke go anyetse mo go sengwe le sengwe. (Must
I always think for you?)

Kgabiso: Just because I said that I don't have
money? What kind of a mother are you? You are
stressing me, I'm pregnant for crying out loud.

She burst into tears and hung up.

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Bonus 2

Your deadline for sponsors is tomorrow, stop

ignoring sponsors till you are threatened. It's a lot of work!

The Devil I Never Knew

#40

Later that evening

Fela grabbed a cooler box and his laptop bag from the back sit then locked his car and walked over to Sebaga's. He tapped on the window then opened the door at the back sit to put the stuff he had with him.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Hie.

He walked over to the driver's side and opened

the door for her.

Fela: Allow me to drive. I know how tired you must be.

Sebaga: I didn't have much work today so I'm not that tired.

Fela: I insist. I know how tired you get when you're wearing those heels.

She looked at her heels and smiled. So even after months, he hadn't forgotten how she was such a big baby.

Sebaga: Ok.

She stepped out of the car and went over to the passenger side as he got in and buckled up.

Fela: Thank you for seeing me again. And you can take off those shoes now.

She laughed and took them off then took off her wig and threw it at the back.

Sebaga: My better part of the day

He started the car and joined the traffic out of town.

Sebaga: No worries. So what is it that you want to talk about?

Fela: Us. I somehow feel like there is a lot of stuff that needs to be ironed out between us.

Sebaga: Which are?

Fela: We got together last night and I want to know where we stand with you because as it is with me, you're still my wife and I would do anything to fix us. I messed up, lied about it and even embarrassed you.

Sebaga: I'm not looking for anything serious out of this.

He reached out for her hand while he held the steering with the other.

Fela: I understand that.

He thought of his meeting with Kgabiso and sighed heavily.

Fela: According to what I know right now, I'm gonna be a father in the next two months. In the

past few months I've kept my distance and failed to take responsibility because I was angry. Angry at myself for ruining this and angry at Kgabiso for whatever she did for us to end up making a baby together but I wanna be honest with myself. None of this is nobody's fault except mine. Had I come straight to Mahalapye on that day and picked a different day to celebrate with the boys then we wouldn't be here. That child also didn't choose to be in this situation.

Seba looked outside and kept quiet.

Fela: I wanna be a better man. A good father and even though I can't change what I did, I can try and be better. I met up with Kgabiso today because she has been feeling abandoned due to my lack of presence as the father of this

child. I made it clear to her that I would play my role however nothing would ever change because I'm committed to you.

Sebaga felt so much anger posses her. The past six months had not been easy on her but the fact that she was able to live a without her sister or mother hovering over her was an achievement.

Sebaga: You did what? Do you understand how hard I have worked to keep Kgabiso out of my life. We have sex once and you go singing like a canary the next day to the person you know hates me with everything that she is? Stop the car!

Fela: Hear me out.

Sebaga: I said stop the Dammm car.

He stopped by the side of the road and turned off the engine then put his hand over his head as she stepped out and ran a few meters from the car.

Fela: Babe.

He ran behind her till he caught up. She looked up to fight her tears back then took deep breaths as he took her hand. The thought of her sister and mother hovering over her left her scared for her life.

Fela: I'm sorry but I...

Sebaga: Do you know that anyone is capable of killing these days? After everything those two have done, who knows what they can do to me?

Fela: I didn't tell her that it was you. I told her that it was someone else because I knew that I had to protect you. I respect you and your feelings.

Sebaga: Do you see why I can't take you back? I don't wanna live my entire life fighting for love. I don't wanna wake up with fear every morning of what my sibling or mother can do to me. I love you but the price is just too high.

Fela: Then let's move. Let's recolate somewhere far away and start over there. We can get married without our parents knowing and just go.

Sebaga: You mess up and I have to run away from home?

Fela: We are not running away. We are starting over. Think about it.

Sebaga: Then how else will you be this present father that you say you want to be.

Fela: I don't know but I will find a way to make it work. I'll make sure that the boy is well taken care of.

She looked at him and burst into tears.

Sebaga: It's a boy? I was the one that was supposed to give you a son. We planned our entire lives together. I was on birth control because I wanted us to have a child at the right moment and now another woman is carrying your son.

He huggged her tightly.

Fela: I never planned for any of this and I didn't make this child out of love. I know that it's hard to understand but I love you. Only you!

He kissed her and felt the sudden edge to rip her clothes apart. Even after all these months, the chemistry was still the same. Each time he saw her, his heart grew fonder.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso looked at herself in the mirror and cradled her belly then forced a smile. Maybe she had made the wrong decision after all. This baby had brought nothing but complications in her life. She took deep breaths then sat by the bed and took her phone to type a message to Fela.

"I shouldn't have done what I did but it's done now. We have a child on the way and even

though it's hard for you to believe me, I'm remorseful. I'm scared and I don't know if I will pull through this pregnancy because everything just seems so hard. I just need a friend in you. I respect the fact that you have moved on."

She sent out the message then turned off her phone as her mother called. The last thing she needed was to fight with this witch.

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Bonus3

The Devil I Never Knew

#41

A few days later...

At Mma Fela's

Fela stood by the balcony and held his phone on the ear as he made a few inquiries with his friend that had recently relocated to South Africa. Although Seba had not given him a solid response on his offer, he had to try and get things in order.

Fela: So would she be able to practice as a lawyer from that side?

His mother approached...

Mma Fela: Son!

He hung up and turned around to greet her.

Fela: Mother dearest.

Mma Fela: Are you okay?

Fela: Ofcourse. Why do you ask?

Mma Fela: You have been acting strange for the past few days.

Fela: (laughed) Mme kana I'm good.

Mma Fela: Can we talk?

Fela: Ee mma.

He stood by and did everything to avoid eye contact with her.

Mma Fela: I mean like adults. Let's sit down and

discuss a few things.

Fela: Can't we do that some other time? I was rushing to the office.

Mma Fela: To do what?

His eyes wandered around like that of a thief that had just been caught.

Mma Fela: Come.

He followed his mother inside.

Mma Fela: Your father and I are worried about you.

He sat next to her.

Fela: Like I said, I'm fine. You have no reason to worry.

Mma Fela: Yet you're acting strange. Where do you sleep these days and why is it that you are always on these phone calls that you want nobody to hear about?

Fela: I understand that it's exhausting to live with a thirty five year old man under your roof and believe me, I'm working on finding a space of my own to give you the privacy and peace you also deserve.

Mma Fela: Are you seeing someone else?

Fela: No. My priority right now is to be a good son and a great father.

Mma Fela: You can't hide stuff from me. I'm your mother.

Fela: As much as this chat is exciting, I need to

bounce Margs.

He stood up and left leaving her even more confused.

At Sebaga's

Melitah held two sunglasses and raised each one as her friend held on to her phone and typed.

Melitah: Hello! Will you help me out or not?
Kana I should just wear whichever?

Sebaga: Oh sorry man.

She put her phone down and picked a pair.

Sebaga: I think that you should go with that pair. These are boss shades as compared to those ones. Mo ke diborele.

They both laughed.

Melitah: So have you thought about it?

Sebaga: Yes and I still don't know what I want.

Melitah: Do you love him?

Sebaga: You more than anyone know the answer to that question.

Melitah: Then maybe you should take a chance at love. Seba you're still very young. If you fail at this then you can try again.

Sebaga: And what about my career?

Melitah: Make it work. I don't know but I feel like you only get one shot at love and who knows,

this could be that one shot. With your career you have as many shots as you want.

Sebaga: We will see how it works out.

Melitah: Do what makes you happy.

Sebaga: I don't know if I'm such a big baby or what but I get worried about my dad. The thought of him being all the way here with those two while I'm in a foreign country bothers me.

Melitah: Have you talked to him of lately?

She swallowed then picked up her coffee mug from the kitchen counter.

Sebaga: Yeah. I even offered to find him a house of his own but he is adamant that he is not leaving his matrimonial home. I don't know why elders hang on to marriage with their dear lives.

Melitah: Well we all have different reasons hey.

Seaga: I guess we do.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso smiled alone as a bank notification reported.

" FNB 😊 P13000.00 paid to cheq a/c..1138998
@ Smartapp. Ref. Baby care 22Nov 10:34"

She looked at the message twice then dialed Fela's number.

Fela: Hie. How are you? Did you receive the money?

Kgabiso: I did. What is it for?

Fela: Go and buy all the things that the baby needs. You can call me once you're at shops so that I can come assist you.

Kgabiso: Thank you so much.

Fela: You're welcome.

He hung up then continued browsing through the page of a certain garage on Facebook. He would take care of all his responsibilities before he left.

Later that day...

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Bonus 4 (All dues paid) Let's kickstart the day!

The Devil I Never Knew

#42

Later that day

At the Mall...

Fela and Kgabiso walked to the baby section then looked at a few things. They were all so colorful and adorable.

Kgabiso: They are all nice.

Fela: I would say mix colors but let's stick more to neutral colors. You never really know with these scans.

Kgabiso: I guess. Someone at work told me to only buy a few new born items because the baby outgrows clothes quickly.

Fela: I have heard the same that's why I'm thinking that we should split the money. Some can go into baby essentials while some we convert into vouchers so that you can pick whatever the baby needs in future.

Kgabiso: Okay. That doesn't sound like a bad idea.

Fela: We probably need to spend only two thousand on clothes and toiletries then get a baby stroller and car sit. The rest we split between a food voucher for Botsetsi (confinement) and the essentials the baby will need in future.

Kgabiso: Ok.

Fela: I can't afford to give you much on a monthly basis that's why I have sent this money as a lump sum.

Kgabiso: I might have to get someone to help me with the baby while I'm here. My mum didn't

say anything about coming here.

Fela: Okay. I will find out how much stay in helpers are paid then we can discuss how to split the bill. How much does the person you're sharing with pay?

Kgabiso: One point two.

Fela: Make a budget and let's see how we can help each other. You're gonna need the space.

Kgabiso: Thank you.

Fela: Sure. Let's go over to the toiletries section. Do you have that list my mother made you?

She opened her bag and looked for the little note then gave it to him.

Kgabiso: Here.

At Sebaga's Office

Sebaga maintained a straight face as her boss spoke to her.

Boss: I personally wouldn't recommend a lawyer that studied here or currently works here to start off again in SA. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that it's impossible, it just needs a lot of effort. Before you can even practice, you need to be a permanent resident of the republic and if you ask me, no one is gonna take their chances on some lawyer from Botswana easily.

Sebaga: Would such a person need to take the bar exams to be enrolled?

He kept quiet for a while then looked at her long and hard.

Boss: Don't do it my girl.

Sebaga: What?

Boss: I can tell that you want to do this but as a lawyer that has been practicing in this country successfully and owns a firm, I advise you against it. I'm not against you ever leaving this firm because I'm all about growth and if you feel like you're not getting it here, I would never stop you should you look for it elsewhere.

Sebaga: I didn't say that I was leaving.

Boss: You wanna know something my child?

She forced a smile guilt stricken.

Boss: I've had employees come and go over the years and I always know when they want to leave because they will always come to me for

advice. I don't know why that is the case but perhaps they find it easier to talk to me.

Sebaga: (Smiled) I guess it means that they see you as a father figure of some sort.

Boss: Maybe.

He took her hand and squeezed it tight then let go.

Boss: Whatever it is my child. Do what's best for you. I may advise you according to what I think but in the end it's about what you want.

Sebaga: Thank you.

She stepped out of his office and fixed her blazer then walked into hers and took the landline to dial Fela.

Fela: Hey baby.

Sebaga: Let's do it.

Fela: Huh?

Sebaga: Let's move.

Fela: O serious? Where are you?

Sebaga: At the office.

Fela: Okay. I'm still shopping for the baby things with Kgabiso but I can be there in twenty minutes.

Sebaga: You know what I said about being updated about her akere.

Fela: You don't wanna know anything that concerns her or the baby. I'm sorry.

Sebaga: Just come home later. Don't come here now.

Fela: Ee mma.

He hung up then walked back to the baby feeding section where Kgabiso was picking a few feeding bottles.

At Mahalapye

Mma Sebaga wrapped herself with a kikoy then stepped out of the house and walked over to the shade where her husband was busy fixing the van.

Mma Sebaga: Rra Sebaga wee!

He turned to her then ignored her and continued working on the van.

Mma Sebaga: How long will you keep ignoring me?

Rra Sebaga: Till the day you stop witchcraft.

Mma Sebaga: Are you calling me a witch? Your wife? After all these years I'm a witch?

Rra Sebaga: That's true. You're the devil I never knew. What you did to those children has shown me that you can also kill me so in-order to preserve my life, I have chosen to ignore you.

Mma Sebaga: You can not ignore the fact that I'm your wife.

Rra Sebaga: It depends how you look at it.

Mma Sebaga: Today you're going to give me money whether you like it or not. Akere wa bona gore ntlu ke ye eeme. (You can see that there is no progress with this house.)

Rra Sebaga: Go and tell the person that told you to start renovating it. Nna sheleng o ke mo

hiwang ke ngwanake ga ke mo kgaogane le ope.
(I won't share the little money that my child gives me with anyone.)

Mma Sebaga: There is no meat.

Rra Sebaga: Akere spinach se teng ee. (There is spinach.) Nna nne ke lebile o itlhaba ka thipa mpeng o swella ngwana o sa go itsing sepe ka tsatsi lepe. (I watched you as you stabbed yourself with a knife by betraying the one child that made sure that you never run out of anything.) Leave me alone. I'm trying to get some work done here.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#43

That same evening

At Sebaga's

Sebaga sat on the kitchen counter and nibbled on a snack as she watched Fela in his element making dinner.

Sebaga: And who would have thought that you could do all this. Whatever has been happening in the last six months, I like it.

Fela: Well let's see, my mother took over the company as the big boss and automatically assumed that the power extended to my life so we have been going to cooking classes together, running errands and doing whatever she thought was my job.

Sebaga: Well I love a woman that knows how to put everyone in their place.

He laughed then looked at her...

Fela: You know that she misses you right?

Sebaga: Yeah. She tried to reach out a couple of times but it was just too painful for her keep in contact so I blocked her everywhere.

Fela: She told. She was really hurt but she understood.

Sebaga: I'm sorry I had to do what was right for me at the time.

Fela: I understand that. We all did. Anyways I have been thinking of telling her about my plans to move with you but I wasn't so sure if I would be crossing a line.

Sebaga: About that.

She forced a smile and got down.

Sebaga: Do you wanna turn off the pots and come with me to the living room for a little bit.

Fela: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Yeah, I just wanna talk and it's hot in here.

Fela: Just take off your clothes akere Melitah is not here.

They both giggled as they followed each other to the living room.

Sebaga: Sit.

She said pointing at the seat next to her.

Fela: Now you're scaring me.

Sebaga: Mme kana its nothing major. I just wanna talk about this move. It's all I've been thinking about all day.

Fela: And I want you to know that I love and appreciate you for agreeing to do this with me. I know that it can't be easy doing this especially when you have just started building your career.

Sebaga: That's true. It's not easy. I spent the last couple of days finding out what it would mean for me as a lawyer moving to a foreign land and it turns out that it's not as easy as I thought. I can start over but if it means starting my entire career then I don't know if I want to still do it.

Fela: But you said that you're ready to move and do this earlier on.

Sebaga: Yeah. I know what I said but I meant

that maybe we could move to a different city. Maybe if we explored bo Maun or Kasane then things could work out. I'm honestly not ready to give out this much in my career. If I moved to any of those two places then I could still have a job because we have our branches that have just opened there.

Fela: I hear you.

Sebaga: Yeah. Let's not use our emotions to make this decision, le wena hela tell me what you would do in a foreign land. No offense babe but you don't have any qualifications. If you were to leave your parents company then it means that you would have to hustle. Yaanong kana hustling in a foreign land and hustling in your country is different.

He rubbed his head and laid back thoughtfully. After all, she was right.

Fela: I hear you. So I guess that means that we're not relocating?

Sebaga: Yeah that means that we are not relocating outside the country. As much as this is tempting to think of, I refuse to lose my career because you had a child with someone you were not supposed to have it with.

She swallowed then maintained a serious face.

Sebaga: You know what hurts?

He kept quiet to take in the truth after all, she was going to serve him.

Sebaga: It's knowing that irregardless of how

this child came about, you have to love them and be a good father to them because they are yours at the end of the day. They are not some kind of glove you get to can take off.

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Bonus 1 (We will be moving really quickly for our owed bonuses so hold on tightly, it's going to be a really busy day.)

The Devil I Never Knew

#44

A few days later

At Mma Fela's

Fela parked his car in the driveway and turned off the engine then quietly sat waiting to hear from the first lady. In as much as this was the best thing to happen to him. He knew how hard it was for Sebaga to come back to his house after the embarrassment he put her through.

Sebaga: Let's go in.

Fela: Are you sure that you wanna do this?

Sebaga: Yeah. Fela your parents supported me through the wedding and even when the wedding didn't take place so yeah. I'm happy to do this. We are going to need some support at some point you know.

Fela: Yeah. Let's go.

He stepped out of the car then went around the

passenger side to get her door.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso sat by the bed and held the baby romper as tears rolled down her cheeks. This wasn't an easy journey and going through it made her realize that she had made the wrong choices daily. She was barely coping and knowing that her mother had also turned against her made things difficult. After having betrayed the only person that could support her, she had absolutely no one to turn to. She picked up her phone and made a call to her mother.

Mma Sebaga: Hello. I hope that you're calling about the builder's payment and the rest of the building materials that he needs. There is no progress and your father has no intentions to

help me even though he won a tender at the local school to supply them with vegetables.

Her heart swelled up with pain as she listened to the old lady going on about her problems.

Kgabiso: Hello my child. How are you? How is everything progressing in the pregnancy? Are you eating well? When did they say that you are due and when will you expect me to come there to assist you? Have you bought everything?

Mma Sebaga: Yaanong yeo ke efe? (What are you on about?)

Kgabiso: I once asked you what kind of a mother you are and you didn't answer me. I understand that you're not like other mums but will it kill you to pretend for once? You know very well that I'm expecting and I have told you that Fela has since become cold. He only helps

me with things that concern the baby yet you're still asking for more money. Do you ever get satisfied. Gompieno yaana Sebaga and I don't talk yet you have never intervened as a parent.

Mma Sebaga laughed and shook her head.

Mma Sebaga: Heela tlhe! Are you forgetting that you're the one that targeted your sister's boyfriend? Was I with you when you decided to have a child with him? You're not a saint. Just because it now hurts, it doesn't mean that you should start insulting me. I have supported you for years even against your sister. What do you want from me? Must the world stop just because you're pregnant? Are you even the first woman to fall pregnant? Lesa go mpogola mma. I told you that if you want me to help you during your confinement period then you need to finish

this house and come home.

She hung up and burst into tears.

At Mma Fela's

Sebaga sipped on her juice and attentively listened as Mma Fela updated her about her new life at the office. The woman was clearly happy and it became more apparent that she cherished her professional life.

Mma Fela: Do you want to know what I really think after spending all these years at home as a full time mother and wife?

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Mma Fela: Never give up on your career for

anything. It's ok to take a few years to care for the kids but don't get stuck there. Go and build your life. One day when the children are gone then you will regret it. Bona gore I'm trying to build my career at my age. It's good to think of family but always be selfish with yourself my baby. She looked around to see if her son was around then moved closer to Seba.

Mma Seaga: Men will disappoint you my girl. After what that boy did then left you at the alter, you need to open your eyes and go into this with a sane mind. As a parent, I'm here to support you two but you need to be aware of what you're dealing with. Don't give up anything for him till he shows you that he is capable of loving you the way you ought to be loved.

What the old woman said left Seba with more

questions than answers. Was she really ready to walk down this road with Fela? What if he dropped her once the baby got here?

Later that day

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#45

Later that day

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Seaga turned off the stove then opened her drawers to pick out one of her best plates that she had only used once during a church conference five years ago. She served her husband then placed the other food on a tray with a dish cloth on the side before walking into the living room.

Mma Seaga: Rra SB.

She knelt before him with a tray but he looked the other way.

Mma Seaga: I made you some lunch. Mma Moagi dropped off some meat for us earlier on.

Rra Seaga: Thank you but I'm not hungry.

Mma Seaga: Should I cover them so that you can have them during dinner?

Rra Sebaga: No. I won't be eating at all.

Mma Sebaga: Why? Are you fasting?

Rra Sebaga: I'm not fasting. From now on, I won't be eating any food cooked by you.

Mma Sebaga: Where is that coming from?

Rra Sebaga: After watching you set our children up for disaster I'm not so sure that I can trust you anymore. Your decisions left me with so many questions.

Mma Sebaga: What exactly are you saying? Do you think that I'm capable of putting poison in your food?

Rra Sebaga: I didn't say that but now that you're saying it, it makes so much sense. It's a possibility.

The old woman grew some horns.

Mma Sebaga: After all these years that we have been married for? You think that I can suddenly kill you? Gape for what? What exactly will I gain apart from this farm that has not only taken the best years of my life but quickened me to age? I don't know who you think you are or what having a mere tender from a local school means but you're nothing. There are men that are rich and have triple of that farm which makes serious money. They sell to supermarkets and supply big schools. I did you a favor by marrying you yet you make me feel less everyday. You fail at small things like buying meat but I'm here hustling for us. You can not even appreciate that. If it wasn't for my brother's wife then you would be having that spinach of yours from the farm.

Rra Sebaga looked at her and lost his patience.

Rra Sebaga: Those that don't have money can eat spinach. Akere nna I told you that my daughter makes sure that she sends me money so what makes you think that I can eat spinach while she is still alive. Didn't you talk to your rich daughter and see if she can't send you anything? Akere she promised you the moon.

She clicked her tongue and sat on the couch with the tray then began to eat the food she had served for him.

Mma Sebaga: You're still full. That is why you're saying all these things to me.

Rra Sebaga: Find a way to fix your relationship with those children and bring them together. You're not always gonna be around. They are each other's family in our absence.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga threw herself on the bed and sighed heavily as Fela took off his clothes and laid next to her.

Fela: Are you fine? You have been quiet ever since we got back from my house. Was it something I said or did.

Sebaga: No. I'm just tired. It's been a long day.

Fela: Okay.

Sebaga: Can we hold off this move for a bit. I need to figure out some things on my own.

Fela: Umm ok. Is everything fine?

Sebaga: Yeah. I wanna take some time to do a bit of a research. I can't just ask for a transfer to Maun or Kasane without considering some things.

Fela: Are you having second thoughts?

She looked at him and decided to wear her big girl panties.

Sebaga: Yes. I no longer find moving exciting because the more I think about it is the more I realize that you messed up and I have to make changes in my life yet I had no plans to.

Fela: I'm sorry that you're still hurting. I don't know what to do. Tell me exactly what I need to do because I'm trying to involve you in everything I do that concerns this baby but you have already told me that you don't wanna hear anything about him. I'm tryna be a present father and still be a good partner but I don't know what to do.

Sebaga: I think we moved on too quickly. I don't think any of us is ready for major changes. Like

I keep saying, I love you but the sacrifice is too heavy. Maybe let's just see each other without labeling things. We can figure it out as we go along the way.

Fela: Ee mma.

His phone rang and he reached out for it on the bed pedestal.

Fela: Hello.

Kgabiso: I think I'm in labor. My water broke.

Fela: What? Are you in pain?

He could hear her breathing heavily and struggling to keep composed.

Fela: I'm on my way.

He hung up then jumped out of bed and got dressed.

Sebaga: Is everything ok?

Fela: Kgabiso is in labor. Well I think. I don't know but her water broke and she is panicking.

Sebaga: Isn't she like seven months? Go, that could be a bad thing.

Fela: I'm sorry.

Sebaga: Sure.

He picked his shoes and grabbed his car keys then ran off.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#46

At the hospital

Fela stood by the bed and passed a glass of water to Kgabiso as the doctor walked in with her files.

Fela: Doctor. Do you have anything for us? Will she give birth? What's the cause of this because according to her scans, she is seven months pregnant. Should her water even break this early?

Doctor: According to the scan she is twenty eight weeks so yes her scans are right. She is in her seventh month which is the third

trimester. Normally your water breaks shortly before or during labour. When it breaks before labour at less than thirty seven weeks of pregnancy, this is known as preterm prelabour rupture of membranes (PPROM).

Kgabiso: What does this mean? Is my child ok?
I'm I going into labor?

Doctor: No. We would like run a few tests and see if there is no infection and if that's the case then we will delay your labor. I'm putting you on bedrest.

Fela: And if she there are any infections?

Doctor: Then we will have to deliver this baby within 48hrs.

Kgabiso: Will he survive?

Tears rolled down her cheeks at the thought of losing the only family member she might have

possibly had.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga sat next to her friend on the bench outside and sighed heavily. The thought of those two in the same place bonding over the birth of the baby or whatever she was going through broke her heart.

Melitah: Sorry friend. I can only imagine how you feel.

Sebaga: Who I'm I kidding? This will never end. If Fela is the father of that baby then my sister will always be in his life and have some kind of hold over him even if it's not romantically. I need to accept that the way that he jumped and ran to her today is the same way that he will be

jumping and running to her for the rest of our lives each time she says there is something wrong with the baby. I simply can't subject myself to that kind of life. I'm still too young for all this.

Melitah narrowed her eyes and stood up.

Melitah: What do you mean if he is the father of the baby? Do you think that it's possible that he is not the father?

Sebaga: She is supposed to be seven months pregnant. If he slept with her a month before our wedding which was during our magadi celebrations then it means that she ought to be seven months pregnant because those two events were only a month apart. It's been six months and if I add that month it totals to seven. She had a boyfriend at the time and

anything is possible with her.

Melitah: Maybe we should do a little investigation of our own.

Sebaga: How?

Melitah: Don't you have the guy's number?

Sebaga: I do but what does that help me with?

Melitah: Let's tell him that Kgabiso is expecting and find out what he has to say. If at all he could be the father then he will react. Maybe the poor guy doesn't even know that she is expecting.

Sebaga sunk her teeth in her lower lip and thoughtfully went back into the house to get back her phone.

Sebaga: So you want us to scheme?

Melitah: We are not doing anything different

from what she did. In fact if we were to rate what she did versus what we are about to do then we would be total saints. We are simply getting to the truth, nothing wrong with that. You know that you want to do this.

Seba scrolled through her contacts then finally dialed Batsile's number and put the phone on loudspeaker. Her heart palpitated as it rang.

Sebaga: This feels wrong.

Melitah grabbed the phone from her and held on tightly to it.

Melitah: I don't care. We want the truth.

She held her breath as Batsile answered the phone.

Batsile: Hello.

Sebaga: Hello.

Batsile: Sebaga? Is that you? What can I help you with?

Sebaga: Eish. I don't even know where to start mme hela I called to let you know that Kgabiso is expecting and she is in the hospital as we speak. I don't know if she...

Batsile: How far along is she?

Sebaga: Seven months.

She turned to her friend hoping this could just end.

Batsile: Oh okay. I celebrate with her. I hope she has a safe delivery.

Seaga: So it's not yours?

She shamefully lowered her voice.

Batsile: No. There is no possibility of me being the father . I'm sterile and besides that she and I always used condoms because I never healed from her cheating.

Seaga: Oh I see.

A tear rolled down her cheek.

Batsile: I heard what happened with the wedding. I hope all works out well for you.

He hung up leaving her even more broken.

Melitah: Eish!

Sebaga: This relationship can never work out.

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Bonus 4

The Devil I Never Knew

#47

Two months later...

Kgabiso sat by the mattress and brushed back her hair with the back of her hand then slowly

got up as Mma Fela held the baby in her arms. After a threatening labor, being able to stand was a blessing.

Mma Fela: Where are you going?

Kgabiso: I need to see if the baby's laundry has been washed. Kana aunty spends the entire day on her phone.

Mma Fela: Rest. I will see to it that she has done it.

The old woman looked at her grandson and struggled to find the similarities between the baby and her son.

Mma Fela: We are getting the DNA results today. I hope that you were completely honest about everything because if my son is not the father

of this child then there will be hell to pay and I'm not just talking about the money he spent on your pregnancy, I'm also referring to his peace that you stole.

Kgabiso slowly got back and rested on the mattress.

Kgabiso: Your son is the father of that baby and those DNA results will prove that. For someone that is drawn to my child, you are acting way too suspicious.

Mma Fela: I'm only here because there is a possibility that he is my grandson and if he is, I don't want to live the rest of my life regretting that I missed these moments.

Kgabiso: if you say so.

At Melitah's

Sebaga wrapped a silk scarf around her hair then picked up a feather duster by the kitchen counter.

Melitah: I can't believe that you're leaving.

Sebaga: I know babe but I can't turn this transfer down. I'm the one that gave them an idea that I wanted to leave the city and now that an opportunity has presented itself, I can't turn it down.

Melitah: I hear you. I'm just glad that you're starting to live your life to the fullest again. You deserve to be happy. Man or no man.

Sebaga: Yeah.

She noticed the sadness on her face.

Melitah: Why the long face?

Sebaga: Nothing. I'm just exhausted.

Melitah: Don't lie to me. I can see that you want to cry.

She looked up to fight back her tears then forced a smile.

Sebaga: This is not how i imagined my life.

Melitah: I'm sorry babes.

Sebaga: I saw Fela yesterday in clicks doing some baby shopping.

Melitah: Yeah. I heard that she gave birth.

Sebaga: I wonder what kind of a father he is.

Melitah: You wanna know what I think?

Sebaga: Yeah.

She stood beside her and held her hand.

Melitah: I think that this move will be good for you. You need a fresh start. Far away from all this bondage and stress. Who knows maybe you will find a good man out there.

Sebaga: Who knows! You know what they say about Maun men right?

Melitah: Honey I would like to find myself those dark chocolates. You have a great eye, don't disappoint me. Akere you see the standard you have set with Fela? Don't downgrade mma.

Seba burst into laughter.

Sebaga: Well I hope I don't downgrade in the bedroom department too because once you have done certain things, regular becomes boring.

Melitah: Get the hell out of those clothes and let's go for a drink. One last dirty drink in town.

Sebaga: Yes! I'm all in!

At Fela's Office

Fela looked at the white envelope ontop of his desk and sighed heavily as his father walked in.

Rra Fela: I came as soon as I could. Have you opened them yet?

Fela: Not yet. I haven't gathered the courage to yet. I don't know how I would take it if he's not mine. I'm already invested.

Rra Fela: That's why I kept asking you to back off a little bit son. I knew that this would come back to bite you but you and your mother thought that I was heartless.

He picked up the envelope and looked at his son.

Rra Fela: Would you like me to call your mother?

Fela: No. I don't want her rubbing it in my face if he's not mine.

Rra Fela: Should I open them?

He swallowed then stood up.

Fela: Yes.

Rra Fela tore the envelope and pulled out the DNA document.

Fela: And?

His son impatiently looked at him waiting for answers.

Rra Fela: He's yours.

Fela: What?

Rra Fela: The little man is a Molefe.

Fela chuckled as tears rolled down his cheeks.

Fela: I have a son.

Rra Fela: You sure do.

Fela: Let me call mum.

Rra Fela: Leave her. We will break the news to her when she gets back.

Fela: I don't know what to say.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga dialed Kgabiso's number and clicked her tongue as it went straight to voicemail. It had been a few days since she had been trying her number now and it was then that she began to get worried. She stood up and went back to the house where her husband was sited.

Mma Sebaga: Have you spoke to Kgabiso of lately? Kana her phone is not going through. I have been trying for a few days. I heard that she

gave birth yaanong i wanted to check with her if I should go and help her.

Rra Sebaga: You're only remembering now that you need to help her as her mother?

He laughed then stood up and left her inside.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#48

Later that evening...

At Kgabiso's

Fela picked up his son and played with his little fingers as the mother had her dinner. The tension between them has lessened and they were starting to get along.

Fela: I brought you some nursing tea. I heard aunty telling me that you're struggling with your milk supply.

Kgabiso: Sometimes an apology goes a long way you know.

Fela: What?

Kgabiso: The DNA results? I'm assuming that since you're still here then it means he's yours. So you owe me an apology.

Kgabiso: Maybe we should talk about what happened that night before we get to that apology.

He stood up and put his son in his cot.

Fela: What the fuc happened that night because I know I didn't pursue you?

Kgabiso: You were drunk.

Fela: Even if I was, I would have never looked your way.

Kgabiso: Fela!

Fela: No! Tell me what the fuc happened because that night ruined my entire life and I lost the woman that I love. Do you realize just how much that hurts? Having to come here to be with my son knowing that I didn't even want him with you?

Kgabiso: We were both drunk and that's it.

Fela: I don't care what you say but I will never forgive you no matter what.

Kgabiso: If you love her so much then why don't you go after her and fix things with her?

Fela: Because she respects and loves herself so much that she doesn't see herself being with the same man that shares a baby with her sister. I mean what would our child even call her? Aunt? Mum?

Kgabiso swallowed hard...

Fela: You hurt and broke a good woman that would have never hurt you. For that I don't think that even our son will forgive you in future.

Kgabiso: You know what, if you loved her that much then you should have fought for her. You should have never left her at the alter. You're a coward.

Fela: And put her life in danger? I mean if you

could go as far as sleeping with me just to have the same life she has then how far could you go when you realized that you had lost? You were way deep in your jealousy that you could have even killed her.

Kgabiso: What?

Fela: You're evil.

His son cried ontop of his lungs.

Fela: If it was possible to take my son and run away from you then I would so you don't corrupt him.

Kgabiso: Well you're stuck with me.

He picked his son up and went out with him.

Kgabiso: Fela don't take that child outside. Fela!

She screamed at him but he ignored her.

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela looked at the DNA results and felt different kinds of emotions hit her. She took a deep breath and looked at her husband.

Mma Fela: So it means that we are stuck with this girl for life?

Rra Fela: It appears so.

Mma Fela: I don't know what to say. I'm obviously happy that I have a grandson but it pains me to know that my son's life will never be the same. I don't think that he can ever fix

things with Sebaga. I spoke to her a few hours ago when she had called to let me know that she was relocating and I can still tell that the poor girl is still hurting. I had somehow hoped that there would be a second chance for them but maybe it's for the best. I hate to admit it but that girl is strong and smart. She was way too good for our son. Fela is too weak to build with her. Ngwana wa batho deserves a man that will put her first and honor her. Gape hela she will never accept that child as her stepchild because he is a reminder of her partner and sister's betrayal.

Rra Fela: Yeah. Sometimes we men mess up. I wish her well. She is a smart kid. I'm sure that she will do well wherever she goes.

Mma Fela: Can we please not tell Fela about her relocation? She asked me not to say anything and I promised her.

Rra Fela: I won't say a word.

Mma Fela: Thank you.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso screamed and cried while her nanny held her outside the car.

Kgabiso: Fela bring back my child?

Fela: If you don't tell me what happened that night then I'm going to end my life and his.

Kgabiso: Fela!

He started the car and rolled down the window a bit enough that she could only see inside.

Fela: You have three minutes to tell me the truth or else you're going to burry a newborn.

Kgabiso: (Crying) Fine fine. I only put in a pill in your drink.

The nanny begged on her behalf as she fell on her knees.

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#49

That same night

Kgabiso kissed her son's little cheeks and held

him in her arms as tears welled up in her eyes. Each time she closed her eyes, a picture of Fela threatening to kill him played over and over again in her head. So it was true after all, children always paid for the sins of their parents.

Aunty: Let me get him so that you can rest.

Kgabiso: Thank you but I prefer to hold him. Did you lock all doors?

Aunty: Yes.

Kgabiso: What about the gate?

Aunty: I locked up.

Kgabiso: Good. Don't let him or anyone else in.

Aunty: Yes mama.

Kgabiso: You can retire for bed.

Aunty: Goodnight mama. Let me know if you need anything.

She picked up Cody's little blanket from the baby cot and handed it to the mother before she left.

At Mma Fela's

Fela parked his car in the driveway and turned off the engine then rested his head on the steering wheel. His life was upside down and there was not a thing that he could do about it. He thought of Sebaga and what he would say to her after this confession then cursed! He had hurt and embarrassed her so much and maybe it was just time to let her go. She deserved better than what he was offering her after all.

Meanwhile Mma Fela stepped out of bed and

picked her gown then got dressed.

Rra Fela: And now?

Mma Fela: It's been a while since his car came in yet he hasn't come inside. I doubt that he's okay.

Rra Fela: Let the boy be. All of this is a lot for him. Allow him to process it on his own.

Mma Fela: He has been playing father of the year even before this baby was born, I don't understand why these DNA results left him shaken.

Rra Fela: Maybe a part of him had hoped that things would be different. You just never know that's why I'm saying that you must let the boy be.

Mma Fela: My poor son.

Rra Fela: It's part of being an adult.

At Kgabiso's

After putting her son to sleep, Kgabiso took her phone and went outside then dialed Fela's number but it just rang. She took deep breaths before dialing her sister's which didn't go through. Maybe she had changed numbers or even blocked her. After all it had been ages since they had last spoken. At this point she was desperate to make things right for her son's sake atleast. She unblocked her mother then dialed her. Within seconds, the old woman picked up the call.

Mma Sebaga: My girl.

Kgabiso: Hie.

Mma Sebqga: How are you? I hear that you

have given birth to a boy. How is he?

Kgabiso: I didn't call to catch up. I was wondering if you could help me get hold of Sebaga. I've been trying her number and it's not going through. I'm assuming that she either changed it or blocked me mme hela I desperately need to talk to her.

Mma Sebaga: I'm afraid that I can't help you with that my child since I also don't have access to her. I don't know where she is or how she is. Ever since the day she left home, she hasn't spoken to me. The only person that would know this is your father but I doubt that he will help you in anyway because he is still very angry at the both of us.

Kgabiso: Ok. That's fine. I will find another way.

Mma Sebaga: When should I come over to help you?

Kgabiso: (Chuckles) So it's only registering to

you that you need to help me now? I mean where were you all this time when I needed your help? Didn't I ask you to support me yet you ignored me because the only thing that you cared about was money?

Mma Sebaga: Stop referencing to the past. You and I both made mistakes in the past and now I'm trying to rectify them. Send me some money so that I can come over.

Kgabiso clicked her tongue and hung up...

A few days later...

Maun...

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#50

A few days later

Maun

At Thito Ward

Sebega walked around the empty living room and sighed as she visualized how she would arrange her furniture. She looked up at the ceiling and instantly lost interest in the house.

Landlord: So will you be taking it?

Sebaga: Is it possible to repaint the ceiling?

Landlord: Ele gore what's wrong with it?

He said looking up.

Sebaga: It's now black. I'm not happy with the color.

Landlord: That's just some dust. If you dust it then it should be ok. Will you be taking it or not?

She looked at the old tiles and deeply sighed.

Sebaga: Thank you but the house is too old. I can't take it unless you are renovating it.

Landlord: Heela mma! I have had people come in and go out of this house but none of them

have complained. Just because you lived In Gaborone, you think that you are better.

Sebega: For this simple reason, I won't be taking the house even if I was to compromise.

She left him and got into her car then drove off and joined the main road.

Sebaga: (laughed) Waitsi kana dilo tsa Maun.

Her phone rang and she connected it to the car radio.

Sebaga: Hey babes.

Melitah: Hey lover. How is it going? Did you find a house?

Sebqga: All good babe. I was given the rest of

the day to go look but unfortunately I haven't found anything yet.

Melitah: Ok. Ummm... Kana...

Sebaga: What is it?

Melitah: Kana Kgabiso came to my work place this morning.

Sebaga: And?

Melitah: She was looking for your contacts. She says that she wants to make things right and fix your relationship.

Sebaga burst into laughter and shook her head.

Sebqga: Cleary she is not in the right state of mind. Please tell her to leave me alone because even if she gets my contacts or reaches out to me, nothing will change. I want nothing to do with her. I understand what they preach about

forgiveness and second chances but I have decided that it's not for me.

Melitah: Eish! I don't know what to say.

Sebaga: I can tell that there is something that you have to say so go ahead and say it.

Melitah: She said something about spiking Fela's drink and I honestly feel like you need to hear it.

Kgabiso: That won't be necessary. I have always said that a part of me believes Fela because I knew what she was capable of. I didn't break off things with Fela because I didn't believe him or anything. My problem is staying with a man that embarrassed me like that without even feeling pity for me. How do I begin to accept that he has a child with my sister? I have never struggled with believing or loving Fela so you tell her that I'm not interested. My peace of mind comes first.

There was an awkward moment of silence as she digested everything that her friend had just told her.

Melitah: It breaks my heart that it had to really end this way because I know that he genuinely loves you. The poor guy was also robbed off a life he was meant to be living happily.

Seaga: He will find someone else. And please if anyone asks about me then just say that I didn't tell you where exactly I was going. I need my sanity back.

Melitah: Ok babe. Sharp. Love you.

Seaga: Love you.

At Mma Fela's

Fela looked at himself in the mirror and wiped his sweat then went back and sat in his bedroom. He took out his phone and browsed through his son's pictures. How could someone that came through such an evil scheme be this adorable? By just looking at the little boy, he found some kind of comfort. There was a knock on his bedroom door.

Mma Fela: I know that you're in there. Can i come in?

He frustratedly breathed heavily as the door opened.

Fela: You should knock and wait you know?
What if I'm naked?

Mma Fela: I gave birth to you. What don't I know?

She ignored him and sat down.

Mma Fela: What's going on son?

Fela: What do you mean?

Mma Fela: I heard that you haven't gone to see your son in days.

Fela: Nothing.

Mma Fela: Why were you and Kgabiso fighting the other night le gone le irisa ngwana? (Why were you two using a baby to fight?)

Fela: You should have asked her since she is the one that has news.

Mma Fela: She didn't tell me anything. Aunty is the one that told me because she is scared of you.

Fela: I don't know why that is the case.

He picked up his car keys and left her in the bedroom.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#51

Later that day

Fela sat in the car for a few minutes as he contemplated his decision. He had lived almost his entire life in the shadow of his parents and maybe all of this was happening because he needed to turn things around. He stepped out of

the car and opened his trunk to grab some shopping bags then stood by the door and knocked.

Inside aunty peeped through the curtain then ran into Kgabiso's room.

Kgabiso: What's wrong? You look like you have just seen a ghost.

Aunty: Cody's father is outside. What should I do?

Kgabiso: Open for him.

Aunty: Mma? The other day you said that I...

Kgabiso: Just let him in.

She said as she laid in bed and covered herself with a blanket.

Aunty: Okay Ma.

She went back to the living room and opened the door for him.

Fela: Hie aunty.

She bowed her head and greeted him.

Fela: I want to apologize for the other day. I'm not normally like that. I should have never behaved in that manner especially by using a child.

Aunty: Ee rra.

Fela: Thank you. Can I see Cody's mom?

Aunty: She is in her room.

Fela: Thanks. Please take these with you. They are Cody's.

The maid picked up the shopping bags and smiled as Fela went into her boss's room. She couldn't understand how her boss had let go of such a kind man and what exactly she had done to drive him to that point apart from what she had confessed to that night.

In the room

Fela stood by the bedroom door and knocked then walked in a few minutes after being let in.

Fela: Hie.

Kgabiso: Hie.

He walked to the side table and picked up the Ac remote then turned it on.

Fela: Why do you have a blanket on when it's so hot?

He walked over to the cot where his son was sleeping.

Kgabiso: I think I'm catching a cold.

Fela: Ok. Can we talk? When did he sleep?

Kgabiso: Just before you got here.

Fela: Okay.

He stood by and watched his son peacefully sleeping then took out his phone to take a few

pictures.

Kgabiso: I'm really sorry about what I did to you. I know that sorry cannot fix it because I ruined your entire life so I will work hard everyday to find Seba and tell her the truth.

Fela: Leave her alone. She has already been through a lot and she doesn't deserve any of this.

Kgabiso: Maybe if she heard the truth from me then she would forgive you and you can fix things.

Fela: Then what? We work on our relationship and you get jealous along the way and kill her? I fuc*ing love that woman and I will protect her with everything that I am even if it means that I have to stay away from her to do that.

Kgabiso licked her lips and swallowed. It hurt that the father of her child despised her that much but she was responsible for that after all.

Fela: I came here to apologize for using our son to fight my battles. You're the one I should have grabbed and choked till you kicked and couldn't breath.

His eyes darkened which left her feeling scared.

Fela: You and I share a child and there is nothing that I can do about it. No matter how this boy came, he is my son and that will never change. I have every intention to take care of him and give him the life he deserves but far away from you.

Kgabiso: Excuse me?

Fela: Sign away your parental rights to me.

Kgabiso: Have you lost your mind?

Fela: No. I mean it. I can't have you raise my child otherwise you will just corrupt him. Tell me how much you need to do all that and I will give it to you. You're not made to be a mother and you know it.

Kgabiso: I don't care about your money. That's my child right there and no one is taking him away from me. I love that boy more than life itself and I will fight for him with everything that I am.

Fela: Ok. Have it that way. You better make sure that you have a strong legal team because I won't play nice.

**As we wait for the next insert. Sponsors are on the post before this one. Attend to them.

He picked up his son from the baby cot and kissed his little cheeks then put him back.

Fela: You will be hearing from my lawyers.

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#52

That same evening

At the Molefe's

Fela pulled his luggage bag into the dinning room and greeted his parents that were having dinner.

Mma Fela: Are you going somewhere.

She turned to her husband then back at her son waiting for an answer.

Fela: Yes. I have decided to move out. I found a house.

Rra Fela: Ok but can't you move tomorrow during the day? Why does it have to be at night?

Mma Fela: The question is why does he need to move?

He pushed his luggage bag to the side then

pulled out a chair on the dinning table.

Fela: I want to thank you for everything that you have done for me including giving me a job. No one has looked out for me in the manner that you do and for that I'm forever grateful that I have such parents. When I look at my son, I realize that this is the kind of parent that I want to be. I want to be everything that he needs and more than anything I want to give him anything that he needs. I know that I had not spoken to both of you but I've enrolled into an online school and I will be starting with my studies next week. I'm aware that it won't be easy trying to juggle between that and work but I will do my best not to let you down.

Mma Fela: So why do you need to move out? Don't you think that it will be easy to embark on such a journey while you are home with the support of your family?

Fela: I appreciate your concern however I have plans to get my son so we will need a place of our own.

Mma Fela's heart palpitated at the thought of her son building a family with Kgabiso.

Mma Fela: Are you seeing the mother now?

Rra Fela: Ema pele mogatsaka. (Hold on love.)

Mma Fela: No he must tell us.

Fela looked at his mother and chuckled then stood up and turned away. Maybe silence was golden after all.

Mma Fela: Don't come back home crying when it all crumbles down. Akere wena you ruin

everything you touch.

He turned back to her and maintained eye contact with her.

Fela: Maybe that's because you never give me the space to live my own life and make my own choices without meddling in. When will you accept that I'm a grown man that makes his own decisions ? I'm not surprised that I ruin everything I touch because I don't know how to do anything without you. Allow me to be man of my own. I have a son now.

Mma Fela swallowed painfully as her son left.

Rra Fela: Just let it go.

Mma Fela: Do you think that what he is saying

is the truth?

Rra Fela: Let's allow the boy to make his own decisions.

Mma Fela: So you agree with him?

Rra Fela: Sometimes you need to let things be. You can't be the boss of everything.

The old man stood up and left her...

The following day...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso held the phone to her ear with her right hand and wiped her tears with the back of her left hand as she spoke to her father on the phone.

Rra Sebaga: I'm very sorry about what is happening to you right now. As a parent I can feel your pain even though there is a part of me that's angry at you. No one deserves to have their child taken away from them.

Kgabiso: So will you help me reach Sebqga?

Rra Sebaga: I'm afraid that I can't do that. It's very selfish of you to expect your sister to help you after everything that you did. I suggest that you find another lawyer because for as long as I'm alive I won't allow Sebaga to help you with this case. Bathong tlogelang ngwanake a ikhutse matlhoko. (Allow my child to rest from all this pain.)

Kgabiso: Ke a go kopa Papa. (I'm begging you dad.) If I don't find a lawyer then Fela is going to take away this child.

Rra Fela: These are some of the things you

should have thought about before having a child with him.

Kgabiso: Papa!

Her cry pieced through his heart but even he knew that she had to take some responsibility for her actions.

Two years later...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga threw her car keys on the couch and walked into the kitchen with a bouquet of flowers and a shopping bag. She picked out her favorite vase and rinsed it then opened the tap to fill it with water.

Sebaga: Do I even need ice today?

She opened the freezer and grabbed an ice tray then threw a few cubes of ice before arranging her flowers in the vase. She looked at her family portrait then smiled as she thought of the big day.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#53

At Sebaga's

Martin walked into the living room with his daughter in his arms. He greeted his wife and kissed her then went straight to the stove to check on the pots.

Sebaga: Has aunty left already? Let me put her down so that I can finish cooking. You must be tired.

Martin: I released her as soon as I got back home.

Sebaga: Nice. Let me put Lily down then I'll finish up here.

Martin: It's okay my love. Go and have a sit with her. I'm almost done. She just woke up so I doubt that she would wanna sleep.

Sebaga: Ok. Thank you babe.

She took her daughter and went into the living

room then turned on the Ac before she sat on the carpet with her. Her phone rang and she smiled from ear to ear.

Sebaga: Please tell me that you're intown.

Melitah: Hello to you too.

Sebaga: Hey babes.

Melitah: Mma I'm sorry but I haven't even left. A crazy thing happened today.

Sebaga: What is it?

Melitah: Can I facetime you?

Sebaga: Bit*h you're still asking?

They both laughed as the call ended and her friend FaceTimed her.

Sebaga: What is going on?

Melitah waved her ring finger which was adorned by a huge diamond rock in front of the camera.

Sebaga: Shut the front door. When did he propose?

Melitah: An hour ago.

Sebaga: (Screaming) And you're only telling me now.

Lily crawled to her and began to cry.

Melitah: Areng Lily?

Sebaga: (laughed) Ijaa! I just got back from work. She is probably jealous because I haven't given her any attention.

Melitah: Everyone ok?

Sebaga: All good. So I guess our plans are canceled.

Melitah: Friend mma! I'm really sorry that I can't come up there at this point.

Sebaga: You don't have to apologize. Let's plan for this trip some other time wena for now give Dzaddy some love. Give him all the loving and squeezing that you can.

Her husband walked into the living room.

Martin: Babe.

Sebaga: Rra?

She turned to him.

Martin: Sorry to disturb your call but what should I season the pork with?

He peeped at her phone and waved at Melitah.

Martin: Hey Mel.

Melitah: Hello. O teng Rragwe Lily the girl. (How are you?)

Martin: I'm well, how are you?

Melitah: I'm engaged.

Sebaga laughed and shook her head as she raised her phone to her husband.

Martin: Congratulations to the mma. We thank God.

Melitah: Indeed.

He looked at his wife.

Martin: The seasoning.

Sebaga: Use Rainbow peppercorns and some salt.

Martin. Cool. Go sharp Mel. (Bye Mel)

He walked back into the kitchen and left as his wife talked non stop with her friend on the phone.

At Fela's

Fela picked up his son's toys and threw them in the storage box as his mother comfortably sat down on the couch.

Fela: You could have called you know?

Mma Fela: (laughed) I knew that you were going to ignore my calls since you don't like visitors. I was in the neighborhood so I decided to take my chances.

Fela: (Smiled) Well you're in luck.

Mma Fela: You look good.

Fela: Thanks mum. I've been going to gym during Cody's swimming classes.

Mma Fela: (Chuckled) So you haven't found anyone yet?

Fela: (laughed) Give it up mum, I told you that I'm invested in raising my child and building my business for now. I'm not interested in being with anyone.

Mma Fela: I was just checking.

Fela: I know.

He sighed heavily then looked at her for a while wondering if he was on the right track.

Fela: I've decided to give Kgabiso a chance at being a mother. She has kept her word for the past two years. Even though I kept Cody away from her, she has been reaching out and making an effort.

Mma Fela: I'm happy to hear that son. Every child deserves to have their mother in their lives. I know that she has done so much to hurt you but she loves her son.

Fela: I agree. I just hope that she doesn't see this as a chance to reach out to Seba or try to fix her past using us.

Mma Fela: Have you heard anything?

Fela: No. She doesn't wanna be found and I

truly respect that. It still hurts but I choose to respect her wishes everyday. The fact that she just disappeared and disconnected from social media says a lot.

Mma Fela: I'm proud of you son.

Fela: Thank you. That means a lot coming from you.

Mma Fela: So when is your Maun branch opening up? How far are they with the renovations in the building you just rented out?

Fela: I should know when I fly there next week.

Mma Fela: Ok my boy.

Fela: I was gonna come home later and ask if I can leave Cody and the nanny with you but since you're here, can I?

Mma Fela: Absolutely! You know how much I adore that little man.

Fela: Thanks mum.

Mma Fela: I better go back home and start preparing for them. Kiss his little cheeks for me when he gets back from his lessons.

Fela: It's only next week mum. And yes I will.

He laughed as she stood up and grabbed her handbag.

Mma Fela: I know son but it's been a while since you let him stay with us. I'm really looking forward to it.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#54

That same evening

At Mma Fela's

Margret sipped on her cup of coffee then took out her phone to browse through her numbers. The thought of Sebaga and her son meeting up in Maun scared her more than anything. She more than anyone knew that those two had not just stopped loving each other overnight.

Rra Fela: Are you okay? You look like someone that's concerned.

The old man said as he walked into the living room.

Mma Fela: I'm ok. I just have a lot on my mind. I think it's high time we hired a new CEO. I'm getting tired and I would like to live my last years as a devoted wife and grandchild.

Rra Fela: (laughed) I'm so glad to hear you say that but who are we going to hire in your place? I've always thought that when the time comes, Fela would take up that position but now that he has started his own company, I don't see that happening.

Mma Fela: Same here but I'm glad that the boy has turned his life around. He is a father now and he needs to build a legacy for his son even though he will inherit this one at some point.

Rra Fela: You're right about that one.

Mma Fela: So did he say how long he will be in Maun for? He wants to bring Cody and the aunt here mme kana nna these days I'm afraid to ask

for details because he once said that I meddle too much.

Rra Fela: Two or three weeks. I'm not sure. I think that it will depend on the amount of work that side. It's a new branch so he obviously needs to spend a bit of time there to see to it that everything is running smoothly before getting back.

Mma Fela: Isn't that a long time?

Rra Fela: It's temporarily. What's wrong? Aren't you excited to have our grandson here? Aren't you the one that's always complaining about not spending enough time with him?

Mma Fela: I'm excited.

She forced a smile...

Rra Fela: He won't turn his life or Sebaga's

upside down when he gets there.

Mma Fela: What?

Rra Fela: Isn't that what you're worried about? You have been unsettled ever since he's told us about the Maun branch and I assumed that it's because she moved there, you're worried about them meeting.

Mma Fela: Not even.

Rra Fela: Ok.

She ignored him and had her coffee.

At Kgabiso's

Mma Sebaga impatiently stood by the verandah as her daughter walked to the patio and took Fela's phone call. What could they have

possibly been taking them so long? Was her grandson not doing well?

On the other end Kgabiso wiped her tears as Fela spoke.

Fela: In conclusion, I have decided to let you be a part of his life provided that you don't try anything to ruin my life or your sister's. I promise you that if you try anything funny then I will take Cody away and never look back. You will never see him.

Kgabiso: I've changed. I know that it doesn't erase anything that I did in the past but my son and his well-being comes first. I no longer concern myself with anyone's life.

Fela: Good. Let's meet up tomorrow and see how we can move forward.

Kgabiso: Ee rra.

Fela: Bye.

Kgabiso: Fela?

Fela: Yeah?

Kgabiso: Thank you so much for everything. I truly appreciate it. I won't mess this up.

Fela: Good.

Kgabiso: Ok bye.

She hung up and ran to her mother.

Mma Sebaga: What is it? You're scaring me.
What did he say? Is the boy ok?

Kgabiso: Mama!

Tears rolled down her cheeks. For the very first

time in a long time she felt alive.

Kgabiso: He is finally allowing me to be part of my son's life.

Mma Kgabiso: What?

She hugged her daughter in excitement.

Mma Sebaga: I'm so happy to hear that my girl. You deserve this. You have worked so hard to turn your life around.

Kgabiso: So have you. I hope that someday Sebaga and dad give you a chance.

Mma Sebaga: I doubt that they will ever do that. I can accept your father leaving me but knowing that I messed up my chance at being a mother to a child I gave birth to breaks me. I hear that she is now married and has a child.

Kgabiso: I doubt that's the case. Those are probably just rumors. Her colleagues don't know anything. All they know is that she left the country gape hela if that was the case then Fela would still be bitter. Who knows maybe one day she will come back. Gape if that was the case then dad would have said something. You know how he likes to show off.

Mma Sebaga: I hope so my child.

At Maun, Botswana

Sebaga's

Sebaga laughed and giggled as her father argued on the other side of the line.

Rra Sebaga: I'm telling you that you can't spend

that much money on a plane ticket when you can just give me the money and allow me to take a bus. Ware ke bokae? (How much did you say it was?)

Sebaga: Two point five.

Rra Sebaga: Just for transport? Over my dead body. I will take a bus again. Akere I didn't die the last time I did.

Sebaga: But you were very tired and uncomfortable for a few days.

Rra Sebaga: Fatigue is natural. Give me the money.

Sebaga: I will discuss with Martin and let you know what we decide.

Rra Sebaga: Let me talk to my son man to man. He will understand me better.

Seba laughed and gave the phone to her

husband.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#55

The following day

At the Mall

Martin held out two different cocktail glasses and showed his wife as they did their monthly shopping.

Martin: Which one do you like?

Sebaga: (Smiled) The one on the right.

Martin: Shall I pick out six?

Sebaga: Make them three. We barely have visitors so three is good for us.

He picked out six glasses and pushed the trolley towards her.

Martin: I picked out six.

Sebaga: Who's gonna use them? We don't even have friends.

Martin: And we can change that. Babe I'm all for a life of our own but we can't be alone forever. We need to create our own tribe. Have people that we know will have our back no matter what.

What kind of life are we teaching Lily? That it's okay to ignore the world and coop up ourselves inside the house the entire week?

Sebaga: You're exaggerating. It's usually for a few days.

Martin: No, I'm not. Last year we spent the entire Christmas holidays at home. We would only go out when we needed something at the mall. Babe nna I grew up without a family and did almost everything for myself. It's a very painful and lonely place, I don't want that for you or our child.

Sebaga: What's the point of family when all they do is betray you?

He wrapped his arms around her and kissed her.

Martin: Not everyone is like that. I know that you

don't trust anyone anymore but what I'm saying is that you don't have to live like that. You can still have people in your life and choose where to let them in. I'm not saying confide in them or bring them close to our family affairs. You're young. Once in a while you need to go out with the girls and drink like it's your last day. You work full-time and on weekends you're a mum.

Sebaga: And I'm not complaining. Shall we go to the bathroom ware section?

He pushed the trolley quietly to the other side as his wife took out her phone and went through her screenshots.

At the restaurant

Kgabiso stood by the entrance and fixed her

wig then pulled her dress a bit down as she looked around the restaurant for Fela.

Waiter: Hello ma'am. Table for one?

Kgabiso: Hello.. I'm actually looking for someone. He said that I wound find him here.

Waiter: Ok.

Her eyes wandered around till she found him.

Kgabiso: Oh there he is.

She approached his table and greeted him.

Fela: Hie.

Kgabiso: Hello.

He remained seated as she pulled out a chair. The truth was that none of them had changed much except now that Fela wore formal clothes more. The smell of his perfume reminded Kgabiso why she crossed lines she should have never crossed in the first place. He was still handsome as ever.

Fela: Thanks for coming.

Kgabiso: And thank you for doing this. I don't take it for granted. I'm very grateful.

Fela: Good. So I didn't call you out here for much. I would like you to be a part of Cody's life and I was thinking that we can start with mini visits till he gets used to you.

Kgabiso: I'm his mother. I doubt that he will struggle to get used to me.

Fela: It's been two years so we can never be too sure.

Kgabiso: I hear you.

Fela: And for the record, I don't want your mother anywhere near my son.

Kgabiso: But she now lives with me.

Fela: You can come see him at my place or my mum's.

Kgabiso: So your mum gets to have a relationship with her grandson and my mum doesn't?

He gave her a sharp look and she instantly ate her words.

Kgabiso: When would you like to set up these visits?

Fela: We can even start tomorrow if you like.

Kgabiso: (Smiled) Yes. I would really love that.

Tears built up in her eyes at the thought of holding her child for the first time in two years.

Kgabiso: So how have you been?

Fela: I didn't call you here to discuss my feelings or wellbeing with you. This was merely about our son.

He took out a two hundred pula note from his wallet then placed it on the table and stood up.

Fela: Have a great lunch. Bye.

He walked out and left her sited alone...

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#56

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Martin walked into the bedroom with a glass of champagne and placed it on the bedside table as his wife put their daughter to sleep.

Sebaga: Hey.

Martin: Is she asleep?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Martin: I brought you a glass of champagne.

Sebaga: Thank you. I really appreciate it.

Martin: Cheer up.

Sebaga: (Smiled) Yeah. It's just that I've been thinking a lot about what you said earlier on and you're right. I'm not only being unfair to myself but I'm dragging you and Lily in the process. We should go out more. Meet new people, take her for play dates and have a good life. I only prefer a quiet life because I don't want my sister and mother to find me. The last thing I need in my life is them disrupting my peace.

Martin: You can still maintain your peace even when they know where you are.

Sebaga: That may be true but in most cases

people can't destroy what they don't know.

Martin: You always have a come back. Don't you?

He smiled and laid on the bed...

Sebaga: I do but I've decided to take your advice and go out this evening. Serge has been inviting me out for a while now and all I've done is turn down his invites to the day club so maybe i should take him on the offer.

Martin: Yes girl. Wear your shorts, throw in that nice wig you I bought the other day and a nice pair of heels. Let people know that Mrs Monyatsi can turn heads.

Sebaga: It must be exhausting to be my cheerleader.

They both laughed....

Martin: Do you want me to pick out clothes for you?

Sebaga: Sir please.

Martin: What's the theme?

Sebaga: I would have to ask Serge about that. I don't know anything about that place.

Martin: Are you guys going with his boyfriend as well kana it's just you two?

Sebaga: They are not even on speaking terms.

Haii those two are both divas.

Martin: I'll run the shower for you.

Sebaga: Thank you baby.

At Kgabiso's

Mma Sebaga looked at her grandson's pictures on her daughter's phone and smiled from ear to ear.

Mma Sebaga: He is a copy of his father.

Kgabiso: He truly is.

She sighed and thoughtfully sat down with her mood at her feet.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry that you can't see him in person. I don't understand why Fela insists on fighting till the end. I thought that this was him letting go of the past.

Mma Sebaga: Don't pester him. Just be grateful that you can finally have a relationship with your son. He is still very angry and I can understand that. What we did to him is very painful. He will

come around one day.

Kgabiso: I hope so because my son also needs to have a relationship with my family. Besides you, I don't have any other family. My sister and father want nothing to do with me.

Mma Sebaga: Speaking about your father, I heard that he bought a nice big house in Flowertown.

Kgabiso: Can he afford that thought?

Mma Sebaga: I assume that Sebaga is the one that bought it.

Kgabiso: Yet he pretends that he doesn't know where she is.

Mma Sebaga: I have known that man for years now and what I can tell you is that he knows everything concerning our daughter. He just won't disclose it and that's ok because he is doing what any responsible parent would do.

Kgabiso: Yeah neh.

A few days later

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela stood by the door and held her waist as the nanny and Fela unloaded their luggage from the trunk.

Mma Fela: Where is Cody?

Fela: He is still attending his swimming classes. I'm picking him up in thirty minutes.

Mma Fela: And what time is your flight?

Fela: I have four more hours.

Mma Fela: Go get ready. I will pick him up.

Fela: Thanks mum but I need to see him before I leave. I don't know how long I'll be gone for.

Mma Fela: Ok.

She grabbed some stuff from him.

Fela: Thanks for letting them stay mum. I had no idea that they would need me this quick.

Mma Fela: You don't need to thank me. This is his home.

Fela: I have asked Kgabiso to get intouch with you for her visits. Please make sure that she doesn't leave with my son.

Mma Fela: You can relax my son. I won't let anything funny happen to my boy. She has learnt her lesson. I doubt that she would try anything funny.

The nanny went inside the house with the other luggage.

Fela: Let me go and get him.

Mma Fela: Ok son. Do you need me to do anything for you?

Fela: No. You can drop me off at the airport but that's all.

At Maun, Botswana

Sebaga's Office

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#57

At Sebaga's office

After a long day of back to back meetings, Sebaga sat by her desk and pulled her laptop closer then went through her emails. There was a knock on her door which was followed by Serge barging in.

Sebaga: I told you to wait for me to let you in. One day you're going to walk in on me and my husband having some office sex.

Serge: Girl please. Your man is too serious. He would never.

She giggled and pushed back her laptop.

Sebaga: What do you want? I need to attend to these emails before I go home.

Serge: My friend gore. (My friend for days.)

Sebaga: What do you want Serge?

Serge: Tlhe mma wena I have an emergency out of town which means that I won't be able to make it to the office. Can you take on my new client tomorrow? We have a meeting scheduled for ten in the morning.

Sebaga: Serge!

Serge: Will you help me or not?

Sebaga: Ok, what's this emergency?

Serge: Sex emergency tsala. Dee and I made up.

She shook her head and opened her drawers to get her diary.

Sebaga: How long do you need me to keep telling you that the guy is using you?

Serge: And I didn't complain about being used my friend. O ntirisa monate gore mma. (He uses me in a nice way.)

Sebaga: (laughed) Sies man!

Serge: So what do you say?

Sebaga: This is the last time I'm doing this for you. I don't even know how you made it past law school when you can't commit to anything.

Serge: The bead girl. Next time our outing is on me.

Sebaga: Yeah whatever.

Serge: Don't pretend like you didn't have a good time at the day club.

Sebaga: Get out man. And don't forget to send me the details of this client and the purpose of this meeting.

Serge: Sure babes.

He blew a kiss at her then left.

That same evening...

Maun Lodge, The Boma Restaurant

Fela sipped on his glass of wine and enjoyed the music as the live band played. It had been ages since he had last loosened up and had a bit of playtime. A lady sited on the table opposite his waved at him and flashed a bright smile. He smiled back and waved then took out his phone and fixed his eyes on it. His friend

had warned him about the beauties of Maun and he swore to never lose focus. After working so hard to start this company and succeeding within the first two years, he still felt incomplete. He thought of Sebaga every single day and wondered how she was doing. Was she happy? Did she think of him too? He browsed through their traditional wedding pictures and swallowed.

The following day...

At Sebaga's

Seba turned around and giggled as her husband took a picture of her in the new dress that he had brought for her the previous day.

Martin: Yes girl. I love it.

He held her curves and kissed her.

Martin: Do you have to go to work today? I mean we could drive out of town and go somewhere close by to spend the entire day with each other in bed.

Sebaga: (laughed) Have you been chatting to Serge?

Martin: What?

Sebaga: He is the one with those funny ideas. As we speak, he is out of town with his lover. He dropped his new client on me and left without a trace. He should have left me details about the meeting with this client but even up to now, I haven't received anything.

Martin: Your friend! And he never learns.

Seaga: You can say that again.

Martin: Tsamaya mma. Maybe he has left a file or something in the office that you can use for the meeting. I know how you hate going to these meetings unprepared.

Seaga: You can say that again.

He looked at his wife then picked a lipstick from the dressing table.

Martin: Here. It should go well with that dress.

She kissed him and smiled wrapping her arms around him.

Seaga: I love you.

Martin: I love you too.

Sebqga: Later.

At Maun Lodge

Fela looked at himself in the mirror and fixed his collar then sprayed on a bit of perfume before grabbing his things and stepping out to the restaurant for breakfast. While he made himself comfortable, his phone rang.

Fela: Hello.

Mma Fela: Hie son. Did you arrive well?

Fela: Hie mum. Oh my bad! I arrived safely. I'm really sorry, I should have called but I got caught up in the beauty of this place.

Mma Fela: I can understand. So how is everything going?

Fela: I can't complain. I'm meeting up a lawyer a friend recommended just to set up things before we start with the operations. You know how tricky the construction industry can be.

Mma Fela: That's true son. Well let me not keep you.

Fela: How is Cody?

Mma Fela: He is doing very well. The boy is a saint.

His father laughed...

Fela: Wait till he shows you his true colors.

At Sebega's office

Sebaga impatiently rolled her eyes as she tried

Serge's phone for the fourth time without any luck. She hung up then rushed to the reception area to find Serge's office keys. She had half an hour before the meeting so maybe if she went into Serge's office she would find something useful.

In the Reception area..

Fela walked through the doors of the building then headed straight to the reception area. He greeted the receptionist then introduced himself.

Fela: I'm Fela Molefe of FnM Constructions. I have a ten o clock meeting with Mr Baleseng.

Receptionist: I'm sorry but Mr B had an out of office emergency however Mrs Monyatsi will be

attending to you.

Fela: Ok.

Receptionist: You may have a sit and wait for her.

Sebaga trotted in with a red dress and some black heels that left her turning heads.

Receptionist: Oh there she is.

Fela raised his head and turned to the right side only for him to find Sebaga.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#58

At Sebaga's office

For a good ten minutes, Seba and Fela quietly sat as they stared into each other's eyes. After two years, seeing each other like this came as a shock. Fela hurtfully fixed his eyes on her wedding ring and swallowed.

Sebaga: Shall we start?

She cleared her throat and sat up maintaining a straight face.

Fela: How?

Sebaga: I'm really sorry that I don't have a brief for this meeting. Can you possibly take me through? I apologize for the inconvenience however my colleague had an emergency to attend to and he left before he could brief me.

Fela: When did you get married?

Sebaga: Is this to open a file or perhaps I...

He stood up

Fela: Bullshit! Why do you have a wedding band on your ring finger and why the hell did that woman refer to you as Mrs Monyatsi?

Sebaga: Sir can you please calm down so that I can assist you.

Fela: Sebaga wee!

He looked at the family portrait on the table and felt his chest burning up.

Sebaga: It's Mrs Monyatsi to you.

Fela: I'm sorry. I just don't understand. I mean I know that I hurt you and messed up big time but to get married and have a child with someone else. Ao mma!

She got up and calmly stood on the other side maintaining eye contact with him.

Sebaga: You and I broke up. I didn't just disappear and get married behind your back. Before I could leave, I ended things between us and explained why we couldn't be together. It's been two years. Please don't come here and disrupt my peace. I'm happy and I've finally

found a man that understands and loves me. Trust me, if you try anything funny then you might see a side of me that you never knew. Your lawyer will be in-town later today and I suggest that you reschedule a meeting with him. I can tell that working with you is gonna be a problem.

Fela: No! Absolutely not. I... I...

He fought so hard to keep composed. No matter how much it hurt, he wasn't going to allow this to break him. He had worked hard to be here after all.

Fela: I'm already here so we might as well as get down to business. I moved all my appointments in the city so that I can be here. Your firm agreed to this meeting so I expect you to make it happen. And don't think of setting up

an appointment for me with another lawyer.
You guys have already inconvenienced me so
the least that you can do is attend to me.

Sebaga: Noted.

She took a deep breath then smiled as she went
back to her chair.

Sebaga: Shall we try again?

Fela: Sure.

She extended her hand to him with a bright
smile.

Sebaga: Sebaga Monyatsi.

Fela: Fela Molefe.

He extended his hand to hers then held on to it as they locked eyes but Seba quickly pulled back.

Sebaga: Business for the day...

At Sebaga's

Martin kissed his lover then waved as they got into the car and drove off. He closed the gate and went back into the house to pick up the used condoms and any other thing that could alert his wife. He looked at the time and rushed into the kitchen to get a broom and other cleaning supplies. The maid and the baby would be back any moment from now.

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Bonus 1

(two to go)

The Devil I Never Knew

#59

Later that day

Sebaga threw her bags in the back and took off her heels then jumped in the front sit and took out her phone to call Melitah. She impatiently reclined her sit to lean back as the phone rang.

Melitah: Hey babes.

Sebaga: Hey friend. How are you? How are you taking in all the goodness that's coming to you?

Ga e go imele ring? (Is the ring not too heavy?)

They burst into laughter.

Melitah: Yooh friend having a ring on your finger is a full-time job. Why didn't you tell me that it feels like this. Rona with rings, we are special creatures waitsi.

Seaga: I tell you.

Melitah: Are you okay? You sound a bit shaken.

Seaga: Mma where do I start?

Melitah: Hit me with all the details.

Seaga: You will never believe who I saw today.

Melitah: Bathong who?

Seaga: Fela!

Melitah: (Screaming) Heelang! Babe one second.

She stepped out of the house and went into the garden for some privacy.

Melitah: Go on child! I needed to leave the house before this man hears us.

Sebaga: Bathong tsala, it's no big deal.

Melitah: Nnyaa mma. It's not like he tells me what goes on in the lives of his friends so he doesn't need to know what goes on in mines.

Sebaga: I get you.

Melitah: I hope you ran for your dear life.

Sebaga: Girl I wish.

She started the car and turned on the air conditioner.

Sebaga: The guy was right in my office as a client.

Melitah: What? And you didn't reject him as a client before the meeting? Ke raya ka when an appointment is set, you get full details about the client.

Sebaga: I wish that could have been the case but he wasn't my client to begin with. I was covering for a friend.

Melitah: The gay one?

Sebaga: Yep.

Melitah: I keep telling you that this guy is going to get you into trouble. So how did it go?

Sebaga: It was the longest meeting of my life. At first he tried to act like my husband and demand for answers but I put him back into his place.

Melitah: Good. You did the right thing.

There was an awkward moment of silence as Sebq thought of him.

Melitah: Whatever thoughts you're having right now, get them out of your head because you're a whole married woman and you have finally found some peace. You and I both know that Fela will only ruin your life and leave.

Sebaga: I know that. I just couldn't help but wonder how he felt in that exact moment he saw me. I mean having to see me with a wedding ring and everything. It can't be easy to accept that the one person you had thought was yours now belongs to another man.

Her friend cleared her throat.

Melitah: Should I tell you what I think?

Sebaga: What?

Melitah: You need to leave the past. No matter how he feels, nothing changes. You're a devoted mother and a wife to an amazing man that worships the ground you walk on. I know what they say about that one person that always has your heart but you also need to apply logic too in this situation. If you run for a juicy, sweet and yet poisonous fruit, you're going to die my friend. Stay away from Fela at all costs. Wa utlwa Sebaga? (You hear me Sebaga?)

Sebaga: Ofcourse. Listen let me get to the mall. Martin asked me to bring a few things. He's trying out a new recipe tonight.

She wore her seatbelt.

Melitah: Listen to that. You're a very lucky woman my friend. Not only has this man loved you but he has taken care of your every need. Not to mention that he knows that herbs go into food so he would never accuse you of using witchcraft on him.

Sebqga: (laughed) Damm the man can cook. I'm so sad that his leave is coming to an end and he has to go back to all that traveling.

Melitah: Well you married a travel agent so all those benefits of traveling around the world come with giving a bit of him to the world.

Sebaga: You can say that again. Mma let me get going. After he serves me dinner, I plan on giving it to him in all directions.

Melitah: Eww. Sharp mma.

She hung up and reversed out of the parking lot then drove out of her workplace.

At Maun Lodge

Fela paced around the room with his phone in hand as he tried to find out who Sebaga was married to. With no online presence, it was almost impossible to get that kind of information. He shook his head then sat down as a picture of her wedding band and family portrait kept flashing in his head. To say that he was hurt was an understatement but did he even have any right?

At Sebaga's

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#60

At Sebaga's

Sebaga picked up her daughter from the fenced play area and kissed her then went into her room with her where her husband was resting.

Sebaga: Man down?

Martin: Eish mma. I had a really long day. How was work?

She thought of what happened with Fela then quickly brushed it off.

Sebaga: Same old, same old.

Martin: And the new client? How did it go? Did you manage?

Sebaga: With?

Martin: Getting their information before the meeting. Akere you said that Serge left without giving you anything.

Sebaga: Oh yeah. Ahh you know how it goes, I just went in there and did my thing and in the end it went well.

Martin: Can you finish up cooking? I had planned such a feast but I feel a bit sick and I just wanna lay down.

Sebaga: Yeah sure. As long as you tell me what to do.

Martin: Ok babe. Thank you.

He took out his phone from the pocket and

forwarded her the meal recipe he had been using.

Martin: Follow the instructions there and it will turn out well.

Sebqga: Just that?

Martin: (laughed) Yes just that. Akere I told you that cooking doesn't require much as long as you have the right ingredients and the proper recipe.

Sebaga: Ok. Rest up and I will see you in a bit.
Should I take Lily to aunty kana leave her?

Martin: Leave her here.

Sebaga: Ok babes. Thank you.

At Maun Lodge

Fela sipped on his beer and closed his eyes as his friend spoke on the other side of the line.

Laone: I hear you man but I think that you should leave things are they are. If you try and pursue her then you might just end up ruining your own life. She is now a married woman with a family.

Fela: I'm not disputing that. I just need to know who she is married to and what kind of a life they have going on then I will let it rest. I wanna know if she is happy.

Laone: And here I was thinking that you have grown some sense. Fela leave it alone man. It will only hurt you. The fact that she committed to this guy by getting married and having a child with him means that she is happy.

Fela: So soon?

Laone: How long did you expect her to wait?

Three years? Five years? Are you forgetting that you wanted to marry this girl within the second year after dating her? The love that you so bad want to believe exists does but hers is clearly not with you. Get your business done then come back home to your son and find a good woman to love.

Fela: I don't want any other woman. This is the one I want.

Laone: Fela you're still the same.

Fela: Why? Because I am being honest about how I feel?

Laone: It's not every feeling that should be pursued. Let it go man.

Fela: So will you help me or not?

Laone: I'm not helping you. If I support you on this madness then it will be as good as killing you. Find someone else to support this madness.

He hung up...

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela quietly sat down with her mood at her feet next to her husband. She laid back and thoughtfully closed her eyes.

Rra Fela: Share your problems with me. What will it help if you just keep them to yourself?

Mma Fela: What?

She opened her eyes and turned to him.

Mma Fela: I dont know what you're talking about.

Rra Fela: I thought that since you spent the entire day at home relaxing, you would be cheerful but you have remained sour.

Mma Fela: Uhu!

Rra Fela: Clearly there is something that's bothering you.

Mma Fela: I don't remember saying that I'm bothered.

Rra Fela: Hare buwa re go thuse. (speak up so that we can help you.)

Mma Fela: I'm not at ease with this trip of Fela.

Rra Fela: Just because Sebaga is in the same place?

Mma Fela: Today he said something about meeting with a lawyer and the first thing that came to mind was the fact that Seba is a lawyer. I mean what are the chances?

Rra Fela: Close to almost zero. Before Sebaga

can agree to an appointment with a client, she probably gets information about them and based on the way she relocated without saying anything to anyone. Well except you, I doubt that she would accept Fela as a client.

Mma Fela: I hope you're right because when he finds out that she is married then I don't know what that boy will do. My son is on the right track and finally pulling himself together. I don't want this to set him back. Le ene Sebaga she deserves to be happy.

Rra Sebaga shook his head and kept his eyes on his wife.

Rra Fela: Married? And you knew this? Hee banna! Is that why her father insisted on returning the magadi (bride price) we paid to them?

Mma Fela: Yes.

Rra Fela: And you didn't say anything?

Mma Fela: What would it have changed?

Rra Fela: I'm not saying that it would have changed anything but just to let me in as well.

Mma Fela: There are a lot of things you don't tell me yet I don't complain.

Rra Fela: The boy has worked really hard in the past two years. Let's have some faith in him.

Mma Fela: Well let's hope he understands the meaning of the work he has put in.

Rra Fela: How is the boy and when did you say that the mother is coming to see him?

Mma Fela: Tomorrow. That's another problem right there. Haïi waitsi Fela will send us early to the grave.

A few days later

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#61

A few days later...

Sebaga walked into the room and frustratedly looked around for her other shoe. She bent down and looked under the bed then pulled out something that she was not familiar with.

Sebaga: Uhu!

She got up and went into the living room with the vibrator she had found then waved it at her husband as her heart pounded.

Sebaga: And now? What the hell is this and who does it belong to?

Martin: Oh that?

He took it from her then laughed.

Sebaga: I don't find any of this funny. I asked you who that belongs to.

Martin: Babe calm down. This is just a sex toy.

Sebaga: Which I don't use and have never seen you using. I need to know why the hell it's in my

house.

Martin: Calm down.

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

Sebaga: I asked you a question.

Martin: I bought that about a month or two ago to spice up our bedroom life but later regretted so I kept it.

He stood up and took her hand then lead her to the bedroom.

Martin: I understand that you're angry but it's the truth. Babe kana the thing is that you're never willing to try new things so even when I want us to explore and try something new, I end

up trashing the whole idea because I know that you're either going to get angry or just refuse.

Sebaga: I only said that I was not comfortable with wild sex which you suggested. If you felt like you wanted to incorporate sex toys in our sex life then you should have said something because nna when I find such things which we have never used together in our house, I panick and start thinking a lot of things.

Martin: Ee mma. I'm sorry that I never got to ask you. Tota ebile nna I had forgotten about it.

Sebaga: It's okay.

He kissed her then wrapped his arms around her.

Martin: Are we still going out?

Sebaga: Yes. I can't find my other shoe.

Martin: Which one?

Seaga: One of the red flats.

His memory took him back to the day his lover was in their home and his heart began to pound.

Martin: Why don't you pick another pair? I will help you look when we get back. Let's go out while it's still cool. You know how Lily gets when it's too hot.

Seaga: Ok. I'll get a different pair. Are you guys ready?

Martin: All ready. We are just waiting for you. Let me get her and tell aunty that she can leave.

Seaga: Thanks babe. Please tell her that she mustn't be late on Monday because you're going back to work. Le nna I have a really early morning.

Martin: Ok babe.

At Maun Lodge

Fela closely looked at the pictures that were taken on Sebaga's wedding day then shook his head. So this was the life that she had settled for? If at all she was happy then why had she decided to live her life like a prisoner?

The receptionist from Sebaga's work place looked at him then stood up.

Receptionist: Can I have them back now that you have had a look at them? If anyone realizes that they are missing then I will be in trouble.

Fela: Sit down and relax. I have paid you well after all. Can you tell me a little bit about her

husband?

Receptionist: Can I ask you why you're interested in knowing all this about her when she is merely just your lawyer?

He took out his wallet and got out some two hundred pula notes then put them on the table.

Fela: Don't be so uptight. Have some juice and let's chat.

She looked at the money and swallowed when she remembered that she had run out of gas and diapers for her baby the previous day.

Receptionist: He is a travel agent and he works for Safari trotter. From what I heard he only travels with international clients because he is

one of their best agents.

Fela: So he travels a lot?

Receptionist: Yes.

Fela: And what's their marriage like?

Receptionist: I don't know. From the looks of things they are quite happy. I mean no disrespect but these are questions that can only be answered by her. Mrs Monyatsi is a very private person that only discusses work with me. The only person that knows her well is Mr B.

Fela: The same one that dropped me?

Receptionist: Yes. He had an emergency.

Fela: Do you think that he would be willing to talk?

Receptionist: I honestly don't know. Can I leave now? I asked my neighbor to look after my daughter but she must be getting impatient because I have been gone for almost two hours.

Fela: Thank you for all your help.

He took out his phone then took snaps of Seba's wedding pictures from the office photo album.

Receptionist: Please don't get me into trouble. My children only have me and if I lose this job then they will suffer.

Fela: I won't.

He took out three two hundred pula notes and gave them to her.

Fela: For your trouble.

She took the money and stood up then grabbed

her bag and the album before leaving.

Later that day

At the park

Sebaga rolled on the picnic blanket and giggled as her daughter did the same. These were the kind of outings that left her feeling very relaxed and at peace.

Martin: I love how you embrace the park.

Sebaga: I told you that I'm not that bad when it comes to outdoors.

Martin: You're not.

Her phone rang and she rolled her eyes.

Sebaga: It's people like this that annoy me. It's a Saturday kante don't people have families to be with?

Martin: (laughed) Just take it. Maybe it's an emergency.

Sebaga: Right.

She sat up then grabbed her bag and dug in it till she got her phone.

Sebaga: Hello.

Fela: Where are you? Let's meet right now.

Sebaga: Hie. I'm sorry but I don't work on weekends.

Fela: Do you want me to come to your house

and beat your husband up? Kana you think that I don't know where you live?

What was the worst that he could do? But then again this man was crazy so he was quite capable of anything.

Sebaga: Let's meet up in old mall in thirty minutes. I'm at the park with my family so I hope you know that you ruined our day.

She hung up and turned to her husband.

Sebaga: I'm sorry but we need to go. Can I drop you off at home then meet up with my client. He seems to be having an emergency.

Martin: It's fine. We have been here for almost the entire day. Lily must be exhausted.

Sebaga: Thank you baby.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#62

That same evening

At Old Mall

Sebaga parked her car by Nandos then took out her phone to call Fela. She stepped out of the car and looked around to see if there was no one familiar around.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: I'm by Nandos. Where the hell are you?
You're wasting my time?

Fela: I see you.

He said walking towards her with the phone on his ear.

Fela: Hey.

He tapped her on the shoulder from behind then hung up.

Sebaga: What's this about?

Fela: Let's go inside and talk over dinner. I haven't had anything to eat the whole day.

Sebaga: Thanks but I'll have dinner with my family. Let's go inside the car.

She said still looking around.

Fela: You look scared. Like you're about to commit a crime of some sort. Where did you tell him that you were going?

Sebaga: That's none of your business.

She said opening her car and jumping in as he went around to the passenger side.

Fela: So you're really married?

She started the car and reversed out then joined the main road to Thito.

Seaga: Start talking.

Fela: I still love you and I know that you feel the same. Leave him and let's start over because I know that you don't love him.

Seaga: Excuse me.

She said with her eyes still on the road.

Fela: If you loved him as much as you want me to believe it then you wouldn't have hidden him. You're my girl and I know you. When you're happy you post. You love loudly and publicly. You're like me and that's one of the things that made our relationship thrive.

Seaga: You know nothing about me or my life.

Fela: Does he know who you're meeting with? Did you tell him that I'm now your client?

Sebaga: You still haven't changed.

She took a left turn just after Senthaga and slowed down.

Sebaga: No. I didn't tell him about you and who I was meeting because this is the last time that we will ever meet.

She parked under a tree then turned off the engine.

Sebaga: You're right. I used to love loudly and publicly but that was before I realized that sometimes moving silently is necessary. People can't destroy what they don't know and for that reason I have protected my husband and child with all that I could. You're also right, I didn't tell

my husband about you and where I was going because there is nothing between us and if you ask me, there will never be anything between us.

Fela: Yet you still love me.

Sebaga: I didn't leave you because I didn't love you. I left because I knew that I would never be able to accept your child let alone love him.

When I saw how excited you were about the boy, I knew that you would have to pick between me and that child at some point because I don't see myself loving or raising him. Fela I value my mental health more than anything and even if I wasn't married I would never take you back or have anything serious with you. Maybe if you and my sister had only slept together but knowing that there is a child from that one night and you failed to tell me the truth at the alter isn't something I can take. Accept that we didn't work out and leave me alone. You calling and demanding to see me as if I'm your wife and

even threatening me is not on. If I wanted, I could have told my husband and found a way to keep you at arms length but because I still feel something for you, I feel like you deserved to know this truth while I was looking into your eyes. You and I have no future. Stop disrespecting my marriage and acting like a victim in all of this. My father paid back your family the magadi money you had given him so I actually owe you nothing.

Fela: You think so?

Sebaga: Stop acting like a ratchet it doesn't suit you.

He stepped out of the car and went around to get her door then pulled her out of the car.

Fela: What was that?

He said pushing her against the car breathing on her neck as he got closer to her maintaining eye contact.

Sebaga: What exactly do you want?

He kissed her hard and held all the places that mattered before she pushed him back and got into her car and drove off without him.

Meanwhile Martin laid the baby to sleep then looked everywhere for his wife's shoe before calling his lover.

Martin: Where did you take the other shoe you were wearing the other day?

Her: What shoe?

Martin: My wife's shoe. You said we were just playin...

Her: Is that what you called me for? Nna kare you will tell me that I can come around. Nna rra I'm starving. You know every well that my husband is useless now and he doesn't give it to me so make a plan.

Martin: Tlhe mma ruri ke batla setlhako sa motho wa se batla. (I'm looking for my wife's shoe. She is looking for it.)

Her: I have it. Come get it.

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Bonus 1

You have only one insert to go and only 400 of you have participated on two sponsors the entire day.

The Devil I Never Knew

#63

At Sebega's

Martin sat up and rested his head on the headboard as his wife took off her clothes and changed into something comfortable.

Martin: I thought that you would be gone for a while. That was quick. Did you sort out the emergency?

Sebaga: Can we talk?

Martin: Ofcourse. Is everything ok?

Sebaga: I wanna talk to you about something that's bothering me and I feel like I need to be honest with you. When we got married, we promised each other a lifetime of commitment and transparency and I feel like if I was to keep this to myself, I would be wrong.

Martin: You're scaring me. Are you okay?

Sebaga: Yeah.

She sat by the edge of the bed and turned to him.

Sebaga: Yes. I'm okay. I didn't go out to meet just a client today. I was meeting up with my ex. The client Serge dumped on me last minute was him.

Martin: So what did he wanna meet about today?

Work!?

Seaga: No.

Martin: And which ex are we talking about here? I hope that we are not talking about the same one that left you at the alter because if we are then there is something you're not telling me. How did he find you? Didn't you say that he didn't know where you were?

Seaga: Yes. I honestly don't know how he did.

Martin: Did anything happen between the two of you?

She kept quiet as a memory of the kiss they shared flashed.

Seaga: He kissed me but then I left.

He got up and shook his head then slipped on his shoes.

Martin: You're not over him, are you? And something tells me that it was just more than a kiss you shared.

Sebaga: That's all we shared.

Martin: Bullshit! You know that you're telling me lies.

He grabbed his car keys and left as she tried to explain herself.

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela stood by the bedroom door and watched as Kgabiso played with her son. In as

much as this woman was the mother of her grandson, she still felt the need to keep an eye on them.

Kgabiso: You can go downstairs and get your stuff done. It's not like I can run away with him or anything. Your security is very tight.

Mma Fela: That's what I used to think about my son's relationship with your sister but you found your way into it so nothing is ever really safe with you around.

Kgabiso: So you're gonna punish me forever?

Mma Fela: Till hell takes over.

Kgabiso: I see.

Mma Fela: Tread very carefully. One wrong move and you're out.

Kgabiso: I honestly don't know how your son still gets the chance to live his life when you're

all over his business but it must be hard. When I agreed to stay away from Cody's life, I did it for the good of everyone. I didn't wanna drag my child through court and fight with his father forever. I allowed Fela to take him because I knew that one day we would be here. I gave birth to this boy not you or anyone else so you need to accept that I'm in his life now and I'm not going anywhere.

Maun, Botswana

At Matshwane

Martin parked his car outside Bogadi's gate then took out his phone and called her.

Bogadi: I told you that if you want that shoe

then you better come get it.

Martin: I'm outside. Open the gate.

Bogadi: Don't play around with me like that. All my kids are your age and some are older than you.

Martin: Are you going to open the gate or not? Aren't you the one that said that you were starved?

Bogadi jumped and got the gate button then quickly opened up and ran outside as Martin drove in. Her honeypot throbbed as he parked in the drive way and stepped out of the car.

Bogadi: Are you here for the shoe or me?

Martin: What do you think?

Bogadi: I'm too old to be doing guess work.

Martin: Well you should have considered that when you choose to date someone as young as me.

Bogadi: It all worked out, didn't it? You're now the boss of everyone and you can afford the lifestyle your wife loves. I mean we all know that lawyers aren't exactly close to Bill gates.

Martin: I didn't come to talk about her.

He carried her into the house.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#65

That same evening

Martin knelt by the wall with his hands up as Bogadi knelt next to him begging her husband who didn't seem to care.

Phala: You two are making so much noise. Before I even got here, you were enjoying yourselves so allow me to do the same.

Bogadi: Please let him go so that we can at least talk. I understand that you're angry but killing him is not going to solve anything. He has already done everything that you asked of him.

Phala: You think so?

He paused the video of the two in action.

Phala: You think that he was doing all that to you because I asked him?

She kept quiet...

Phala: You were not doing me a favor. You two just continued with what you have been busy with behind my back. I'm surprised that you went after a lawyer's husband. I hear that she is a beast in the court room.

He took out a box of cigarettes from his pocket and a lighter then paused the video.

Phala: Wouldn't this be interesting if I called her

over and we all enjoyed your little movie.

Martin: Can we please keep her out of this. She did nothing wrong. Please I'm begging you.

Phala: You are in no position to beg. You're in my house naked after I picked you up from the streets, gave you a job and trusted you with my entire business.

Martin: I made a mistake. I'm really sorry.

Each time he saw the gun that the old man was holding, he saw his life flash before his eyes.

Phala: Do you know how long I have known about this little affair?

They both kept quiet.

Phala: And to think that I believed that you two would grow a conscience and stop.

Bogadi: Cqn we please talk things through. No one has to die.

Phala: Call your wife.

Martin: What?

Phala: Tell her to come pick you up.

Martin: She's looking after the baby so she can't come over.

Phala: Then why don't we all just go over and help her? I'm pretty sure that it must be a lot of work to look after your baby while you're here fuc*ing my wife!

This time his voice carried so much anger.

At Maun Lodge

Fela laid on the bed and sighed heavily with the phone on his ear. Two years later and his heart still belonged to one woman that was out of reach.

Rra Fela: I'm very sorry to hear that son. I know how it must hurt but maybe this is a sign that you need to move on.

Fela: I can't move on. I love Sebaga and she is the only woman for me.

Rra Fela: I hate to remind you this and rub it in but she is a married woman now. You have zero chance of being together. Let it go son.

Fela: Not without a fight.

Rra Fela: You're starting to sound like you have lost your mind. Have you forgotten that you're a father and you have a child to think about? Son

don't go ruining your life for a woman that doesn't want you anymore. Leave her alone. I know that love hurts but you have got to stop using your heart to think and allow it to do its real job which is to pump blood.

Fela: I can't.

The father kept quiet for a few minutes taking in what his son had just said.

Rra Fela: Ok. Tell me something...

Fela: What?

Rra Fela: Does she feel the same way? Did she tell you that she still has feelings for you?

Fela: She didn't have to. I know Seba and I could tell from just looking at her that she still loves me.

Rra Fela: And here I was thinking that you're

smart and you have changed yet you're still the same foolish boy from two years ago. Get a grip and grow some bal*s. That woman has moved on and she has a life of her own. Leave her alone and focus on the real reason why you're there. Stop trying to drive things to a point you won't be able to control them from. This is how men kill their exes. It's been two years and quite honestly this back and forth about Sebaga is starting to annoy the heck out of me. It's not like she is the prettiest or smartest girl out there. Go out and meet new people. Sebaga, Sebaga as if she is a goddess.

The old man clicked his tongue and hung up.

At Sebaga's

Seba dropped the glass of water she was

holding and her throat dried up as a man she didn't know spoke on the other side of the line.

Phala: Are you joining us or should we join you?

Sebaga: Who did you say you were again?

She ran to the living room to make sure that the bugler door was locked before checking the kitchen.

Sebaga: I'm calling the police.

Phala: That's for you to decide but let's hope that by the time they get here, your husband will be alive.

She ran back to her room to check on her daughter who was sleeping peacefully in her

baby cot.

Sebaga: I don't know what this is about but you probably got the whole thing wrong. I doubt that Martin would disrespect me or you like that. Finding them in the same room means nothing.

Phala: I was trying to be nice by cutting out some of the details but let me paint a better picture since you don't seem to get it. I found your man fuc*ng my wife on our matrimonial bed. She was ontop of him and he was enjoying the whole thing while handcuffed. What other detail do you need? Are you coming to join the party or should we come over?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#66

At Sebaga's

Seba sat on her bed and ran the number that had called her on true caller. Everything went numb and cold when she realized that it was indeed from her husband's boss. What would the old man gain from calling to tell lies about her husband. Someone in his position didn't even have time for such games. She took deep breaths and winced at the pain from her chest.

Sebaga: God no!

She stood up and made a call to him while looking over her daughter's baby cot.

Phala: Are you outside?

Sebaga: I don't know where you live. Can you please send me directions to your house.

Phala: What will you do about the baby?

Sebaga: I said that I was coming.

She said as tears blurred her eyes. The pain of having to accept that the man she trusted had betrayed her cut too deep.

Phala: Ok. I will drop a pin for you. We are in Matshwane. My house is the biggest here so you can't miss it.

He chuckled then hung up. There was something about his voice that sent chills to her

spine. The man on the phone didn't sound like a man that was just interested in a little get together. There must have been something that he was planning. She dialed Serge then put the phone on loudspeaker as she took off her sleeping shirt and grabbed a dress.

Serge: Hey bit*h.

Sebaga: Tsala.

She broke down in tears.

Serge: Who are we fuc*ing up?

Sebaga: Can you please come over?

Serge: Now?

She broke down and cried leaving him with so

many questions.

Serge: Tsala I was in the middle of a steamy sex session but tell you what, give me ten minutes. I'm around your neighborhood. Go tlo nyewa ga ke tsena koo. (Once I arrive, people are going to shit on themselves.)

She hung up and picked up the baby bag from the side then began to pack up some diapers. Each time she looked at her child, she would break down and cry.

At Phala's

Phala made himself comfortable and laid back as he sipped on a glass of whiskey looking at the two who were still on their knees.

Bogadi: Rragwe Mo tlhe mangole ame a botlhoko tla ke nne habatshe. (My knees are painful, can I sit down?)

He chuckled and looked at his wife.

Phala: When do they become painful? Aren't you the one that was riding that small boy like a twenty five year old? Please don't annoy me, kneel there till his wife joins the party otherwise I will break your kneecaps with this gun.

Martin: Do we really have to involve my wife? I mean she did nothing wrong and she wasn't there when I messed up.

Phala: I wasn't there either yet you two choose to disrespect me in my own house. Why couldn't you go to a guest house? Don't I pay

you enough?

Martin: I'm really sorry. It was a mistake. It will never happen again.

Phala: It can't be a mistake when you have constantly enjoyed my wife in my absence. Allow me to also do the same.

He swallowed hard.

Martin: She is a new mum.

Phala: The kind of disrespect that woman had to face is painful. You and my wife have been sneaking around for a while now meaning that even when she was pregnant with your child, you still got up to this. I will honestly never understand how a smart and beautiful woman settles for a guy like you. I'm a man but I can tell that you're a terrible lover by just looking at you.

At Sebaga's

Serge parked outside Sebaga's gate and hooted with the volume on full blast. He sang along to his favorite song and hooted countless times before the gate opened. He drove through the gate and parked in the driveway then stepped out in shorts and a muscle top.

Serge: The bead girl!

He shouted while knocking on the door.

A few minutes later Seba opened the door with the baby in her arms.

Serge: Tell me!

He said while opening a beer.

Sebaga: Serge!

She said looking at the beer feeling very annoyed.

Serge: Some things need a bit of courage when you attend to them. I could tell that something is not right. It's either someone is cheating or a side confronted you. Not that I care which one it is because I'm ready baby!

You could tell that he was drunk.

Sebaga: Martin's boss just called me.
Apparently he caught him with his wife in his house.

Serge: Waaka ngwanaka!

She gave him her car keys.

Serge: So why did he call you? Did you send him?
And what about the kid? Where are we taking
her?

Sebaga: My nanny is off today. He wants to see
me.

Serge: Call your nanny and ask her if she can't
look after her. I will pay her double of what she
makes in a day if I have to. Babe you and I
might be spending a night in a cell.

Sebaga: Whqt? I have no reason to fight.

Serge: We are taking my car. Jump in the back

with the baby and let's drop her off at your nanny's place. She still lives in the same place?

Sebaga: What?

Serge: Let's just say that it was not the first time I saw her the other day.

He said getting into his car and starting the engine.

Serge: Let's go. What are you waiting for.

She opened the door and threw the baby bag then jumped in with her.

Serge: Hold on baby! Uncle drives like a maniac.

The fact that Serge wasn't taking this seriously

left Sebaga speechless but then again this was Serge.

After dropping off the baby at the nanny's, the duo drove to Matshwane.

At Phala's

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The Devil I Never Knew

#67

At Phala's

Serge parked his car by the gate and laughed as Seba took out her phone from the bag. The fact that they were at this man's house left him floored.

Sebaga: What's funny?

Serge: Don't call him.

Sebaga: Then how will he know that we are out here?

Serge: I can't believe this. What the hell is Maun turning into?

He said taking out his phone and dialing Phala's number.

Phala: What do you want? I'm busy.

Serge: I'm outside your gate.

Phala: What? Did I not ask you to never come here again?

He said standing up with his gun.

Serge: Can you please open the gate, akere you said my friend should come over, so open up because we are outside and ready to join all of you.

He hung up then turned to the two.

Phala: You two stay here. I will be back.

They both kept quiet as he went downstairs.

Bogadi: Get dressed, I have my gate button,

when we get downstairs I'm gonna open up so you can run. My husband will not leave you. He is probably going to kill your entire family then bury you alive with them.

Martin: What?

A tear rolled down his cheeks.

Martin: You knew this and continued having an affair with me?

Bogadi kept quiet and picked up her dress.

Outside

Serge stepped out of the car and waved at Phala as he opened the gate.

Phala: Didn't I tell you that I never wanna see you again?

Serge: I told you that this attitude will send you to an early grave.

He said wrapping his arms around him.

Sebaga: We are here.

The old man got furious and pushed him back.

Phala: Why did you bring this guy?

Sebaga: So where are they?

Phala: This is between me and you. You don't get to bring strangers to my house.

Sebaga: I can tell that you two know each other but I'm not here for that. You called and said my husband was sleeping with your wife.

Serge pulled Seba by the hand and forced his way into the yard while the old man stood by the car.

Phala: Where do you think you're going?

He said taking out his gun and pointing at them.

Serge: You still have a thing for guns?

Phala: Shut up!

Sebaga stood behind Serge trembling but even she could tell that he was unbothered.

Serge: Oh there they are.

He pointed at Martin as he ran out of the house in his boxers.

Phala: Keep running and I will shoot you!

His wife followed him in a gown.

Serge: And I get to meet the wife at last.

Phala: Shut up. Martin on your knees. Don't make me shoot anyone here.

Bogadi tried to stand by her husband's side but he pointed the gun at her too.

Phala: You too.

She and Martin went on their knees.

Sebaga: What happened?

She said looking at her husband in tears. What hurt the most was the fact that the truth was right before her eyes yet she hoped that it was some kind of mistake.

Phala: I found your husband naked in my house with my wife. I have called you here because I want to be compensated.

Sebaga: By who?

Phala: By you in exchange for your husband's

life.

He took out his phone and clicked on the video of his wife riding Martin.

Phala: I want the same action.

Sebaga: Excuse me?

Phala: You give me the same experience, I will forget about all this and let him go.

Serge grabbed the phone from Seba and watched then swallowed as he turned to his friend. Her whole face had changed and he could tell that she wanted to cry.

Sebaga: I'm afraid that you're gonna have to kill them both because I don't give a shit!

She said releasing her anger.

Sebaga: You wasted my time by calling me here because these two never involved me in their games when they started. Sort it out with them.
Serge let's go.

Serge: It was nice bumping into you Dzaddy. I hope that your wife has taught you how to shave because no one wants to lick anything with hair especially those balls.

Bogadi stood up and turned to her husband.

Bogadi: What?

Serge: He likes it when one licks and sucks his balls. O mo hupe makwele ao mma a lese go kuwa ele lantlha a utlwa monate. Use some of

this energy to give him action as well because he becomes our problem out there.

Bogadi: You're gay?

She said hitting his chest.

Bogadi: You cheated on me with a man?

Tears burned her eyes as Phala left them and walked to the house.

Bogadi: Don't walk away from me, you crucified me for cheating while you knew that you stick your dic in another man's anus then come home to me?

She ran behind him.

Serge: Daddy call me when you learn how to shave.

He took his friend's hand.

Serge: Let's go!

Martin: Babe?

She clicked her tongue and walked out of the yard hand in hand with Serge.

Martin: Can we talk about this?

They ignored him and got inside the car.

Martin: Babe.

She rolled down the window.

Sebaga: Make sure that you grab all your shit from the house otherwise I'm the one that's going to cut off your dic with a kitchen scissors.

Serge started the car and drove off.

Serge: What a day!

He said reaching for his beer.

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Bonus1

The Devil I Never Knew

#68

That same evening

At Serge's

Sebaga laid on the couch and closed her eyes hoping that she would open them to a different day and different circumstances.

Serge: I'm sorry my friend but half the husbands in this town cheat on their wives. Majority are gays who use marriage as a front. I don't know what to say to make it hurt less.

Sebaga: I'm so disappointed! To think that I

trusted this guy and gave him all of my heart even after I struggled to trust hurts the most. And I kept asking him not to hurt me.

Serge: What can I say babes? Men might be delicious but even that comes at a price.

Sebaga: Did you know who we were going to see before we got there?

Serge: No but I knew instantly once we got to the house.

Sebaga: Did you two really fuc or you were just saying that to spite his wife?

Serge: We did. Not once or twice. I've known that old man for over a year.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say. Did you know that he was married?

Serge: Does it really matter? At the end of the day the one that broke his wedding vows is him. Honey I'm gay as they come and I've never

hidden that or made any commitment to anyone. I'm a young man having fun. The one that should be crucified is the married one not me.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say. Koore my life just keeps getting dramatic.

Serge: And it shows that you're a living being.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: This is just some consolation.

Serge: Le wena go out there and live life. Stop writing yourself down as just a devoted wife and mother. This guy actually cheats because he is aware how much you value this marriage. Put yourself first, get down and just live.

Sebaga: That's where you're getting it wrong. I might be such a fan of marriage and love but

my sanity will always come first.

Serge: Now that's exactly what I want to hear.

Sebaga: I just don't know where to from here.

Serge: Eish. Let's drink, we can worry about that tomorrow. I just messed up my trip sponsor.

Sebaga: What?

Serge: That pig might have been old but he was a good rewarder. Do you remember my trip to Italy a few months ago?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Serge: He sponsored that.

Sebaga: His wife probably sponsored all our family trips too.

They both laughed.

Serge: I'm sorry my friend.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Serge: For what?

Sebaga: For being my friend and having my back. I know that I've pushed you away so many times but no one has had my back in this town like you do.

Serge: Well it's easy. You also have my back. I probably would have been fired ages ago if it wasn't for you.

Sebaga: Damm right about that one.

Serge: Tell you what, let's go out. Let's go drinking till our heads pound.

Sebaga: I know you mean well my friend but the last thing I want is to end up with regrets from a couple of bad decisions I made while I was drunk. Let's just stay home and drink here.

Serge: Ok babes.

At Phala's

Bogadi threw her husband's clothes out of the closet while he laid on the bed care free.

Phala: And what exactly do you think you're doing?

Bogadi: Waitsi gore wa ntlwaela Phala. You drag and embarrass me for cheating while you know very well that you're gay. Did you even marry me for love or I was just a front you used for the respect of the community and your family?

Phala: Does it matter who I cheated on you with? From where I'm standing, we both cheated on each other. No one is a saint here. Sex is sex whether it's with a man or a woman. Relax and stop acting like you don't know that men do these kind of things all the time.

Bogadi: Well I'm not staying married to you. I'm going to tell the children and your family about this.

Phala: And I will simply show them what you get upto. Do what makes you happy woman.

She frustratedly walked out and banged the door.

Phala: Busy acting like a saint when she rides other men.

A few days later..

At the office

Serge fixed Sebaga's hair and smiled as she

flipped it.

Serge: That's it babes.

Sebaga: To think that Martin used to do this for me every morning.

She sighed heavily as her heart broke.

Serge: I didn't wanna say this for the longest time because I didn't wanna be the one to hurt you but seeing that the pig has shown his true colors, I think it's time you know that he's also gay.

Sebaga: What?

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#69

At Sebaga's Office

Sebaga stood up and picked up the remote to the air conditioner as the temperature suddenly raised.

Serge: Sit down. The air conditioner is on.

She fanned herself with her hand as her heart pounded.

Sebaga: Did you sleep with him?

Her entire world stopped.

Serge: No. I don't have to sleep with him to determine that he is gay. I can see one from a distance.

Sebaga: You could be wrong. I mean you're just assuming. The guy is a pig as you say but throwing accusations like that?

Serge: Ok let's see. He helps you out in the kitchen and even helps you pick outfits like he's your stylist and just a few minutes ago, you said that he fixed your hair every morning. Honey straight men don't even know that colors have different shades yet your husband knows all of them.

Her heart sunk as she started connecting piece by piece.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say.

Serge: The red flags were always there, it's only that love is blind as they say. Because you love him, you saw a loving guy and we saw him for what he really is.

Sebaga: I feel like I'm gonna be sick for a whole month. I mean do you think he knows this kana le ene he probably doesn't even know because I've never see him with any other man. I mean wouldn't he have cheated with a man instead?

Serge: Trust me, he is aware. He knows it and he feels it. When those feelings are in you, you can't suppress them.

Sebaga: Maybe he's bi.

Serge: I don't think so. Babe that guy is very

much gay. He might play for the other team to cover up who he really is.

Sebaga: Yet he cheated with a woman not a man. Make me understand! What the fuc is going on with my life?

She laughed then sat down and unbuttoned her shirt.

Sebaga: My life is a joke! I don't know but for the very first time, I'm so glad I moved and started a life of my own here because if I was back home and this happened, I would have probably killed myself from all this shame.

Serge: You don't have to be ashamed.

Sebaga: After running away from the problems I had to this? Babes I literally jumped from a frying pan into fire.

Serge: And there is nothing wrong with that. It happens. We leave toxic relationships with the hope of finding better ones and at times you realize that what you had before was not that bad but that should never set you back. We move babes! The most important thing is to never settle for what makes you miserable in attempt to play hero or appear as a strong person that doesn't run when they meet problems. I think you're a resilient person. I had thought that when you saw that gun, you would beg on his behalf but even then, you choose you. That takes a really strong person.

Sebaga: I don't know babes. My life is a whole mess.

Serge: Then on the other hand, there is Fela!

Sebaga: Don't tell me about that one.

Serge: Heiii kuningi, kuningier, kuningest!

Sebaga: (laughed) Tlhe rra wa lapisa.

Serge: I returned him this morning in the reception area are he is looking for you.

Sebaga: Thank you babe. The last thing I need is him bothering me.

Serge: Such a fine man with so much baggage. Ramasedi a letse porompeta once. (Jesus must just come once.)

Sebaga: Yooh.

Serge: I don't know but I got a feeling that he really loves you, my problem with him is that he plays a crazy obsessed ex and that for me is always a red flag.

Sebaga: This is what I kept telling you.

Serge: Wena you just need to take a break from the streets of love my friend. Do you and figure things out alone.

Sebaga: That's when aunty Martin leaves me alone.

Serge: It will take a while. It's only been a few days and you know what they say about the kicks of a dying horse.

Sebaga: During such times, I wish I had a family or something closer to that where I could take my child for a bit and go through this. I can't tell you the stress of going through as a mother. This morning I put on some songs to sing and cry to on my phone while doing my make up and she cried the entire time, I suddenly couldn't go through because I had to play mum.

Serge cracked up and laughed.

Serge: O santse ore wa lela verse e gakala mma e tsamaya hale ha bo, (Singing)

♪♪And all the time, you were telling me lies, ay

So tonight, I'm gonna find a way to make it
without you🎶

Serge: Then boom, she cries louder than you.
And you realize that no ma'am, this child's
problems are bigger than mine. I'm not going
through. Kante that time she is just crying for a
bottle of milk.

They both cracked up and laughed.

Sebaga: Serge, go back to your office otherwise
we are both gonna get fired. You're never
serious about anything kana.

At Sebaga's

Martin laid in bed with his daughter and took deep breaths as he read through his wife's messages to him. He had left that woman broken and even he knew that she would never take him back. He took his daughter's little hand and kissed it.

Martin: I'm sorry baby.

He had messed up the only good thing to ever come out of his life and now that he was out of a job, being rejected by his wife was the last nail to the coffin. He tried to keep himself motivated but it hurt more every second that he couldn't take it anymore.

He stood up and locked the room then opened the drawers and picked out a couple of pills before reaching for a bottle of water in their

mini bar.

Martin: I'm sorry my child. The world is just too cruel.

He grabbed a pillow and put it over her head then pressed hard as Lily kicked. A few moments later when she had stopped fighting back, he threw the pillow to the side and took the pills then laid in bed

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Bonus 3

Hello team no sleep ❤️ As you read attend to your sponsors so we have inserts to read

tomorrow.

The Devil I Never Knew

#70

Later that day

At Sebaga's

The nanny stood by her boss's bedroom door and knocked a couple of times before calling out Martin.

Aunty: Rragwe Lily! Rragwe Lily?

This time she knocked harder as her heart pounded. She tried to open the door but it was locked so she ran to the living room to call her

boss.

Sebaga: Hie aunty, tlhe mma I will be home a bit late. I have an appointment that goes up to five. I'm really sorry but I'll make it up to you from tomorrow. I've taken the whole week off.

Aunty: I don't know what is going on but Rragwe Lily has locked himself in the room with the baby and he is not opening.

Sebaga: Did you try calling him? Maybe they are asleep.

Aunty: They have been in there for the whole day.

Sebaga: And they have not come out ever since?

Aunty: He only came out to get her milk and a few nappies but that was hours ago. I have not heard her cry or make any sound for the past few hours.

Sebaga: I'm on my way. Please keep knocking.

Her palpitations raised as she thought of her little girl. She stood up and picked up her car keys then ran out to Serge's office.

She walked right in without knocking.

Serge: Twice in one day. Tell me what happened! I'm here for the tea.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she spoke.

Sebaga: I don't know what happening but I just got off the phone with aunty and she says that Martin has been with Lily in the room all day. Apparently the door is locked and there are not

answering.

He stood up and picked up his phone and office keys.

Serge: Maybe they are sleeping.

Sebaga: That's what I said but apparently there has been no sound coming from that room for hours now. I mean shouldn't he have come out for food or maybe a bottle of milk for her after the first one?

Serge: Let's go!

Sebaga took off her heels and ran out of the office.

At Maun Lodge

Fela went through the company profile and smiled from ear to ear. Knowing that he had put all this together left him feeling proud. He had messed up a lot of things in his life but this company and his son were one of his best achievements.

He sipped on his drink then picked up his phone to dial his father.

Rra Fela: Mr Molefe Sir.

Fela: Hie dad. How are you?

Rra Fela: I'm well son. I can't complain. How are you?

Fela: Better. Everything is going well this side and I think I finally know what's next for me.

Rra Fela: I don't know what this is about but I

like everything I'm hearing right now. You sound lighter.

Fela: I am . Dad you were right. I love Seba but that train long left the train station and it's time to fully accept it. I put someone in charge of the Maun branch this morning. I'm coming back home tomorrow. If I don't leave this place then I will never be able to let go or even heal. Le ene hela Seba I'm being unfair to her. She deserves to live her life without me making it difficult at every chance I get.

Rra Fela: That's the spirit. I love the sound of that son. The other day you were sounding like someone that has gone mad. I'm glad that you have come back to your senses.

Fela: Me too. I went to her office this morning but I was told that she is not around even though I saw her car in the parking lot.

Rra Fela: Let go son and come back home. Your

son needs you.

Fela: Thank you dad.

Rra Fela: You're welcome son.

He hung up and released a sigh of relief...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga's heart pounded as Serge drove through her gate. She opened the door while the car was moving as she got impatient.

Serge: Tsala tlhe mma o tla nkgolega.

He parked the car and before he could even step out of the car, she had already flew into the house.

Aunty: There is still no answer.

She ignored her and banged on the door.

Sebaga: Martin! Martin! Give me my child!
Martin!

Serge walked in and joined them as they
banged on the door.

Sebaga: Martin, open the door and give me my
child you piss of sh*t!

She said crying and shouting.

Serge: We're gonna have to break this door because no one is answering. Move back ladies.

He kicked the door a couple of times before it burst open...

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Bonus 4

Kindly attend to sponsors before 13:00hrs, you don't wanna miss the next episodes.

The Devil I Never Knew

#71

At Sebaga's

Sebaga and Serge ran into the room as the door burst open and their jaws instantly dropped at the sight of Martin laying there with so many bottles of pills. Lily on the other side rested peacefully like someone that was asleep. Her mother picked her up and tried to get her to wake up several times.

Sebaga: Lily! Baby girl! Wake up!

A loud cry could be heard even from the neighbors as she placed her on the bed and tried to give her a mouth to mouth.

Martin: Seba, give her to me.

Aunty stood by the door with tears burning her

eyes. That little girl was gone and no matter how much they tried to resuscitate her, she wouldn't come back to life. It broke her even more than the mother could tell that she was no more yet she kept trying.

Seba screamed with her baby in her arms.

Aunty walked in and took her from her as Serge called the police.

Sebaga: Give me my child back.

She said wailing in pain.

Serge took her by the hand and supported her leading her out of the room.

Sebaga: (Crying) I want my child back.

Tears blurred her vision but she kept fighting.

Serge: Calm down baby.

She collapsed and soon Serge was the one crying helplessly...

Serge: Aunty!

Later that day

At the hospital

Sebaga put her hands over her head as the doctor left her and Serge in the room. The thought of burrying her daughter's tiny body left her empty and broken.

Serge: I'm really sorry my friend. I don't know what to say to you.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she remained numb.

Outside aunty wiped her tears and breathed heavily with the phone on her ear.

Aunty: They were both certified dead upon arrival at the hospital. Heish mma ga go bonolo tota mo go Sebaga. They have admitted her. She can't even talk.

Lady: I'm really sorry. Can I pick you up? I can't imagine what you must also be going through.

Aunty: I can't leave her here alone. Akere you know that she doesn't have any family apart from me.

Lady: Tota gatwe bogare go ne ga tsena eng?
(What came between those two?) That couple was one of the couples we admired because that man adored his wife and daughter.

Aunty: Nna kana even when he came over, I didn't think anything because he usually comes to spend time with his daughter. When he still lived here, he would come home early and give me the day off while he remained with Lily. I'm so scared and really hurt. I can understand that they had problems but why take the child with him? Waitsi keeng, my heart is so sore.

Lady: Be comforted my girl.

Aunty hung up then sat by the waiting area hoping that someone would come out of the room with an update. A few minutes later Serge came out of the room.

Serge: Hie. You're still here?

Aunty: Yes. I can't leave her here. How is she?

Serge: She is broken. I've never seen her like this. She can't even talk or make a sound. I don't even know what to do or say. The pain my friend is in is unbearable. The way she screamed and tried to revive her child really got to me.

Aunty: I don't know what to say. Where do we start.

Serge: Eish this is too much. Let me wait to hear when they will be discharging her so that we can all go to my house. I doubt she can sleep in that house tonight.

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Bonus 5

No bonuses owed so make sure you reach targets.

The Devil I Never Knew

#72

The following day

At Sebaga's office

Fela parked his car in the parking lot next to

Sebaga's car. He looked at himself in the rear view mirror for a few moments before he stepped out of the vehicle with a couple of folders. A part of him was torn that this could be the final goodbye to the love of his life but he had to accept his losses and move on. He stepped into the office with his best suit then headed straight to the reception area where he exchanged pleasantries with the receptionist.

Fela: I'm here to see Mrs Monyatsi.

Receptionist: Im afraid that won't be possible sir.

Fela: I don't know what she said to you but I have every right to see her. I'm her client and the last time I checked I don't owe this firm anything. I'm up-to date with my payments so you're the one that actually owes me.

Receptionist: Mr B will be seeing you on her

behalf.

Fela: Just like that? Listen ma'am I don't know how you do things around here but in my line of business, we respect our clients. If Mrs Monyatsi is changing lawyers on my behalf then she needs to talk to me directly. She is not doing pro-bono work after all.

The receptionist shamefully bowed as Serge walked in.

Serge: Good morning. Is everything alright?

Fela: No! I want to see my lawyer and your receptionist won't allow me to see her.

Serge: Can we talk in my office?

Fela: Sure.

He followed Serge to his office.

Serge: I apologize about that. Please take a sit.

He said as he pulled his chair and sat down.
Fela did the same and the two faced each other.

Fela: Can I see my lawyer. I'm leaving town and I need to straighten a few things with her as I've assigned someone else to take care of the business.

Serge: I'm afraid that won't be possible. Mrs Monyatsi lost her child and husband yesterday so she won't be available for a while. I have been through your file and I know what is expected so if you don't mind, I would like to take over.

Fela: She what? I mean what happened?

Serge: I'm afraid I can't go into details. It's a personal matter.

Fela: I understand that. Is she okay?

***before you finish reading insert, there is a sponsor that has been shared immediately after this insert, deadline is 17:00hrs.

He scratched his head and breathed heavily regretting his question.

Fela: I mean of course, she is not okay. Is there anybody that is with her at the moment?

Serge: Yes. I will be leaving the office to be with her. Her helper is also around.

Fela: She still doesn't speak to her family?

Serge: Listen Fela, I understand that you two

have some kind of history but this is personal.

Fela: She is very close to her father. Contact him.

Serge :Thank you.

Fela: Also try Melitah. This is too heavy for her to process alone. Please hold her hand through it. She has been through so much.

Serge: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Fela: Take my number from my file and let me know if you need anything to help her.

Serge: Fela!

Fela: She doesn't have to know about it. No one deserves to go through this alone. Just allow me to help her even if it's in the shadows.

Serge: I will give you a call later.

Fela: Thank you.

He stood up and they shook hands.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga walked into her room and picked up her daughter's blanket then held on to it tightly as she cried. The pain of losing her little girl cut way too deep and it felt like it would never cease. She fell on her knees and broke down in tears. What Martin did to her would never heal and she would never forgive. Aunty walked into the room and went on her knees next to her.

Aunty: It is well my baby.

She comforted her as she cried even though she was broken inside as well.

At the office

Serge sat by his desk and thoughtfully laid back as his conversation with Fela played in his head. He stood up and packed his things then left. His friend needed him now more than ever and even though he couldn't take away the pain, he would try and be there in every way. He walked into the reception and picked up the flowers and the card that had been signed by the rest of his colleagues.

Serge: I will be back after lunch. I'm going to see how she is doing.

Receptionist: Please send our love. Tell her that she is in our thoughts and prayers.

Serge: Thank you. She will appreciate that.

Receptionist: We will pass-by after work.

Serge: Sure. I guess we will go together.

He walked out of the premises with the flowers in hand.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#73

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Serge walked around the front gate with the

phone on his ear as he spoke to Rra Sebaga.

Rra Sebaga: I don't think I understand you. Ware who died? And who was killed by who?

The old men held on to his chest as he felt a huge wave of pain attack him. His phone fell and he dropped like a bag of potatoes.

Serge: Hello? Hello?

The neighbors that were sited outside ran to his yard and screamed for help.

At Sebaga's

Serge hung up then dialed Melitah's number.

Melitah: Hello.

Serge: Hie Mel. This is Serge. I'm a colleague and friend of Sebaga's.

Melitah: Hey. Thank God you called, I've been trying to get hold of her in the last couple of days but she is not taking my calls which is so unlike her. Is everything ok?

Serge: Eish.No. Everything is going wrong and she needs you.

Melitah: Can you please tell me what happened and stop talking in parables.

Serge: Martin and Lily passed away.

Melitah: How? Were they involved in a some kind of accident?

She felt the mother of all chest pains attacking her.

Serge: There is no better way to say this. Martin killed the baby then took his own life as well.

Melitah: Wa bo o reng tota? How? Did they have a fight? Was it about Fela?

Serge: When can you get here? Apart from myself and the nanny, Seba has no one mme kana le nna I still have to go to work and hold the fort since she is not in. This is not easy. She needs someone that can be here with her. I called the dad a few minutes ago but we can't seem to hear each other. I don't know if the news somehow shocked him kana it's the network.

Melitah: I'm in Serowe at the moment and I was headed back to Gaborone tomorrow. I will drive to Mahalapye now and pick him up. We will leave for Maun first thing in the morning. Please take care of my girl.

Serge: I will do just that.

Melitah: Thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

He hung up then went back inside.

Meanwhile at the Lodge Fela unparked his clothes and laid on the bed thinking of Sebaga. His phone rang and he jumped to take the call without looking at the caller identity hoping that it was her.

Fela: Hello.

Serge: Hi. This is Serge from Seba's office.

Fela: Mr B?

Serge: Yes. I just wanted to let you know that I managed to get hold of Seba's dad and Melitah.

They will be here tomorrow.

Fela: I'm glad to hear that. How is she doing?

He swallowed as he thought of her. What kind of love was this? Didn't they say as time went by, you healed and forgot all about it? Why did his heart keep growing fonder?

Serge: Eish. I don't know what to tell you.

Fela: I wish I could somehow help but I have to respect her wishes. The last time we spoke, she made it very clear that she didn't want anything to do with me.

Serge: Yeah.

Fela: You know Serge, I love that woman to the moon and back. I love her more than I can comprehend. I thought that after two years I would be over her but seeing her again just

reminded me how much I love her. I know that it sounds very unfair and selfish for me to say this especially after she has just lost her husband and child.

Serge: I hear you. I don't know if there will ever be room for second chances with her but however way it works out, goodluck man. Thanks for looking out for her.

Fela: Let me know if you need anything. I'm still in town. If you don't mind keep me posted about the arrangements.

Serge: I'm sorry but I've already crossed a line. I can't do that.

Fela: I don't plan on coming. I just wanna know that everything went well.

Serge: I don't think that will be appropriate.

Fela: I understand.

Serge: Thanks. Bye.

At Bogadi's

Bogadi's heart pounded as she read Martin's death announcement from the work group. She read the messages a couple of times before she went on Facebook to verify. There was no way that such a vibrant and happy young man would have taken his life and that of his child. She looked at their pictures guilt stricken . If she hadn't had an affair with him then maybe all of this wouldn't be happening. Her heart broke into pieces as she thought of what the mother of the child must have been going through. This was all her fault after all.

She grabbed her phone and went through the contacts to find Sebaga's number

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Bonus 1

Three more bonus inserts to go to

The Devil I Never Knew

#74

That same evening at Sebaga's

Seba grabbed a black plastic bag in the kitchen and went into her bedroom then began to pack up all of Martin's belongings. The fact that there was a trace of his cologne in the room irked her so she stripped the bed too as she cried. Each time she closed her eyes a memory of her daughter laying on the bed lifeless tortured her. Aunty walked in and took her by the hand.

Aunty: Come with me.

Every part of her body grew weak each time it registered in her head that her little girl wasn't coming back anymore.

Sebaga: Aunty!

She broke down and cried as they went into the other room.

Aunty: Come and lay down for a bit. I will clean up that side.

Sebaga: Aunty ke irileng Modimo? (Aunty what did I do to God?)

She wiped her tears with the back of her hand.

Sebaga: I mean, all my life, I've been told about God and Satan. The good and the bad and you know you know how hard I have tried to stay on the good side yet nothing good ever happens to me. I understand that he created me to drag me through so much pain but to take away my child like that? Why couldn't Martin kill me if he was mad at anyone. Can you imagine how scared Lily was. Bathong ngwanake! (My poor child)

Aunty silently looked away as tears built up in her eyes. Knowing that she had bathed Lily and played with her hours before broke her. This little girl had become a part of her everyday life and it broke her in so many ways to know that she would never see her again.

Aunty: Ngwanaka, nnaka... (My child, my little sister.) Ga ke itsi gore ke go reye ke reng kana ke go gomotse ke reng mme hela o itsi gore Modimo entse ke Modimo. (I don't know what to say to you or how to comfort you but God is still God.) You hear me my baby? I know how much you loved that little girl and how she meant the world to you but in your brokenness, remember that God will never leave you. He will mend that heart somehow. Pelo yame e khividu tota. (My heart is really sore.) Mme hela ngwanaka a re ipaakanyetse go ira thulaganyo ya go hitlha ngwana. (But let's prepare to burry the child.) I will be here every step of the way. I spoke to Serge and he has spoken to your dad and friend, they will be coming tomorrow. Would you like me to call your mum?

She regrettably looked away but what could she do? The girl needed her mother. All this was

heavy.

Sebaga: I don't want that woman here. My life is already sour as it is.

Aunty: I hear you my girl but you need her.

Sebaga: Aunty wee!

Her tone and face suddenly changed changed.

Aunty: Ee mma. I hear you.

Her phone rang and aunty jumped to get it.

Sebaga: Who is it?

Aunty looked at the caller identity and turned

the screen to her.

Aunty: It's. An unknown number. Can I take it?

Sebaga: Let me take it.

Aunty: Ok.

She gave her the phone.

Sebaga: Hello.

Bogadi: Hello.

Sebaga: Who is this?

Bogadi kept quiet for a while trying to put up the right words.

Sebaga: I said who is this.

Bogadi: Ke Bogadi. Martin's boss. We meet a few d...

Sebaga stood up as her temper raised.

Sebaga: Sebono sa bosso! Sebono sa Bogadi joo! After everything that you have done, you still have the guts to call me? Sebono sa sengwe le sengwe sa gago le di plate le di kopi tsa gago tota.

She hung up and threw the phone against the wall breaking down while aunty held her.

Two days later...

On that morning, a few of Seba and Martins's

friends and family gathered in the living room to make the final arrangements of the funeral.

Sebaga: kare I am not hurrying Martin. I don't care what you do with this body as his family but I want nothing to do with that devil. You want me to hurry a man who killed my child in cold blood?

Martin's uncle: But you are his wife.

Sebaga: He stopped being my husband the day he left our home and went to sleep with another woman then decided to kill my child.

Martin's uncle: Mme kana rona we are not sure that what you're saying is even true. Who knows, maybe you're the one that cheated on him and he decided to do all this to end the pain.

Sebag furiously looked at him.

Sebaga: So you want to force me to burry him.

Martin's brother: Like my uncle has said, you're his wife. It is your duty to do so and in all honesty you have his funds.

Sebaga: You wang to force me to hurry a man that killed my child? Ok! I will bury him. If I decide to bury him in a box of tomatoes then don't blame me because you forced me.

She said as a tear rolled down her cheeks.

Mma Moagi wrapped her arms around her and turned to her husband hoping that he would say something.

Rra Moagi: I have heard everyone here and I understand that we are all mourning but do we

really want to ignore the fact that he murdered his own child? I know that tradition says that a wife buries her husband but can't we compromise? Can't we sympathize with the mother that has just lost her child?

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Bonus 2

It's 04:30 🎶

The Devil I Never Knew

#75

At Seaga's

Seaga stood up and wrapped around the

blanket she had on her waist as everyone sat down discussing the burial.

Sebaga: I don't know what you will all do but I'm leaving to the mortuary to make arrangements for my child who your son killed in cold blood. I have all his policy documents, I can process everything for you. Keep the money and whatever benefits he had. I'm not interested in any of his things.

Martin's brother: What about the house and half of his assets? I think it will be fair if you were to give us his half since you don't want anything to do with him. You can not want his money while you don't want him.

Sebaga: Keep the assets and whatever you want but you're not getting this house. I will drag each and everyone of you to court and set an example of why in-laws should never be

greedy. What do you know about this house? I don't know what you know about me since you have remained in the shadows till now but I'm a family lawyer and I make examples out of people like you everyday so don't go there. When your brother was alive, you never once called to see or greet him and now you're telling me about a house?

Melitah stood up to support her friend.

Sebaga: I have tried to be nice in the past few days but if you want me to show you how crazy I can get then let's do that.

She walked out and went into her room leaving them.

Mma Moagi: Batsadi. (parents) There is nothing easy about losing a child especially in the manner that Sebaga lost her daughter. I understand that you're also mourning the loss of your son and it's not easy on you but can we atleast come to some sort of compromise? Why don't we bury the child and father separately?

Martin's brother: Why? Martin loved his daughter . That's why he choose to die with her. That girl is not telling us something, he probably decided to take his daughter with because he knew that she would suffer at the hands of Sebaga. My brother will not be separated from his child. Over my dead body.

Rra Sebaga: And no one will force my child to do anything that she doesn't want to do. A father kills his own child with so much cruelty and you speak of him and love in the same sentence? Do you know that my child will never

heal from this? You will go back to house and forget but for every day of her life, she has to relive this horror.

Sebaga came out of her room in a pair of black pants and a head wrap. She wore her shades and walked out as Mel went behind her.

Martin's uncle: Does that look like a woman that is in pain? She is wearing pants and she even has the energy to wear sunglasses and go out.

Rra Sebaga stood up...

Rra Sebaga: Heiii! Say that one more time and see what I will do to those khakhi pants of yours. You're speaking about my child.

Rra Moagi stood up and helped him settle.

Rra Moagi; It's ok. Let it go.

Meanwhile outside Sebaga got into her car and locked the doors as Melitah tapped on the windows. She rolled them down.

Melitah: Atleast let me go with you.

Sebaga: I appreciate that you want to be here with me but this is something I want to do on my own. I just want to see my child Mel.

Tears welled up in her eyes.

Sebaga: I can't take all that madness in there. If I stay, I'm going to go mad. I don't know but for

some reason, I would like to celebrate the life of my child instead of creating such ugly memories that will hurt me for the rest of my life. Let me go, I promise that I will be okay.

She started the car and sped off as Mma Moagi came running out of the house.

Mma Moagi: You let her go?

Melitah: She honestly needs this. Let her go. I know that it doesn't sit well with you but it's the only thing that will keep her sane.

Later that day

At the park

Fela miserably sat on a bench and took a couple of pictures as he reassessed his life. His thoughts were forever with Seba.

Meanwhile outside the park Seba parked her car and stepped out. She took deep breaths and forced a smile remembering all the memories they made here with her little girl.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#76

At the Park

Fela stood up and closely looked at the woman that was walking across the park. Everything about her resembled the love of his life but how could it be? He was probably over thinking. Sebaga had just lost a child and the possibilities of her being in a park during such a very difficult time were close to nil. He crossed over to the other side and walked faster approaching her.

Fela: Seba!

She turned around and waved at him then continued walking.

Fela: Wait up.

He ran to her till he caught up.

Fela: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Hie.

Fela: I mean hie. I wasn't so sure if it was you. I heard that you had...

He paused not knowing if he would be wrong to speak about it.

Sebaga: I just needed some fresh air. Everything in the house reminds me of her and I'm just...

She forced a smile as tears built up in her eyes.

Fela: I'm really sorry that you're going through all this. I don't know what to say.

Sebaga: Yeah neh.

She took a deep breath.

Fela: Can I walk with you? I don't expect us to talk about anything. I just want to see that you're fine.

Sebaga: Sure.

He stole glances at her and he could tell that she had been crying. Although it had been just a couple of days since he had last seen her, her weight loss was visible.

Sebaga: So how is your child?

He swallowed then looked away.

Fela: He's okay.

Sebaga: Good. Love and cherish him. Give him the very best of you because tomorrow is not promised. I kissed my little girl and left her on that morning to get to work with the knowledge that I would find her at home but I never got that. I never got to kiss her or hold her again.

Fela: I'm really sorry. Can I ask what happened?

She slowed down and looked up at him with her reddish swollen eyes.

Sebaga: My husband killed her.

His entire face changed and she could tell that he had so many questions although she didn't want to go through them.

Fela: I don't know what to say.

Sebaga: Me too. You think you know someone and they are your shield till they change and show you that they are the devil you never knew. My heart is full of so much pain and bitterness Fela. I've done everything right in love and yet I always get hurt.

He stretched his hand to hold hers.

Fela: I'm really sorry Seba.

He squeezed it and even though it was hurting so bad, she felt like things would be ok.

Sebaga: It's cool.

Fela: Have you eaten?

Sebaga: I don't want to eat. I'm okay.

Fela: Well you can't go on like that. Let's grab some ice cream or something. I know that it's not gonna make you feel any better or change things but you need to gather the strength to bury your little girl. She may be gone but she still deserves the very best of you. I didn't know her or your relationship but what I'm sure about is that you were a good mother because you're a selfless human being.

Sebaga: Thank you.

He took her hand and lead her out of the park.

Sebaga: Do you think that I'm heartless and I don't forgive?

Fela: Hmm?

He licked his lips...

Sebqga: You can be honest.

He lead her to his car and unlocked the doors with the remote keys then opened the passenger door for her.

Fela: Get in.

He closed the door and went around to the driver's side then hopped in.

Fela: I know a place that makes some really good smoothies.

Sebaga: I asked you a question.

Fela: No. I don't think that you're heartless.

Seaga: Then what kind of a person I'm I?

Fela: You're scared to love hard and risk with your emotions. You protect your heart at all costs and eliminate anything that you think will hurt you. At times you don't put much thought into it which leaves you making mistakes.

Seaga: Would you ever forgive the person that killed your child?

He kept his eyes on the road.

Fela: I honestly don't know. It's easy to judge and make conclusions when you're an outsider. It kicks in really hard when it's actually happening to you.

Seaga: I hear you.

Fela: But one thing I can tell you is that, it would

not be easy. I would probably hate them for the longest time. In time I pray for the grace and serenity to let go because hatred only steals from the host. It weighs hard on you.

Sebaga: I hear you.

He turned on the radio and played some music that got him through most days. Tamela Mann's take me to the King played.

🎵 Take me to the King

I don't have much to bring

My heart is torn in pieces

It's my offering

Take me to the King

Truth is I'm tired

Options are few

I'm trying to pray
But where are You?
I'm all churched out
Hurt and abused
I can't fake
What's left to do?
Truth is I'm weak
No strength to fight
No tears to cry
Even if I tried
But still my soul
Refuses to die♪♪

Seba closed her eyes and squeezed her eyelids together as she fought back her tears. This song explained how she felt at that instant.

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Bonus 4

Sorry for the delay, let's kickstart our day 

The Devil I Never Knew

#77

Later that evening

Sebaga rolled down her windows and wore her seat belt as Fela stood outside and leaned in. They had spent the last couple of hours just talking and driving around to nowhere.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Fela: You don't have to thank me. Just go home and be strong for your little girl. Do what you've got to do as a mother to bury her.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Fela: Drive safely and take care of yourself .

Sebaga: Thanks my friend.

She rolled up the windows and drove off headed home.

At Sebaga's

Fela's brother walked around the yard and admired the wooden furniture that was set outside. The place truly had his brother's touch.

Melitah closed the back door and approached him.

Melitah: Hie.

Him: Hie.

Melitah: Can we talk?

Him: What is it about?

Melitah: It's about the funeral. You're not family and I'll only speak to family.

Melitah: I've been in the lives of your brother and his wife for the past two years of their marriage and I've never heard of you on any specific time including the time we planned their wedding so I don't want to go into the issue of strangers because if we are being honest, I'm not the one to be called a stranger in their lives.

He shamefully looked the other way.

Melitah: I understand that you think you're fighting for your brother but tone it down. Everything might have gone south but one thing I know for sure is the fact that he wouldn't accept it if anyone treated Sebaga this way. I'm pretty sure that Sebaga is being respectful and trying to save the last bit of his dignity but everything that she said about him cheating is all true. There is even a video the husband to the wife he was having an affair with took. Speak to your uncle and ask him to make it easy for her. That woman is mourning the only child she had, the husband she believed she had and her marriage. Can you understand how hard that must be? Seba is not a greedy person but if you keep fighting with her like this, she will get back at you and keep even the things she would have loved to share with you.

Him: I hear you. So where is she now? Isn't she supposed to be home sitting on a mattress?

Melitah: If everyone pulled you in all sorts of directions during such a painful time, would you wanna be home?

He kept quiet.

Melitah: Speak to your uncle. This doesn't have to turn into a war.

Him: Sharp.

Inside the house Mma Moagi fixed her headwrap and turned to her husband.

Mma Moagi: Do you think that she is ok? It's been four hours since she has left home.

Rra Moagi: Heish! I don't know. I honestly don't blame her. There is too much going on here. Her in-laws are not making things any easy for her.

Mma Moagi: I don't understand why they can't just meet her halfway. Most families would jump at the opportunity to get the body of their son from the wife to bury.

Rra Moagi: They want to spite her.

Mma Moagi: Mma Sebaga called.

Rra Moagi: And?

She looked around to see if her brother inlaw was around.

Mma Moagi: They are already in Maun. They arrived this morning. She doesn't know how to go on about it because she knows exactly how

Seaga feels about her.

Rra Moagi: I really wish that there was a way to move past this but what my sister did is a lot. To put your own child through such agony.

Mma Moagi: I agree but in life we forgive and move on. We are humans after all. The fact that she came all the way risking the embarrassment means a lot. She is a mother. She is bound to feel something at some point. I understand that you doubt her but give her a chance.

Rra Moagi: That's not for me to decide.

Mma Moagi: Speak to her. You know that she listens to you.

Rra Moagi: Even after she has lost her child, you want us to make this about her mother? Tell that woman that she can wait. We are still attending to important matters here.

Mma Moagi: She is your sister.

Rra Moagi: So I should just agree?

Death has a way of bringing out so many emotions at once in everyone. Everyone in the house was in a different phase that left them with so many questions. While some pointed fingers at each other, others blamed themselves for the circumstances.

In the front

Martin's brother sat next to his uncle on the bench and sighed heavily.

Uncle: Hello son. How are you holding up?

Martin: I'm still shocked. I mean I have always known that Martin was different and that's one of the reasons our parents and the rest of the

family resented him but when I heard that he had taken a wife and they had a child, i was so relieved that he had healed from this disease of being gay. Never in a million years did I think that he would suffer from madness.

Uncle: Stop shouting.

He aggressively stood up shutting him up.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#78

At Sebaga's

Martin's uncle settled down and looked around

to see if anyone had heard them.

Uncle: Are you trying to embarrass us? Do you realize that if this girl's family finds out then they will have a field day.

Martin's brother: They are all in the house. No one heard us.

Uncle: That shameful past of his is buried and dead. He was a family man with a child and that is how we will remember him.

Martin's brother: Ee rra. Can't we just bury him? I understand that as his wife, expectation is that she should bury him but the circumstances surrounding this matter somehow excuse her from fulfilling that duty.

Uncle: And how do you think people will look at us? Hasn't that boy embarrassed us enough while he was still alive? Does he have to do that even in death?

Martin's brother kept quiet as Melitah's words replayed in his mind.

Martin's brother: If we can't bury him then let's at least make peace with her and try and have her see things our way. She has already suffered enough loss. Who knows, maybe she knew about his little secret and he had started cheating with men too.

Uncle: She is his wife and she must bury him. It's simple as that.

Martin's brother: If you won't make peace with her then I will.

He stood up and went back into the house.

At the guest house

Kgabiso took off her dress and laid on the bed next to her mother. The room was hot and there wasn't much that they could do since there was no electricity.

Mma Sebaga: When did they say that the electricity would be back? This place is so hot. I can't take it anymore.

Kgabiso: And you would think that they would have a generator.

Mma Sebaga: Maybe the business does not make enough.

Kgabiso: I doubt. I hear that Maun is a busy town.

Mma Sebaga drifted into her thoughts...

Kgabiso: What time do you think that we should go over?

The old woman swallowed as she thought of her last encounter with her daughter.

Kgabiso: Mama?

Mma Sebaga: What was that?

Kgabiso: Are you okay?

Mma Sebaga: Do you think that we made the right decision by coming here?

Kgabiso: I honestly don't know. I feel like Sebaga doesn't want us here and that is why she was able to hide her child and husband for this long. Sometimes when people hide, it's best not to disturb their peace by finding them.

Mma Sebaga: She is still my child. I can't allow her to go through all this on her own.

Kgabiso: Do you even think that she will allow you to hold her hand?

Mma Kgabiso: Even if she doesn't, I still want to be there.

Kgabiso: I hear you.

The following day

At Sebaga's

After such a long debate about the burial of Martin and his daughter, both families came to an agreement.

Sebaga: It's been a few days and all I want do is bury my child. I have only agreed to bury Martin because I want you two out of my house. In the

past few days, you have both made my life a living hell. I will not be mourning your son or doing anything that a wife is ought to do. The only thing I'm allowing is his body to come here before the burial because this was also his house.

She looked at Martin's uncle.

Sebaga: Your son is coming to this house for the last time as a housemate. I never knew him or the kind of man he was. Whatever we shared in the past now means nothing.

There was a knock at the door as everyone sat down attentively. Mma Moagi turned to her husband then at Sebaga wondering how this would turn out.

Melitah stood up to get the door and her jaws dropped instantly as she stood face to face with Mma Seaga.

Melitah: Uhhh..

Mma Seaga: Hello my girl. Can I come in? I want to see my daughter.

Rra Seaga turned pale at the sound of his ex wife's voice. This would definitely set back his daughter.

Seaga: Who is it?

Melitah froze wondering how she would explain.

Mma Seaga: Seba!

She walked past Melitah and went straight to where her daughter was sited.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#79

At Sebaga's

Sebaga looked at her mother then swallowed a couple of times. Just being in the same room as this woman made her stomach turn. Her touch made her furious but she kept herself

composed.

Mma Moagi: Please have a sit.

She said standing up and allowing her to sit next to her daughter. Rra Sebaga uncomfortable moved his butt around the chair as it suddenly felt hot. He turned to Mma Moagi but she quickly turned away avoiding eye contact with him. He knew his daughter very well. She would change any moment now and cause a scene that would have the old lady regretting this moment her entire life.

Meanwhile outside Serge sipped his beer out of a coffee mug as aunty had her tea.

Aunty: God is going to punish you for drinking at

a funeral.

Serge: I'm pretty sure that God understands that I need a drink to cope. These have been the longest days of my entire life.

Aunty: Heii! I don't know what to say. I have never prayed this hard.

Serge: I don't pray or pretend to but I will tell you this, yesterday I prayed for God to give my friend peace. Waitsi gore Sebaga is going through the most. I don't understand how one person gets thrown all these problems all at once.

Aunty: She is a strong girl. I personally think that she has handled this so well. I don't know if I would still be alive if it was me.

Serge: Say that again.

He downed his beer and looked up shaking his

head.

Serge: What I still can't believe is the fact that the pig's family knew that he was gay all this time.

Aunty: Serge! I keep telling you not to speak ill of the dead. Do you want his ghost to follow us?

Serge: I'm just saying.

Aunty: Don't say anything to Sebaga now. It will drive her crazy. She is already dealing with a lot.

Serge: Yeah. Well he's already dead so I guess it won't make a difference. It just irks me that the family knew yet they are here playing family of the year and dictating to Sebaga on how she ought to move. Selfish family.

Aunty: Thank you. I know you and you never keep anything a secret but please try your best with this one. I don't know what this will do to

her now.

Serge: Well this time things are serious. I know what's at stake.

Aunty: I realized that when you didn't get involved with the family drama. That's what real friends should do. Know when to step back.

Serge: And what do you think will happen now that the mother is here?

Aunty: I honestly don't know but a part of me hopes that Seba will let it go for now. She needs to bury her child in a dignified manner and part of doing that is letting go of even things that steal your peace. The burial is the day after tomorrow so if she can hold on till that.

Serge: Yeah. I hate to agree with this but you're right.

Aunty: It shall be well.

Serge: Well either way I hope that pig burns in

hell forever.

Aunty: Serge!

Serge: I'm wishing him well. It's a place he deserves.

A car pulled up in front of the gate and a lady that resembled Sebaga stepped out and approached them.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#80

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso fixed her dress then walked through the gate that was already opened. She greeted Aunty and Serge as they carefully looked at her.

Kgabiso: Can I go in kana legale they are having a family meeting?

Serge: And who are you?

Aunty gave him an evil eye but he kept a straight face as his suspicions ran with him.

Kgabiso: Sebaga's sister.

Serge and aunty both looked at each other with desperate looks.

Serge: The man stealer?

Kgabiso swallowed and shamefully looked away pulling down her dress.

Serge: And yet you're here? What do you people exactly want from my friend? Does the fact that she is suffering not bother you? The woman has just lost a child for crying out loud. Let her have some peace ijoo!

Aunty pressed Serge to get him to stay quiet but he was fuming. The presence of this woman had set him off completely.

Kgabiso: What do you want us to do? Stay away even when we know that she needs some

support? Don't you have family? And don't you ever fight with them?

Serge: There is a difference between fighting and plotting against people. You're the reason your sister moved here. This wasn't just for fun, it was to find peace! Away from you!

Kgabiso: And who are you?

Serge: It doesn't matter. Your timing is wrong and you know it. If you had truly wanted to fix things with your sister then you would have reached out sooner.

Kgabiso: Death has a way of making you realize that there isn't time.

Serge: I hear you but I will tell you the truth, I think you're low-key here to have a front row seat to witness her suffering. But what do I know? I'm just a guy that lives very far from negativity.

Kgabiso ignored him and walked to the house then stood outside contemplating on whether to go in or not.

Aunty: I have never seen such dramatic people. Why couldn't they just sneak to the burial then see her after afterwards? She is going to lose it.

Serge: That's the thing, they need to make their presence felt now and make sure to witness her suffering but what do I know because I don't have a family. Mme legale this is the kind of fakeness I don't want.

Inside the house

Mma Sebaga put her arms around her daughter as she quietly listened to the program for the burial.

Malome: I think that concludes it. What we all need to understand is the fact that no one is here for fun. We have all lost someone special to us no matter how bad we may think they were.

Sebaga silently stood up as the old man spoke and went into her room.

Mma Moagi stood up and followed her into the room.

Mma Moagi: My girl.

She closed the door and stood up with her hands on her waist as Seba laid in bed.

Mma Moagi: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Who invited that woman to my house?

Mma Moagi: That woman is your mother.

Sebaga: I asked a question. I would like an answer to it.

Mma Moagi kept quiet guilt stricken.

Sebaga: I just want to burry my child in peace. Can you allow me to have that and stop inviting anyone or anything that will steal my peace further. I'm tired ok.

She covered herself with a blanket as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Mma Moagi: Can I bring you anything?

Sebaga: You invited that woman. Make sure that she stays out of my way.

Mma Moagi: I was so scared thinking that you would chase her away and cause drama. Thank you for handling it well.

Seba kept quiet and continued crying.

In the living room Kgabiso looked around the huge living room as her cousins came out of the kitchen with a tray of tea and some scones for the elders. She gently poked her mother and moved closer to whisper something in her ear.

Kgabiso: Where is Seba?

Mma Sebaga: She is in her room.

She whispered back as her ex husband kept his eyes on them.

Mma Sebaga: Your father is looking. We will talk later.

Rra Sebaga stood up and went outside for some air. A few minutes later his daughter followerd him out.

Kgabiso: Papa!

He turned to her and shook his head.

Rra Sebaga: So I'm suddenly your father? Didn't you know that when you almost got your

mother to send me to prison?

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*Bonus 3

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Sorry for disappearing in your. I'm well and exhausted  ♀ Just got caught up with the wedding festivities 

The Devil I Never Knew

#81

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso tried to reach out to her father but he moved back.

Kgabiso: Dad I... It was never like that. I don't know how that story was told to you but all I

ever said to mum was that some women bring up issues like physical abuse during their divorce so things work well on their side. I never said that she should send you to prison or say that about you.

Rra Sebaga: I don't know where I went wrong or failed you as a father because I have tried everything in my power to teach you right from wrong. Even after what you did to your sister, I called you and tried to advise you but you didn't see me as a father. You threw all insults at me.

Kgabiso: And I regret it deeply. Dad I need you in my life. My son needs to know his grandfather.

The old man looked behind him and there were people coming through.

Rra Sebaga: This is not the time or the place.

Maybe you thought that coming here was being supportive however you choose the wrong time. You should have come to the burial quietly. My child is going through hell and if you're here to cause more trouble then you're nothing but the devil's daughter.

He walked away and joined the gentlemen that were coming through.

Meanwhile in the house Rra Moagi walked past his sister and pulled his wife to the spare bedroom.

Mma Moagi: Why are you pulling me like that?
What do you want?

He closed the door then sat on the bed.

Rra Moagi: Didn't I ask you to stay out of this matter?

Mma Moagi: What are you talking about?

Rra Moagi: I asked you not to involve yourself in this matter yet you went and invited that woman and her daughter here. Do you understand the damage that you're causing? And what about Sebaga? Did you atleast ask her how she feels about this whole thing?

Mma Moagi: That girl needs her mother. She had just lost her child.

Rra Moagi: If my niece goes mad then you're responsible.

Mma Moagi: I didn't mean any harm.

Rra Moagi: It's not your place, you have no right.

Mma Moagi: Well she is my niece too you know.

Rra Moagi: I have said all that I have wanted to

say.

He stood up then walked out.

In Sebaga's room

Aunty walked into the bedroom with a tray of tea then placed it on the bedside and sat down by the corner couch.

Aunty: Hie baby girl. I brought you some tea.

Sebaga: Thank you.

She said still covered in blankets.

Aunty: Do you need any other thing?

Sebaga: No. I'm good thanks.

Aunty: Well if you will need anything then just know that I'm here okay.

Sebaga: Thank you. I really appreciate it. I'm just processing a lot of things at the moment. I don't know how exactly to feel with my mother here.

Aunty: I understand. I was also shocked when your sister came in but I'm glad that...

Sebaga: My what?

Seba threw off the blankets and sat up as her heart palpitated.

Sebaga: What do these people want from me?

Tears rolled down her eyes and she felt weak

even though all she wanted to do was get up and put them in their place.

Aunty: My child, I understand that this is hard and having them here will trigger some memories but I need you to stay put for Lily's burial. Let's burry our little girl without any drama. You can attend to them after the funeral. For now let's celebrate the life of our child and be grateful for the little time we were given with her. Such is life but we need to soldier on.

Sebaga: I don't know why God decided that I need to be a soldier at this point in time because I can't take it anymore. I just want to sleep and never wake up.

Aunty: Don't say that my baby. You still have so much to live for.

Sebaga: Like what?

Aunty stood up from the couch and sat by the edge of the bed then hugged her.

Gaborone, Botswana

At Mma Fela's

Rra Fela impatiently leaned back on his chair as his son's phone just rang. He hadn't come home and there was no communication from his side.

Mma Fela: He's still not answering.

Rra Fela: No.

He hung up then put the phone on his table.

Rra Fela: I don't understand why he's not back home yet. I just hope that he's not causing trouble wherever he is or following that girl.

Mma Fela sighed then reflected on everything that had happened in the past.

Mma Fela: You know what, let the boy be. He has been through so much in the past two years. He needs a break from all this. All he has done is played his role as a father and worked hard. There was never a time he took out some time for himself. We have also been too involved in his life to a point where he doesn't have privacy or the freedom to make his own decisions. Don't you think that it's time we stepped back and allowed him to do what he thinks is best for himself.

Rra Fela: Maybe but should we really be letting

him destroy his life?

Mma Fela: By what?

Rra Fela: Chasing a married woman. We both know that is the only reason he hasn't come back.

Mma Fela: We don't know that. Let's just let it rest. We have done enough. Come. Let's go get some rest.

She went around the table and took his hand as he stood up.

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Bonus 4

Let's kick start the day. We have had a long break.

The Devil I Never Knew

#82

Later that day

At the Guest House

Kgabiso silently watched her mother as she took off her headwrap and undid her hair. After two years, she finally knew the real reason why her father had cut off so abruptly. The woman that she had taken back into her life and supported her through her divorce had betrayed her.

Kgabiso: Do you know the real reason dad stopped talking to me?

Mma Sebaga: You know that he chose Sebaga over you. Each one of us chose sides. Why is that important now?

Kgabiso: It's important because for years I wondered why he out of all the people would pick sides to a point of cutting me off yet he is the one that has always said that he would never pick a side.

Mma Sebaga: People change depending on what they will get out of something. I was on your sister's side and I would have done everything to get her married to Fela till I realized that you were pregnant and this baby could unlock doors your sister would never unlock alone. Maybe your father also saw Sebaga in the way I saw you when I chose your side.

She looked at her then chuckled...

Kgabiso: So it's got nothing to do with what I told you when you two were going through your divorce?

Mma Sebaga: What was that? Kgabiso we spoke about so many things so if you are not specific then I might not remember. Did you and your father speak?

Kgabiso: Why did you tell him that I told you to accuse him of physical abuse so he could go to prison?

Mma Sebaga: I don't know what you're talking about. I never said any of that to him.

Kgabiso: So you're gonna choose to be dishonest with me even though we promised each other that we would be honest moving

forward?

Mma Sebaga: I'm not being dishonest.

Kgabiso: Then how did he know about the fact that I once suggested that you do that? I only suggested this to you not any other person.

Mma Sebaga: I don't know. Maybe he overheard us and decided to use this against me. Who knows? Why is it important?

Kgabiso: He is still my father and I've tried reaching out for ages only to find out that he thinks I want him in prison.

Mma Sebaga: I'm not saying that he is not. Just let it go.

The old woman stood up and went into the bathroom.

A few days later...

At the graveyard

Sebaga took off her shades and wiped her tears as her little girl's casket descended into the ground. The thought of never seeing her or hearing her voice left her broken. She sniffled as aunty patted her on the shoulder. She swallowed then looked around and felt comforted by the number of people that had come to support her.

On the other side approximately three graves away was Martin's family that had also gathered to bury their son. Some could be heard crying on the other side. Sebaga gazed at them for a short while as rage built up. She quickly remembered the promise she had made to her little girl as aunty held her hand and squeezed it

tight. She turned to her and forced a smile.

Behind them was Mma Sebaga and the rest of the other family members that sang hymns of comfort.

Meanwhile outside the grave yard Fela parked his car and stepped out. He stood outside and watched what was happening from a distance. If he couldn't support her openly then he would do so in the shadows. He took a deep breath and got back inside the car then drove off. In as much as he wanted to offer her some support, he knew that he had to respect her wishes and stay away.

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso and her mother stood outside while the rest of the family went inside for a short meeting

Kgabiso: Maybe we should leave. We have offered our support. She may not like us but atleast she knows that we came. It would have been bad if we didn't show face.

Mma Sebaga: Why don't we wait for a bit so that we can see her before we leave.

Kgabiso: I don't think that's a good idea. Sebaga is broken. I saw her today and I even regret coming here because she probably thinks that we are here to gloat. Let's just go. We will come back tomorrow or the day after when emotions are a bit relaxed. She is going through so much that I doubt that this time she would keep it

together. Let's go.

Her mother turned to the house then reluctantly followed her daughter outside.

Inside the house...

Malome: Now that we are done with the burial, it's time to put some issues to rest. Firstly we would like to apologize for the way that we treated our daughter inlaw and lastly we need to start planning on how to implement our culture now that the burial is past.

Rra Sebaga: What exactly are you talking about?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#83

At Sebaga's

Malome: I know that we came to an agreement to meet each other halfway and compromise on some matters. Since we were able to do that, I'm hoping that you also meet us halfway and do the same. Sebaga, we have buried your husband. We are aware that you two might have had your differences before he died but however in our culture you still need to go through a mourning period. This period in our culture means that you wear symbolic clothes to mark your loss for a period of six months.

Sebaga: We didn't have differences, your son cheated on me and he didn't just die, he killed himself after ending my daughter's life. I'm not

going through a mourning period for a man that didn't think of me during his last acts. I've tolerated you for this long mainly because I wanted to bury my daughter in peace but your time is up. Please leave my house. No one is going to tell me how to mourn or move on. I'm the one that's lost a child and everything I thought I had here. No one feels it better than I do.

She went into her room and grabbed her car keys then came back into the living room.

Sebaga: I'm going to see my child. The one that your son killed without any mercy. When I come back, I hope to find you gone. If you have any decency left in you then please do the right thing. I honestly don't want to be disrespectful to anyone.

She said leaving the house... Melitah followed her.

Melitah: Seba!

She stopped then turned to her friend.

Sebaga: Mma?

Melitah: Can I drive you? You're in no position to be driving alone.

Sebaga unlocked the car then gave her the car keys.

Melitah: Thank you.

They got into the car and drove off.

Melitah: So where are we going?

Sebaga: I don't know. Let's just drive around. I'm tired. I need some space away from my family and Martin's. I

Melitah: I'm sorry babe. I was shocked when I saw Kgabiso and your mum.

Sebqqa: I've just decided not to entertain those ones. I don't have a single cell in me left to fight. Life is too short. I'm thinking of taking some time off from work and going on a solo vacation.

Melitah: Are you sure that you will be alright?

Sebaga: Yes. I honestly need the time out. It will take me a while to heal but staying here will only drive me insane. I wanna sell the house and maybe start over.

Melitah: Here or somewhere else?

Sebaga: Here. I'm done running. I'm going to deal with my trauma in this town and build a new life right here. No one is going to ever make me leave a certain place.

Melitah: That's what I wanna hear. I'm so proud of you my friend. I know it's not easy but you will make it alive out of this.

At the Guest House

Mma Sebaga placed her luggage bag on the bed and packed up her clothes as her daughter laid in bed and fiddled with her phone.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you so much for coming with me and keeping it together even though it wasn't easy. In as much we didn't get a chance

to speak to your sister, I'm still glad that we came and attended the burial. It will take her a very long time to get over what we did to her especially now that she has to deal with the betrayal of her husband. You're right, she is broken. The least we can do is let her be. When the time is right, we will try again.

Kgabiso: And you shouldn't forget dad. You and I owe that man an apology. Whatever you said or did to him is way too deep. I know that you will never admit to it because that's just who you are but the man deserves a genuine apology from us.

Mma Sebaga: Ee mma.

She continued packing up guilt stricken. The fact that her ex husband had given up on her and his daughter ate her up everyday. Rra Sebaga was a very patient and forgiving person

but for him to get to this point, it must have meant that they had really hurt him.

Two years later...

At the Molefe residence

Fela descended the stairs already dressed up for the office with his one year old in his arms. He greeted and kissed his wife as she fixed the breakfast table.

Fela: Where's his chair? He needs to get used to sitting on it during meals. Yesterday I looked like a cartoon by the time I got to the office because he had messed up my shirt.

His wife left what she was doing then went into the living room to grab their son's high chair.

Her : Here.

Fela: Thank you.

Her : When did you say that his brother is visiting again?

Fela: I will confirm the dates with the mother. Of lately she has become difficult. I don't know if it's because she is seeing someone or it's just for fun.

His wife kept quiet then took her son and sat him in the high chair before strapping him up.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#84

At the Molefe Residence

Mma Fela stood by the side of the couch and shook her son as he fell into some deep sleep.

Mma Fela: Son!

He slowly opened his eyes then sat up. He looked around and sighed feeling disappointed. So it was just a dream.

Mma Fela: What's wrong? You're going to miss your flight kana you're no longer going?

Fela: What time is it?

Mma Fela: It's past twelve. Go upstairs and shower. I will drop you off at the airport. I doubt that Kgabiso will bring that boy. I told you not to give him back.

Fela: She probably got caught up with work or something. She will bring him. I told you that I can't take him with me to Maun because I am constantly traveling.

Mma Fela: I hear you.

Fela: Thank you. Let me quickly shower and get ready.

Mma Fela: Should I make you something to eat?

Fela: I will grab something to eat at the airport. I'm already running late.

Mma Fela: Ok.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga stood up and held her waist as Serge hung the last photographs from her solo shoot on the wall.

Sebaga: I love this. You were totally right about going black and white. I absolutely love monochrome.

Serge: And just like that we have a gallery wall.

Sebaga: And I love it my friend.

Serge: I love this new chapter you have embraced. I know that it hasn't been easy but I want you to know that I'm so proud of you my friend.

He picked up his wine glass and took a sip.

Serge: May your new home bring you all the happiness you deserve.

She turned around and picked up hers.

Sebaga: Hear hear...

They both sipped on their wine.

Sebaga: Thank you my friend. I don't know what I would have done without you by my side.

Her phone beeped and Serge gave her an evil

eye.

Sebaga: What?

Serge: Of lately that phone is always beeping.

Sebaga: It's probably Melitah. Akere you know that she went on a vacation so she keeps sending me pictures of the resort.

Serge: If you weren't such a bad liar then I would believe you.

She ignored him and read her WhatsApp message.

"I had a dream and we were married. Gone mme what are we still waiting for? I don't understand why we should keep going in circles when God gave us another chance."

She smiled then put her phone away.

Serge: Whoever you're fucing knows all the right things to do in the bedroom because you have never been able to keep secrets from me. The fact that you have kept this for over two months says a lot.

Sebaga: (Smiled) I keep telling you that I'm not sleeping with anyone. I have just found peace and it's amazing.

Serge: That peace came with a dic. Not that I blame you because boys are delicious.

Sebaga: Serge!

Serge: If you're gonna fuc someone and hide them then atleast be a good liar.

Sebaga: It's nothing serious. Akere I told you that I'm not interested in marriage or anything

serious.

Serge: Do they understand that kana they are sticking around hoping that things would change?

Her face changed and her mouth suddenly filled up as she ran to the bathroom.

Serge: I told you to slow down on the wine my girl.

He went into the kitchen to grab a glass of water then followed her.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso grabbed her son's bag from the couch

then picked up her phone and dialed Mma Fela's number.

Mma Fela: Hello.

Kgabiso: Hello. How are you?

Mma Fela: I'm fine thanks and you? When will you get here? We have been waiting for the whole day.

Kgabiso: Sorry about that but I won't be able to bring him there anymore. My boyfriend and I planned a last minute trip out of town and we are taking him with.

Mma Fela: Excuse me. Ele gore who did you speak to about that because Fela didn't tell me anything?

Kgabiso: I don't need to consult your son on everything that happens in my life. I'm the one that's looking after Cody full-time so I have the

right to make such decisions. You're just his grandmother, stay in your lane.

She hung up then walked out of the house and locked up.

Later that evening...

Sebaga nervously curled up on the couch and went through her menstrual cycle. Everything felt just about right but after throwing up today, she was left confused.

She thought of a couple of times they had unprotected sex then dismissed it. No, that couldn't be! She was on birth control after all. She picked her phone as it rang.

Fela: Come pick me. I've been waiting for you in

the airport for close to forty minutes now.

She looked at the time and jumped up then grabbed her car keys.

Sebaga: Sorry about that. I lost track of time.
I'm on my way.

Fela: Sharp.

He hung up then sat by the waiting area with his luggage.

Thirty minutes later Seba arrived in shorts and scandals.

Sebaga: Hey. Sorry for the delay. Tlhe rra nne ke lebetse. (I completely forgot.)

Fela: It's cool. Let's go.

He pulled his luggage to the parking lot then took her car keys and unlocked the car before putting his bag in the trunk.

Fela: Are you okay? You look a bit shaken.

Sebaga: I'm good man. You're driving akere?

Fela: Sure.

They both got into the car and drove off.

Fela: My place or yours?

Sebaga: I'm a bit tired. Can we each go to our houses?

Fela: Because after all you control everything?

She kept quiet as he drove to his place. As soon as he parked the car in front of the house, he closed the gate and went over to her side then opened the door. He took her by the hand and lead her to the house.

Fela: I can't figure out where I left my keys. Let's go in through the garage.

He pressed the button control and the garage opened up. A few seconds later they both went in and accessed the living room through the garage door.

Fela: What's this about you being tired when you look this sexy?

He threw the car keys on the couch and began to kiss her leaving her doubting and regretting her decision to pick him up. Each kiss left her feeling helpless as he slowly unbuttoned her pants. He kissed her neck leaving her weak.

Sebega: I need to go home.

She said in between the kiss but he didn't give her a chance. He roughly tore her shirt apart and kissed every part of her like it was the only thing that mattered. Each kiss and touch left her wanting more.

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He laid her on the couch and pulled down her pants then slowly pulled down her thong with

his teach.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#85

At Fela's

Seba closed her eyes and sunk her teeth into her lower lip as Fela stretched his way in. A tear rolled down her cheek as they both locked eyes. She reached for his dic to limit his depth but he moved her disturbing hand and pushed through. Even after all these years, his size still shook

her. He hung both her legs on his strong shoulders and bit his lower lip as he began to thrust. She closed her eyes and made an ugly face

Fela: You're mine. Wa nkutlwa? (you hear me?)

He moved his waist rhythmically sending waves of pleasure that had her moaning and crying at the same time. Oh God! How he loved this woman.

Later that evening...

Fela walked into the bedroom naked with a glass of juice then stood by Sebaga's side and gave it to her.

Fela: Here.

She sat up even though she was tired. After so many rounds of amazing s*x, all she wanted to do was doze off and sleep.

Sebaga: Thank you.

She took three sips then laid in bed.

Fela: Let's go take a shower.

Sebaga: I'm tired. I just wanna sleep. Before I picked you up, I was busy putting up a few things at the house. Serge and I also had wine.

Fela: You can't be too tired. I just got here.

Sebaga: Babe,nna rra ke lapile. Ao rra tlhomogela kuku yame pelo. (Atleast pity my

cookie jar.)

He opened her legs and laughed looking at it..

Fela: What's wrong with it? Why should I feel pity for it?

Sebaga: O njele mo go kana kana.

They both laughed as he took her hand and lead her to the shower.

Fela: I promise that you don't have to lift a finger. I'm gonna be the one bathing you the entire time.

Sebaga: Ke lapile rra. (I'm tired)

Fela: You have had break for more than a week.

He turned on the taps then grabbed some shower gel and loafer. He squeezed the gel into the loafer and wet it then began to gently scrub her.

Fela: I know that you're struggling to accept this but what we have is more than just a fling. I feel it and you feel it too. We were meant to be together. You calling it just a fling won't change that.

She kept quiet and washed her face as he rinsed off the soap off her body.

Fela: I love you.

He took her hands and helped her support herself by holding on to the wall as he slowly

bent her and slid in to her cookie jar from behind. Oh fuc! She was still wet and he loved it in there. The warmth and the nice cushioning layer drove him insane as her walls squeezed his dic leaving him wanting more.

He slapped her butt as he increased the pace and fuc*ed her like there was no tomorrow. This pus*y was too good.

Sebaga: Oh God, God!

She said as a massive wave of pleasure ran through her nerves. For a minute it felt like her heart would stop. He held on to her waist and continued thrusting even as she tried to pull back.

The following day...

At Mma Fela's

Kgabiso stood by the gate with her son. She took out her phone and called his grandmother as they stood in the scorching sun outside.

Mma Fela: Hello.

Kgabiso: Please open up. I've brought Cody.

Mma Fela: I'm not home. Akere you had said that you're going away with him.

Kgabiso: Then get the maid to open up and get him. I need to leave.

Mma Fela: It doesn't work like that. You don't get to command us and ask us to change plans as if you own us. If you had wanted to leave

Cody here then you should have communicated. Nna I have given my helper a day off. Take him with you. You can bring him back when you're ready to communicate with us.

Kgabiso: Nna I'm leaving him outside. You will make a plan. I need to attend to my things as well. Fela is not the only one with a life. Call him and ask him to tell his girlfriend who he has been posting of lately to come get his son.

Mma Fela: So this is about Fela dating?

Kgabiso: You and I both know that these days your son has abandoned his responsibilities as a father. All he does is post toes and manicures of women.

Mma Fela: If you leave that boy at the gate then I'm going to call the police on you and make sure that you never see him again even though you're his mother.

Mma Fela hung up as Kgabiso and her boy stood outside.

At Fela's

Sebaga stepped out of the shower and grabbed a towel to dry herself then went into the bedroom where Fela was getting ready.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Hey.

Fela: I would take you out for breakfast but I have back to back meetings.

Sebaga: It's cool. I also have a couple of things to do.

Fela: I'll see you later?

She kept quiet and grabbed her clothes then got dressed. Once she was done, she picked up her thong and slide it in the back pocket of her shorts.

Fela: I'll come over.

He kissed her cheek then wrapped his arms around her to give her a proper kiss.

She held him by the chin and smiled. Whatever this fully beared man had fed her was working against her. She said one thing about them then did the completely opposite.

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#86

Later that day

At Sebaga's Office

Sebaga sipped on her cup of coffee then laid back comfortably on her chair as Serge kept his eyes on his laptop. They were both working half day and chasing deadlines.

Sebaga: Are you okay?

Serge: Yeah. Why do you ask?

Sebaga: You have been quiet all day.

Serge: I'm sexually frustrated. Unlike you, I haven't been getting it.

Sebaga: I don't know what you're talking about.

Serge: You think I don't know that glow?

Sebaga: I still don't know what you're talking about.

Serge: Just use protection my girl. I don't have the strength to plan a baby shower. I've been sexually deprived for too long. I can't function.

She looked at him then sighed waiting for his judgement.

Sebaga: The guy I'm fuc*ing is Fela.

Serge jumped from his chair and clapped his

hands.

Serge: Finally!

Sebaga: What? You've been waiting for this?

Serge: No, well I mean yes. Babes the man is hot and I know a good waist when I see one.

Sebaga: Serge.

She said with so much concern.

Serge: Relax babes. I'm loyal as fuc. I can never fuc your man because you're my ride or die.

Sebaga: (laughed) I didn't say that you would.

Serge: Your body language did. Anyways the other day you said that you didn't want anything serious. Do you still feel that way and do you think that you can keep seeing him without

catching any feelings?

Sebaga: It's just sex babes.

Serge: No it's not just sex. You and Fela didn't break up out of choice. You were forced by circumstances. Do you understand that this kind of love never dies?

She kept quiet and sipped on her coffee.

Serge: I hate to say this but you two are meant to do this life thing together. I don't know where that leaves his little brat.

Sebaga: Serge! You can't say that about kids.

Serge: You want me to lie? I wish the little boy could disappear so that you can have your little fairytale.

Sebaga: Can we talk about something else?

Serge: No. Let's talk about this because sooner or later it will be all we talk about.

Seba took out her phone and went on WhatsApp then browsed through the statuses.

Sebaga: This guy!

She shook her head and responded on Fela's status.

"Why are you posting my earrings and ear? I thought that we agreed to respect each other's privacy. Fela you and I are not in a relationship. We are merely fuc*ing.

Fela: If I was you, I would channel all that energy in finding out if I'm pregnant or not 😂😂👏👏

She put her phone down and felt the mother of all palpitations hit her.

Serge: O sharp?

Sebaga: What if I'm pregnant?

Serge: Have you been hitting it raw?

Sebaga: Once or twice but I got my period the other day.

Serge: That's a difficult one.

Sebaga: What's difficult about it when I got my period?

Serge: It happens but tell you what, get a blood test. Those are the most accurate ones.

Sebaga: I hear you..

Serge: (laughed) What were you expecting when you had unprotected sex?

Sebaga: Nothing. I'm on birth control.

At Fela's office

Fela smiled from ear to ear as he looked at a picture of his girl sleeping next to him. Even he couldn't understand the kind of love this was but he wanted to protect it so bad. A call brought him back to the real world.

Fela: Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: So you still remember me?

Fela: How are you? Is everything fine with Cody?

Kgabiso: Koore o ipona o ira sentle? (do you think that what you're doing is right?) Have you now forgotten that you have a son?

Fela: I don't know what you're talking about. I

make sure that my son has everything he needs and whenever I'm around, I spend as much time as I can with him. What do I need to do to show that I'm that I'm a responsible father. Kana wa be o ka simolla. (you're starting.)

Kgabiso: All you know is to post manicures of girls and their earrings. When it comes to spending time with your son and performing your responsibilities as a father, you fail.

Fela: Heela mma, ratana le wena o poste dibaki tsa banna. (Then date too so you can post too.) I don't understand what my posts have to do with you. You and I were never together.

Kgabiso: I'm not concerned. I just wanted to you to take care of your son.

Fela: If you think that I'm slacking then take me to court. And please the next time you call me, it better be about our son. These days you're growing some wings and it's not funny.

He hung up then put his phone on mute.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga gave her grandson a cup of juice then sat down next to her daughter.

Mma Sebaga: Can you just leave this boy's father alone. I thought that you had found someone. Why are you harassing him when he does a great job at taking care of his son?

Kgabiso: Mama Fela used to be a hands on father but these days he seems to be busy with women.

Mma Sebaga: And what's that to you? Why don't you like peace? I thought that you had agreed to behave if he gave you back Cody. Do

you want to start a fight you know you can't win?

She took out her phone and passed it to her mother.

Mma Sebaga: What's this?

Kgabiso: It's a picture of a girl's ear he posted this morning. He obviously cropped out the ear but you can still tell that it's a woman's ear.

Mma Seba closely looked recognizing that ear.

Mma Sebaga: Accept that this man's heart does not belong to you. We were wrong. Not even this boy has been able to get you on his good side. You're still young and beautiful. You will find someone that loves you. Let this one go my child.

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Bonus3

The Devil I Never Knew

#87

That same evening

At Sebaga's

Fela parked his car in front of the gate then stepped out and stood outside as he made a phone call to Sebaga.

Sebaga: Hi.

Fela: Hey. So I'm on my way to your house. Can I bring you anything?

Sebaga: You should have called in advance. I'm not home. Serge and I had somewhere to be.

Fela: Does Serge know that you use his name to lie whenever you're looking for an escape plan?

Sebaga: Rra?

Fela: Sebaga, I'm outside the gate. Please open. And let me give you tips on lying about not being home. Next time park your car in the garage not in the driveway. Kante o aketsa di judge o reng golo ko court kwa maaka a go palla yaana? (How are you able to lie to the judge in court when you're this terrible at lying.)

Inside

Sebaga kicked her feet up then got up from the

couch and stood by the window to peep through the curtain. She couldn't see much as her car had blocked her view.

Sebaga: I'm really tired man.

Fela: I didn't come to fu*k. Open up the gate.

She shamefully cleared her throat then reached for her gate button on the table and opened up for him. A few minutes later she opened up the door as he stood there with a few shopping bags.

Fela: I promise that I'm not here to abuse you. I thought you would appreciate a good home cooked meal since you have been busy of lately.

Sebaga: As long as you're cooking.

She moved back as he walked in with his shopping bags.

Sebaga: So what are we having?

Fela: Some creamy salmon pasta.

Sebaga: Are you sure we shouldn't be ordering take-always?

They both laughed...

Fela: You don't trust my cooking?

Sebaga: It's that fish I don't trust. Why can't we have chicken or just beef?

Fela: I'm incharge of the kitchen tonight.

Sebaga: Ok Chef Mo.

He walked into the kitchen and unpacked the food he had brought with him.

Sebaga: Can we talk?

Fela: Shoot!

He said rolling up his sleeves and washing his hands.

Sebaga: I don't want anything serious. I like what we have but I honestly don't see myself giving it more than this. I know that we have talked about this before but I don't wanna feel like I'm leading you on only to break your heart in the end because you had some kind of hope that this would materialize into marriage.

Fela: Emma. And I respect that. I have so much hope for whatever we have. You have been

through so much and I don't blame you for not wanting more out of this. We have lost so much in the past and I know we ain't getting it back but let's appreciate this right here at this very moment.

She smiled then opened the fridge to get a bottle of wine.

Fela: You still keep your wine in the fridge?

Sebaga: There is no way that I'm drinking hot wine.

Fela: (laughed) I hear you.

She turned on the music speaker and connected her phone.

A few days later...

At Mma Fela's

Kgabiso and her son stepped out of the cab. She took out her purse and pulled out a fifty pula note to pay the driver then took her son by the hand and pressed the intercom.

Inside

Mma Fela looked at them through the cctv camera then opened up.

Kgabiso: You heard what I said akere? You must tell your father that you want to live with him.

Cody looked at her then continued playing with his toy.

They walked through the gate with a luggage back then stood by the door and knocked. A few minutes later Mma Fela opened up and excitedly picked up her grandson.

Mma Fela: Hie.

Kgabiso: Hie.

Mma Fela: Thanks for bringing him.

Kgabiso: Well he wants his father so I had no choice.

Mma Fela: Come in and let's talk.

Kgabiso: Is Fela here?

Mma Fela: No.

Kgabiso: When will he be back? Did he forget that his son needs him?

Mma Fela: So how long is he staying?

Kgabiso: He is moving back with his father. I will come see him on weekends and holidays.

Mma Fela: Just like that?

Kgabiso: What do you mean just like that?

Aren't you the one that always complains about not being given enough time to spend with him and besides this boy has a father. Get him to come look after him.

Mma Fela: I'm afraid it doesn't work like that. We all have lives and you need to communicate with us in advance so we prepare for Cody to live with us.

Kgabiso: Ijoo nna yaanong ga ke itsi.

She said dialing her boyfriend and walking away.

At Diagnofirm Laboratories

Sebaga wiped her sweat with the back of her hand and sighed heavily as she waited for her turn to go in. She looked at the time and it had been only ten minutes since she got here. Why did this feel like a death sentence. Her phone rang and she stood up and went outside to take the call.

Serge: Hey babes.

Sebaga: Hey.

Serge: Did you manage?

Sebaga: Yes. I'm already here.

She took deep breaths.

Serge: Are you nervous?

Sebaga: I'm freaking out. I think I'm gonna faint even before it's my turn to go in. The AC is on but I'm sweating buckets.

Serge: Sorry my friend. Maybe get an HIV test as well seeing that you're already there.

Sebaga: I'm good. Fela and I took one a week ago.

Serge: For someone that's freaked out about falling pregnant, you seem to have further plans to have unprotected sex.

Sebaga: I didn't say that.

Serge: I think you're just afraid of what people will say. You want this guy back. You're craving for him at every second and you have glimpses of what your future would look like. You're just afraid to be called the fool but let me tell you

something my girl, we are all fools in love. We pretend and try to act smart by using the situations of others ka bo “that can never be me.” But just know that we all have that one person that makes us a fool over and over again. If you want this then go for it.

Sebaga: Go sharp wa utlwa.

She hung up and dialed Fela's number.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Meet me at diagnofirm. I'm here to take a blood test.

Fela: Is everything ok? I'm on my way.

Sebaga: I'm good. I just needed an accurate pregnancy test.

Fela: (Smiled) You think that...

Sebaga: Yes.

Fela: I'm on my way.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#88

Later that day

At the Mall

Sebaga and Fela walked into a shoe store while holding hands. They had spent the better part of the day in each other's presence but it still wasn't enough. Fela lead her to the ladies flat shoe section then showed her a couple of

shoes he liked.

Fela: These are beautiful.

Sebaga: You know that I'm not a big fan of flat shoes.

Fela: Well very soon you're gonna have to embrace them because you can't wear heels all day when you're pregnant.

Sebaga: We don't know that for sure. They said that they would send a message to notify us of when to get the results.

Fela: I know what they said but a father always knows these things. I can feel it. You're pregnant. Akere I told you the other day.

Sebaga: I'll wait for the results.

Fela: Knock yourself out.

He said picking his favorite pair.

Fela: Come.

He took her hand then lead her to a chair where she sat. He went on his knees to take off her other shoe then helped her fit the new pair.

Sebaga: These are cute.

Fela: And they suit your feet.

Sebaga: I might just take them.

Fela: That's what I wanna hear. Do they feel comfortable?

Sebaga: They do.

He took out his phone to take a picture.

Sebaga: You don't have to do that.

Fela: I'm sorry. I just can't help it. I'm so excited to let people know that i have someone in my life. If I could then I would scream ontop of my voice and let people know that we are together.

Sebaga: I mean you don't have to take pictures of my feet and stuff. Come here, let's take a proper picture.

Fela: (Smiled) Really?

She stood up then moved closer to him for a selfie.

Fela: Is this for real?

He said switching cameras.

Fela: And you're sure I can post this?

Sebaga: (Smiled) Yep.

Fela: Do I have to block anyone from seeing it?

Sebaga: No. You don't have to. We don't owe anybody anything.

He felt some flutters in his stomach as she posed for a picture kissing his cheek.

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso looked at the time then stood up and paced around the living room waiting for her boyfriend to call her back.

Mma Sebaga: I still don't understand how you

gave him your car to use for days. He is probably driving women around in it.

Kgabiso: You don't have to rub it in. He dropped me and Cody off at home and said that he was going to fuel.

Mma Sebaga: And that was it?

Kgabiso: I'm going to kill him. Can you imagine how embarrassing it is for me to have to go to work with cabs. My colleagues probably think that I can't afford fuel anymore.

Mma Sebaga: Worry less about that. Mma Fela called me. Apparently you dumped the child with them? I won't talk to you about this again because you're an adult and you're capable of making your own decisions but if you keep doing this then Cody's father might end up paying you five hundred pula for child maintenance. Stop all this drama. That man takes good care of your child and he has even

bought you a house and a car. What else do you want?

She kept quiet...

Kgabiso: And that's all I get after all these years that I have been good to him? Mama I gave that man a son. Don't I deserve to be loved?

Mma Seaga: Forcefully! Counsel yourself and accept that you made a big mistake then move on because the day that he decides to marry, you're going to faint and die.

Her phone rang and she jumped to quickly take the call.

Kgabiso: Hey friend.

Friend: Hey tsala. Have you seen your baby daddy's new profile picture on Facebook?

Kgabiso: No. What is it?

Friend: I think you should check it out for yourself.

She hung up then went straight to Facebook. Her heart almost stopped as she saw Fela's profile picture.

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Bonus1

The Devil I Never Knew

#89

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso zoomed in the profile picture and swallowed countless times when she noticed that the woman on the picture was her sister. She took deep breaths as tears built up in her eyes.

Mma Sebaga: Go rileng? (what's wrong?)

Kgabiso: Mama!

Tears welled up in her eyes. The pain she was feeling made it very hard for her to say another word.

Mma Sebaga: Kante ware what's wrong?

She said pulling the phone from her.

Mma Sebaga: Did someone die?

She looked at the picture on the phone then kept quiet.

Kgabiso: See what your daughter is doing.

Mma Sebaga: No! See what you're doing to yourself? Do you want to die and leave that boy without a mother because I'm pretty sure that soon after you die, the Lord will take me because my sins are just as many as yours. I told you to stay away from Cody's father and what he does with his life. Now that he's back with his wife, you're crying foul.

Kgabiso: They are not married.

A sharp pain burned her chest.

Mma Sebaga: Well they were married when we came between them. God is merely putting back together what he had joined and we broke. Nna ngwanaka I am too old to be evil at this point. Leave Sebaga with her man and focus on your own life. The fact that she had left this man for over three years yet he kept following her must tell you that he loves her and nothing will change. You failed to win him in that period so stop crying. He loves her and there is nothing you can do about it.

Kgabiso: Mama!

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela looked at the picture on her son's WhatsApp dp and smiled shaking her head.

Mma Fela: No wonder this boy has been refusing to move back to the city. He knew that he had fixed things with Seba.

Rra Fela: What are you talking about?

Mma Fela: You haven't seen your son's display picture on WhatsApp?

Rra Fela took out his phone and went on WhatsApp.

Rra Fela: Seba as in Sebaga?

He looked at the picture and smiled.

Rra Fela: The boy has some Molefe magic in him. I'm not surprised she took him back. Now he better behave and do everything to protect his relationship because I'm not nursing a broken hearted father.

Mma Fela: And I hope that boy's mother stays in her lane because I'm tired of her drama. She acts like my son promised to marry her.

Rra Fela: I can't wait for this boy to grow because I'm also tired of seeing her here.

Mma Fela: How do you think Sebaga will take it? I mean I understand that she's been wronged but the boy is here now. Fela has a son and we have all accepted him. Cody is part of the deal.

Rra Fela: I don't know my sweetheart. I just hope that whatever they decide, it doesn't affect our grandson because I would never allow anyone to hurt him.

Mma Fela: Sebaga would never harm that boy. I

know that she hates what happened but she is not that kind of person.

Rra Fela: We don't know that. We haven't seen the girl in years.

Mma Fela: I just hope your son does right by this woman and marries her this time.

Rra Fela: I don't know how that little sucker got lucky but he found a good one.

Mma Fela: I thought you said that we didn't really know her since we haven't seen her in years.

Rra Fela: Yes but... I have been following her and her cases and she is phenomenal. She has built a name for herself in the last couple of years. They say that she is a beast in the court room.

Mma Fela: Sounds to me like you're her biggest fan.

Rra Fela: I didn't say that.

The old woman stood up and laughed...

At Fela's

Fela and Seba sat on the couch and looked into each other's eyes as Fela played with her hands. Just being here with this woman felt like a dream. Being able to declare her as his and not race against time was such a marvel.

Fela: Thank you for giving me another chance.

Sebaga: Fela we have been fuc*ing for months now.

Fela: I know that but it didn't feel this way.
There is no greater feeling like knowing that

you're mine and you will still be here tomorrow. I spent years trying to figure out how I could win you back and build the family I have always wanted with you but now it's all coming together.

Sebaga: I know. I was just too angry for so long and...

She swallowed then forced a smile.

Sebaga: You have a kid with my sister and I didn't know how I fit into that equation. Fela I wanna be honest with you. If we ever have anything serious, I can never take him in and raise him as my own. I don't wanna give you the wrong impression then disappoint you in the end.

Fela: I understand. He lives with his mum now.

Sebaga: And I won't be taking any bullshit from his mum either.

Fela: You go girl!

They both laughed...

Fela: So I've been a celebrity ever since I changed my Facebook profile picture.

Sebaga: Apparently.

Fela: Who told you that?

Sebaga: Serge!

Fela: Why is he stalking me? We are not even Facebook friends.

Sebaga: Babe Serge stalks everyone in Maun just so you know. There isn't anything that he doesn't know.

Fela: Your friend is scary.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: Apparently I'm stupid for taking you back. Bro don't embarrass me because I've already been kicked out of the women's conference.

Fela: I saw a couple of shares on that picture.

Sebaga: They will get over it.

Fela: (Smiled) I love this woman you have become.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#90

The following day

Diagnofirm Laboratories

Sebaga stepped out of her car and fixed her dress then took a deep breath as Fela stepped out of his and approached her.

Fela: Hey babe.

He planted a kiss on her forehead then held her.

Fela: You're good?

Sebaga: Yeah. I'm just a bit nervous. I'm really

not sure how I feel about bringing a baby into the equation at this point. We have just fixed things and who knows, maybe things won't work it.

Fela: Not this time. Sebaga I will walk halfway across this world just to make sure that things work out. I don't care what anyone says or does but this relationship will work out no matter what. I didn't fight to get you back so hard just to lose you again. I love you woman.

He said looking into her eyes fiercely. This kind of love came once in a lifetime and he knew it.

Sebaga: (Smiled) Let's go in partner.

He smiled and took her hand.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood by the door with her hands on her waist as Ronald parked her car and stepped out.

Ronald: You really didn't have to report the car stolen when you knew that I had borrowed it.

Kgabiso: You didn't borrow it. You said that you were going to fuel up then disappeared.

Ronald: This is a cheap car. I would never run away with it.

Kgabiso: Says the guy that doesn't have a car and still lives with his mother in the house.

Ronald: Well atleast I'm not hopeless and I don't rely on child support.

Kgabiso: Wa nkgakgahalela mme (You're being cheeky but) everything that you're wearing was

bought using my money.

Ronald: More like that guy's money. I still don't understand how he trusts you with a child when you're a crook.

Kgabiso: Yet you dated me.

Ronald: That was before I knew that you were a hopeless mother that's waiting for her rich baby daddy to marry her. Mme kana rich men also want women who can match their standards or are atleast smart. You're just a mere teacher.

Kgabiso: Fotsek!

He threw the car keys at her...

Ronald: You're lucky I looked your way. You have too much baggage and you're always scheming.

Kgabiso: Sebono please!

She screamed as he walked away. If only he knew the amount of pain she was in, he wouldn't be annoying her.

Outside Diagnofirm

Sebaga closed her eyes and sighed as Fela opened the results. He jumped up and kicked his leg in the air.

Sebaga: And?

Fela: We're gonna be parents!

He kissed her countless times and picked her up.

Fela: This oven is baking.

He said going on his knees and kissing her belly.
A couple that was passing by cheered them on.

Girl: You go girl. Don't let him go.

Guy: O mo ngaparele mshiane wame.

Sebaga shy looked away then smiled as she
helped her man get up.

Sebaga: Tlhe rra ema wena batho ba re lebile.
(get up, people are looking at us.)

Fela: Let them look. You're mine and I'm not
hiding you.

He got up and kissed her.

Fela: So what do you wanna eat? Any cravings?

Sebaga: Bathong, I've just found out and nothing feels different.

Fela: I know but you can start craving now. Think about anything you want and I will make sure that you get it.

Sebaga: I'm sure that it doesn't work like that.

Fela: (laughed) Tihe mma wena don't miss out on any stage. I want to experience every little thing with you. Koore the morning sickness, the crazy phase where you throw me out with my clothes because I smell like fish and you can't stand it.

Sebaga: (laughed) What?

Fela: I want it all.

Sebaga: Can we set up an appointment with my doctor before we get overly excited. I got my

periods the other day.

Fela: Apparently it happens so we're good.

Sebaga: Babe can you listen to me for a moment. And don't go posting this because I want to go through this privately. I also need to go home and tell my dad. He can't find out that we're back together from someone else.

Fela: Emma. I respect that. I just need you to know that we're in this together and I will not let you down. I'm not perfect but I'm all in. You're my world.

Sebaga: Thank you. I love you.

He felt himself growing some wings!

Fela: I love you too baby. Thank you.

A tear rolled down his cheek but he turned to the other side before she could see it. This was all that he had wanted.

Sebaga: I need to get back to work.

Fela: Should I take you?

Sebaga: Fela I brought my car with me remember.

Fela: I know but I could drive behind you and make sure that you're safe.

Sebaga: (laughed) Bathong.

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Bonus3

We're having a marathon of inserts today so length won't be consistent! As soon as you finish reading, mark yourself present so we move on. We have a long way to go.

The Devil I Never Knew

#91

A few days later

At the Airport

Serge put his arm around Seba as they walked forward with Fela moving behind them with the luggage.

Sebaga: The rra help him.

Serge: With what muscle? You forget that he's

the man here so he needs to do the heavy lifting.

Sebaga: And where does that leave you?

She laughed.

Serge: That's a story for another day. So you're ready for this trip?

Sebaga: I think so babes.

Serge: Akere you know that you might bump into people you don't necessarily like and now that your relationship is out there, you might receive a lot of judgement.

Sebaga: I don't care about that. At the end of the day, this is my life. I'm just worried about dad. Ever since the whole Martin ordeal, he never healed. Waitsi gore he is so overprotective to a point i doubt that he will accept this relationship.

Fela: I hear you but you deserve to be happy in the end. My friend you need to be squeezed and touched in ways your father could never!

Sebaga: Serge!

Serge: I mean look at you my girl. You're just glowing. O go tlopela moveho Fela.

He turned around to check if Fela was listening in.

Sebaga: I don't wanna lie. I'm so happy. Like my heart is so full. I feel like I could almost die from all this happiness.

Serge: Don't die just yet. You haven't paid me back for all the drinks I bought for you on our last outing.

They both laughed.

Serge: Are you okay?

He said turning to Fela who seemed to be struggling with the luggage.

Serge: Please tell me that you brought all that luggage on purpose just so he could suffer a bit.

Sebaga: (Winked) Maybe.

Later that day

At Rra Sebaga's

Sebaga sipped on her cold drink and looked around the tidy living room. Her father's house had never been this organized and clean since

his divorce.

Sebaga: I love the new living room set up.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you. I got someone to change it. I was tired of the same set up

He said avoiding eye contact with her. Now that she came to think about it, the house was too organized including the kitchen and bathroom. To maintain this tidiness, one needed to be living in the house.

Sebaga: So do you need help to pay this person that helps you organize the house?

Rra Sebaga: Not really. She only came in once.

Sebaga: oh ok. So how long ago was this?

The old man scratched his head and looked around.

2K followers to go Bubbly Babies Boutique BW
(Don't comment done on this insert)

Rra Sebaga: Uhhh... About a week ago.

She silently laughed at how he thought he could lie to her.

Sebaga: Nice. Anyways I came all this way because I have news that I don't want you to get from anyone else except me.

Rra Sebaga: Is everything fine?

Sebaga: Yes. I want you to know that I

appreciate everything that you're doing for me as a daughter and I wouldn't have survived through the many storms without you.

Rra Sebaga: Are you going somewhere!

Sebaga: No. Fela and I are back together and we're expecting a baby.

There was silence as the old man digested the news.

Rra Sebaga: I hear you my child. What can I say? As long as you're happy and you're aware of what you're doing. I can only support you. I trust you to make the right decisions and be kind and gentle to your heart. You have been through so much.

Sebaga: Really?

Rra Sebaga: Yes. Love can just come from

places you don't expect it. I'm the last person to judge you.

Sebaga: I'm I missing something dad? I mean why does it sound like you're holding back on something.

The old man kept quiet and smiled as he reflected on how he had met his darling friend.

At Fela's

Fela scratched his head and maintained a straight face waiting for the criticism of his parents. After all he was ready to take it and do everything in his power to fight for his woman. No one could change his mind.

Mma Fela: What can we say son.

Congratulations. Nna hela ka bona, I'm very happy for you. I know how much you love this woman. I truly hope and pray with everything that you do right by her this time around. This means that Seba truly loves you for her to come back even with everything that's happened. Don't let her or your children down.

Rra Sebaga: Congratulations son. This is beautiful and I'm happy for you. We all know how hard you fought for this but let's not forget the situation at hand here.

Fela: What?

Rra Sebaga: Kgabiso!

The intercom rang and they all looked at each other.

Mma Sebaga: Are you two expecting anyone?

Rra Fela: No.

Fela: I haven't even told anyone that I'm home so no.

Mma Fela: Let me get it.

Meanwhile outside the gate Kgabiso fixed her hair and presssed her lips together making sure that she looked good.

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Bonus4

The Devil I Never Knew

#92

At Fela's

Fela stood by the door and impatiently watched as Kgabiso walked into the house. The sight of this woman made him sick but then again this was the mother of his son so he had to tolerate her to some level.

Kgabiso: Can we talk?

Fela: About what?

Mma Fela and her husband both exchanged looks before leaving them and going upstairs.

Fela: What do you wanna talk about and who told you that I'm here?

Kgabiso: I didn't know that you were here. I came to see your mum and check on Cody but since you're here, I would like to have a chat with you.

Fela: Ee buwa. (Say what you wanna say.)

He said while still standing.

Kgabiso: Can we please both deal with this like adults. I understand that you don't like me very much but we need to talk. Fela you and I share a child and that is not going to change anytime soon.

Fela: If only wishes were horses.

He said closing the door and sitting down.

Fela: Sit akere you treat this place like your house anyways.

Kgabis: Thank you.

She looked at him then swallowed... The fact that this man would never want or even love her left her feeling bitter but maybe she needed to accept this and move on in-order to heal.

Kgabiso: I'm truly sorry for everything that I have put you through. I understand that we are past a point of having a healthy co-parenting relationship but I would like to believe that maybe one day the Lord will grant us that for the sake of our son.

She took a deep breath and forced a smile.

Kgabiso: I looked at myself today and for the very first time, I couldn't recognize myself. I searched deep inside my heart and realized that I had seized to exist in my true form the night I drugged you and slept with you. I guess for a very long time, I envied my sister and everything she had to a point where I lost my humanity. I'm jealous that she gets to be loved this hard and deep but for the very first time I understand. It's because she is so kind and loving. Why would it be hard to love such a person?

There was a moment of awkward silence as they both took in everything as it came.

Kgabiso: It's hard to love and forgive people like me mainly because we have hurt so many people and moved on like it meant nothing. I won't cause any trouble between you and my

sister. I know that it's hard to believe that but I wish you all the best. Please don't take my child away from me because he is the only person that can give me the purpose to turn my life around.

She stood up...

Kgabiso: Let me know when I can come get him. I will be happy to bring him here on weekends and holidays.

Fela remained mute wondering what was happening...

Kgabiso: Goodye Fela. It's all over. You can finally be happy without looking over your shoulders. I wish you all the best.

She left before he could say anything...

Twenty minutes later Fela's parents came back downstairs.

Mma Fela: Is that lunatic gone?

Rra Fela: If she is giving you a hard time then it might be a good idea to take it up with the law.

He kept quiet and stared at the walls.

That same evening...

1K followers to go Bubbly Babies Boutique BW

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Bonus4

The Devil I Never Knew

#93

At Fela's

Fela stood up and shook his head then sighed heavily as both his parents waited for answers.

Mma Fela: What is it? What did she say?

Fela: So much! I don't even know where to begin but it shooks me how one can keep playing games even at her age. No one is going to come between me and Sebaga.

Rra Fela: I hope you really mean that son because you're too old to be playing games. And now that you're bringing another baby into this, you need to create a healthy environment for both kids.

Fela: Ee rra.

The following day

Airport Junction

Fela and Sebaga walked hand in hand at the mall. Fela took out his phone then squeezed his girl's hand.

Fela: Hold on. Let's capture this moment. Once it's gone, we are never getting it back.

Sebaga: When did you become so sentimental?

Fela: When I realized that you could lose your whole world in a single day.

Sebaga: I don't know if I should be worried or be grateful because you're more sentimental than I am.

Fela: The latter my girl.

She giggled as he took a few snaps.

Fela: Let's go into ToysRUs and see what baby stuff they have.

Sebaga: Babe it's really too early for that. I get that you're not excited about out this baby but you need to slow down.

Fela: (Smiled) We're just looking. We don't have to buy anything.

Sebaga: Ok. Let's go in.

He held on tightly to her hand the entire time they got into the shop.

Sebaga: Let's see the strollers.

They went over to that section and the moment they started looking, Fela fell in-love with a certain stroller he couldn't get his eyes off.

Fela: I love this.

He said running his hand on the bounce egg stroller.

Sebaga: What's the price?

He looked around it till he located it.

Fela: Six thousand without the car sit and seven thousand if we add it.

Sebaga: There is no way I'm buying that. That's ridiculous.

Fela: No. It's perfect. Look at this beauty in white. Imagine us going shopping with our little person in it. This is pure luxury and for our child, I would buy without any second thoughts.

Sebaga: You wanna spend seven thousand for a traveling unit that you're barely gonna use? Le gone for a child that's never gonna know?

Fela: Yes. Absolutely!

Seba laughed as he admired the stroller.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Moagi stood under a tree for shade as her sister inlaw came out of the house with two plastic chairs and a bottle of cold water.

Mma Sebaga: Here. Let me go and grab some cups. I have put a two liter coke in the fridge. It's very hot.

Mma Moagi: Not as hot as the news I have for you.

Mma Sebaga: Let me go and get the cups first.

Mma Moagi sat down and impatiently waited

for her sister inlaw to get back. A few minutes later she came back with two plastic cups.

Mma Seaga: Here. So what news did you say that you have?

Mma Moagi grabbed a cup and filled it with water then took a sip.

Mma Moagi: (Sighed) Word on the street is that your ex husband moved on.

Mma Seaga: Moved on to what?

Mma Moagi: He has found a new girlfriend and from the looks of things of things she has moved in with him at that new fancy house Seba bought him.

Mma Seaga: (laughed) At our age, she shouldn't be called a girlfriend.

Mma Moagi: But she is not our age. She is younger.

Mma Sebaga grabbed the glass of water from her sister inlaw and took a sip as she felt her throat burning and closing up.

Mma Sebaga: Ele gore who is she?

She forced a smile...

Mma Moagi: Do you remember that woman that used to work at your farm?

Mma Sebaga: Mma Didi? No she is actually older than me. Ke ene o le mmitsang ngwanyana. (That's the one you're referring to as a girl?)

Mma Moagi: He is dating the daughter.

Mma Seaga: Whqt?

Mma Moagi: Yes. The teacher.

Everything became blurry and her eyes slowly closed as her sister inlaw held onto her.

Mma Moagi: Iyoooo! Nthuseng. (Help!)

At Rra Seaga's

Maikano walked into the bedroom with a tray of refreshments then placed it on the bedside table before she woke her old man up.

Maikano: Honey!

She shook him a couple of times till he opened his eyes then slowly sat up.

Rra Sebaga: Ao mogatsaka! Dijo gape? (you have brought more food?) Your aim is to get me fat.

Maikano: Do you blame me? You take good care of me then complain when I do the same?

Rra Sebaga: I don't know what I said to God when I was at my lowest but he answered my prayers through you.

Maikano: I told you that you're the answered prayer.

Rra Sebaga: I want to tell my daughter about us. There is no need to hide. We are doing nothing wrong.

She sighed heavily then sat next to him.

Maikano: I doubt that she will accept me. I'm almost her age.

Rra Sebaga: She is not the one in a relationship with you after all. Gape you're older than her.

He kissed her then pulled her closer to him...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#94

Later that day

Kgabiso parked her car under the tree then stepped out and locked the doors. She went into her mother's house where she was met by Mma Moagi and Mma Sebaga who seemed to be at her lowest.

Kgabiso: What's going on? Should we go to the hospital?

She sat next to her mother and put her hand on her head to check her temperature.

Mma Moagi: She is fine. I think that she is just shocked.

Kgabiso: Shocked by what?

Mma Seaga remained mute. Each time she thought of her ex husband with a young and successful woman, she found it hard to breath.

Mma Moagi: I came here to check on her then ended up sharing news of your father moving on.

Kgabiso: To what?

Mma Moagi: O bone ngwanyana. (He found a girlfriend.)

Kgabiso: (laughed) So that's what's stressing her? Come on mama! You can't tell me that you're frustrated over some old lady who will probably die way before you.

Mma Moagi: It's not an old lady. She is young. Maybe five years older than you. She is also a teacher.

Each time Mma Moagi opened her mouth to speak, Mma Sebaga wanted to shut her up even though she didn't have the strength to.

Kgabiso: (laughed) Tsena Mdala!

She looked at her mother and cracked up some more.

Kgabiso: Come on mama! You said that it was time to move on. Why are you crying foul? You're the one who told me that dad was never your type.

Mma Sebaga: Shut up!

She said as tears welled up in her eyes.

Kgabiso: Yeses! Ke respecter mojolo. (I respect the dating game.) Mama you're crying? Like you have tears?

Mma Moagi: Ga o na maitseo. (you have no manners.)

Kgabiso: (laughed) Atleast we are going through this season together. Mme kana nna I'm still too young and I can find someone yaanong wena mama? (but what about you mama?) Wa go dira jang jaanong? (What will you do about it?)

Mma Moagi stood up and went into the bathroom to laugh...

At the Molefes

Sebaga sat down and held on to her bag as her

mother inlaw pulled a chair to sit.

Mma Fela: It's so good to see you my baby. I know that I have already said that so many times but this is a blessing. I never thought that this day would ever come to pass.

Sebaga: Emma.

She kept her eyes on the table the entire time.

Mma Sebaga: You don't have to worry about me judging you. I know I said that leaving Fela was the best decision you made for yourself but that was years ago when he didn't have a stand. He's worked so hard to be the man that he is today. I have no doubt that he will do right by you my child.

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Mma Fela: I can't tell you how happy we're to have you in our lives. I know that you have been through so much in the past few years and I pray that this chapter is different. You deserve all the best things my child.

She smiled from ear to ear as her mother inlaw went on speaking.

In the Patio

Fela took out a little black box and opened it up before passing it to his father.

Fela: What do you think? You're the first person to see it.

Rra Fela: Is this what I think it is?

Fela: Yes. I'm gonna ask her to marry me.

Rra Fela: Son!

He extended his hand to his son then hugged him.

Rra Fela: That's how a real man steps up.

Fela: Thanks dad.

Rra Fela: Does she know about it?

Fela: No. I got it while she went to get her hair done.

Rra Fela: What's her stand on marriage? I mean, have you two discussed it?

Fela: She is not yet ready but that's not why I bought it. I want her to wear it till she is ready to upgrade to a wedding ring. I'm willing to wait. I know that moving on after you know what is not

easy.

Rra Fela: That's very true. These things take time but if you love her then you will wait son.

The following day...

At Rra Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga stepped out of the taxi then paid the driver before she opened up her umbrella and walked into the yard. The house was so big and the garden represented her ex husband so well. He must have put a lot of work into it. She gathered some courage then walked over to the door where she knocked.

A few minutes later, a beautiful young lady opened the door dressed in shorts and a baggy

tshirt. This woman was older than her kids yet she was here acting like she was younger.

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Bonus1

The Devil I Never Knew

#95

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano pulled down her T-shirt and forced a smile as she greeted Mma Sebaga. She had been told so many stories about the old woman and whatever tricks she had come with, she was well prepared.

Mma Sebaga: Is Rra Sebaga in?

Maikano: No.

Mma Sebaga: When will he be back?

Maikano: Who wants to know and why do they need the information?

The old woman moved back as her heart palpitated.

Mma Sebaga: Mma?

Maikano: Nne kere ke mang o batlang go itsi?
(Who's asking? Who do I say is looking for him?)

Mma Sebaga: Me.

She said swallowing regretfully...

Maikano: You who? Who are you?

If only the ground could open up and swallow her!

Mma Sebaga: Mma Sebaga. Don't you recognize me? Akere your mother used to bring you to work when she still worked for us?

Maikano: I'm sorry but I didn't recognize you. Would you like to come in and wait for him?

Mma Sebaga: Yes please. That would be nice. It's quite hot.

She said forcing a smile.

Maikano moved back and opened the door wide

then allowed her in.

Maikano: Can I get you a drink?

Mma Sebaga: Yes please. Heii go Mogote ngwanaka. (it's very hot my child.)

She wiped her sweat with the back of her hand then looked around the fully furnished living room. Just the sight of the porcelain tiles which showed her a reflection of herself was enough to send her to the hospital. How come her daughter was able to do all this for her father in a short period of time? She looked at the huge tv that was mounted on the wall and looked up to fight back her tears. All of these things were rightfully hers. Why had she allowed the devil to use her? She thought of the little two roomed house her last born daughter had built for her in the dusty streets of Gaborone and almost

fainted when she compared it to what the ex husband had back home and in the city. A few minutes later Maikano came back from the kitchen with a glass of juice.

Maikano: There you go.

She bent respectfully to give her the glass.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you my child.

Maikano: Let me call him and find out where he is.

She grabbed her phone from the other chair then dialed her man's number.

Rra Sebaga: Hello honey.

Maikano: Hey love. Ne rra o kae? (where are you?)

Mma Sebaga shamefully bowed feeling a bit shaken as to how the young girl was speaking to her husband...

Rra Sebaga: I'm at the mall buying the things you asked me to bring. I will be back in twenty minutes.

Maikano: This time don't buy the wrong things.

Rra Sebaga: Emma.

She giggled irritating Mma Sebaga.

Maikano: Hurry back.

She hung up.

Mma Sebaga: So do you live in Gaborone kana
you still live in Mahalapye and you're here to
visit?

Maikano: I live here.

Mma Sebaga: So who lives at the house that
our daughter bought in Mahalapye?

Maikano ignored her and fiddled with her phone.

Mma Sebaga: Excuse me for a minute.

She said standing up to go outside.

Mma Sebaga: Who does she think she is asking
me who I am in a house my child bought?

She took out her phone and called her daughter.

Kgabiso: Hello mama.

Mma Sebaga: Where are you? Come to your father's house and let's come beat up the little girl he lives with.

There was an awkward moment of silence before Kgabiso burst into laughter.

Kgabiso: Bathong mama Koore you're serious hela you want to fight for a man that divorced you?

Mma Sebaga: I'm not fighting for a man. This little girl gave me attitude when I got here. I just want to teach her some manners.

Kgabiso: What are you doing there in the first place? Mama wa be o batla goswa akere? (You want to die?) Please let this go. What happened to starting over? Nna tota I want to do better for my son. Let's just let it go and see what God will do in our lives. I'm tired.

She hung up and the old woman went back inside the house.

She closed the door then turned back and locked up before she approached Maikano.

Mma Sebaga: Right. So tell me who you are in Rra Sebaga's house. Le gone why are you half naked?

Maikano: Mme? Did you take your high blood pressure medication today? I hear that if you

skip it, it messes with your memory at times.
Have you forgotten that you're divorced?

She shamefully picked up her umbrella then quickly unlocked the door before leaving the house. A shocked Maikano stood by the door and clapped her hands as she watched the old woman leaving.

Maikano: Bagolo ba Iwala loneng. (These oldies are sick.) What does she think this is? A Nigerian movie? Waitsi kana we are sitting on talent in this country. Go riana we have actors.

She clapped her hands and laughed...

Meanwhile Rra Sebaga drove slowly on the tarred road that was leading to his house.

He noticed his ex wife walking like a madwoman then slowed down and rolled down the windows.

Rra Sebaga: Dumelang.

Mma Sebaga looked at him then waved as she continued walking. In as much as she was hurting and jealous of the new girl in her ex husband's life, her daughter was right. She had just cartooned herself. She increased her pace and approached the stop.

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#96

A few days later

At Rra Sebaga's

Sebaga forced a smile and extended her hand to Maikano as her father made the introductions. The fact that this woman seemed quite young bothered her but she was not one to judge. She more than anyone knew how love had no manual.

Rra Sebaga: So this is the woman that I was telling you about. She is my friend and second chance to do things better.

Seba shamefully smiled and sat down as the young lady and her father locked eyes like teenagers that had just discovered love.

Rra Sebaga: So shall we eat?

Sebaga: Yes please.

He lead them to the dinning table where there was plenty of food that had been cooked by Maikano. Seba looked at the food and salivated.

Sebaga: The food looks really good.

Rra Sebaga: That's Maikano for you. She can really cook.

Sebaga: Nice.

The awkwardness around the table gradually

decreased as the trio ate and talked about different things.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Moagi laughed till tears built up in her eyes as her sister inlaw narrated to her on what had taken place a few days ago.

Mma Sebaga: And she said, "Mme, have you taken your pills?"

Mma Moagi: You are now spicing things up.

Mma Sebaga: I'm telling you the truth. Waitsi ke utlwa ke tsidihallwa ke swaba le nna. (I suddenly felt everything going cold. I was so embarrassed.) Even to this day, I still wonder what really possessed me to go there because I had accepted this divorce.

Mma Moagi: (laughed) It was knowing that the old man could still score a younger girl. I would also be angry and bitter especially at this point where we are getting wrinkles and aging.

Mma Sebaga: You should have seen me flying on the tarred road when I saw Rra Sebaga.

Mma Moagi: Do you think that she told him?

Mma Sebaga: I doubt. He would have confronted me. Mme mma ke bakile. Kana le pelo e kile ya ema. (I have learnt my lesson. My heart stopped at one point.)

They both laughed...

At Rra Sebaga's

After spending almost the entire day at her father's place, Sebaga grabbed her stuff and

waited in the living room for Fela to come fetch her. Maikano went into the kitchen to wash the dishes while her Rra Seba joined his daughter.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you so much for coming. I know that you're not comfortable with this but the fact that you're here and you're making an effort makes me so happy.

Sebaga: I may not understand your decisions but I respect them. Dad you also deserve to be happy.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you my girl. I just pray and hope that your mother stays far away from me. I hear that she was here the other day.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say. Some things will never change.

Rra Sebaga: Yes. We just learn to accept them and move on.

At the Molefe's

Mma Fela cleared her throat and waited for her son to speak. Kgabiso on the other hand remained mute waiting to hear what the meeting was all about.

Fela: Thank you for coming Mmagwe Cody. I asked my mum to be here as a witness so that when things change tomorrow, I have someone to bear witness of what took place. You and I have agreed that you will continue to stay with Cody. I as his father will continue to do my part. When I am in town, I will do my best to spend as much time as I can with him provided that it's here. I would appreciate it if all calls you make to me are about his well being and nothing more. You and I are not friends and sadly

because of what took place, we share a child. I love my son and I will do everything that's best for him but his existence will never stand in the way of my happiness. I know that you have heard rumors and probably googled it but let me be the one to confirm to you that I am indeed back with the love of my life. I will destroy anyone or anything that sets to hurt her. If you had any plans then I'm asking you as the mother of my child to step back because I want to respect you and stay out of your way for the sake of our son. Ikgalemele ga o na le dikakanyo tse di bosula. (Rebuke yourself if you have any evil thoughts against my relationship)

Kgabiso shamefully bowed then swallowed.

Kgabiso: Ee rra. I hear you. I have nothing much

to say except that I accept your terms.

Later that day

At the guest house

Fela took out the ring box from his bag then sat by the bed and watched his woman peacefully sleeping.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#97

At the guest house

Fela laid next to Sebaga and kissed her forehead then gently rubbed her face. He slowly reached for her hand and slipped on the ring he had bought for her. This woman right here was his world and being right here with her at this very moment meant everything to him. He smiled and sunk his teeth in his bottom lip as she slowly got up and rubbed her eyes.

Sebaga: Hey.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: How long was I out for?

Fela: Two hours.

Sebaga: Eish. I'm exhausted.

Fela: Sorry babe. I can tell. So how do you like your ring?

Sebaga: Huh?

Fela: You might wanna have a look at your ring finger.

She looked at her left hand and a tear rolled down her cheek.

Sebaga: Fela!

Fela: I know what you said about not wanting anything serious and getting married but I want you to hold onto that till you're ready. This is a sign of my commitment to you. I want you to know that I'm on your side, I will fight to stay there and be your shield.

Sebaga smiled and looked up to block her tears.

Sebaga: I love you Fela. I don't know how we're here together and going through this but I love you and I still wanna love you tomorrow.

Fela: And the day after that. And the other.

They both burst into laughter as he hugged her.

Fela: I wanna build a family with you.

Sebaga: (Smiled) I want the same.

Two years later...

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano smiled from ear to ear as she stood on

the other side of the gate with her family who sang and danced competing with the groom's family. Rra Seba fixed his suit and stood with his family as they sang to welcome their bride.

Meanwhile inside the house Seba stood up and fixed her dress then turned to her son and fixed his little bow tie.

Fela: Babe are you okay?

Sebaga: Yes. I'm just...

She sighed heavily then forced a smile.

Sebaga: I honestly don't know how I feel about this marriage. I mean this woman is almost my age. Is this even right?

Fela stood up and took her hand.

Fela: Does it even matter? I mean will it matter? Whether we see it as right or wrong, they won't really change their plans because of how we feel. It's pretty much late to stop this wedding if that's what you're thinking.

Sebaga: That's not what I had in mind.

Fela: Would you want his support if it was the other way around?

She kept quiet...

Sebaga: I don't know. Maybe I would still want it.

Fela: There are some things you can't change no matter how you feel about them.

Sebaga: I guess.

Fela: Let's go out there and support him. It's the least we can do after everything that he's done for us even though we both know that deep down, he doesn't approve of our relationship.

Sebaga: You're right.

Fela: Of course I'm right.

Fela picked up his son and took his woman's hand as they went outside and joined the rest of the family.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood before the mirror and turned around to admire her dress as her fiancée took a video of her.

Paul: You look amazing my love. I can't wait to see what you look like in a wedding dress.

Kgabiso: The wedding is next week so you don't have to wait much longer after all.

Paul: The negotiations have dragged for months so I'm glad that it's all coming to an end.

Kgabiso: Thank you for being patient with me and my family. There was a lot of drama and at some point I thought that you would run.

Paul: You don't have to thank me. I'm just happy that you've made peace with them and we're going ahead with this wedding re na le support ya bone. (with their support.) I love you babe and I could never run anywhere.

Kgabiso: (Smiled) Me too. I just really wish that overtime my sister and I can work on relationships . I mean I'm not complaining. The fact that she can greet me is already a lot.

Paul: That's the spirit my baby. We give gratitude for the little things. Over time they will materialize into the bigger things.

Kgabiso: Yeah.

Paul: Let's go. We are gonna be late.

Kgabiso: You're sure I look ok?

Paul: Babe you look beautiful. Ebile nkare you're the bride.

Kgabiso: (Smiled) Ok. Let's get going.

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Bonus4

The Devil I Never Knew

#98

Later that day

Sebaga wrapped around a kikoy on her dress to avoid getting it wet and dirty as she washed the dishes. The wedding had went on for the entire day and she was exhausted.

Mma Moagi: Ao girl.

She turned around and exchanged pleasantries with her aunt.

Sebaga: You came?

Mma Moagi: How could I miss it? I know that we're related to your mother but your father has been so good to us and I see no reason to spite him by not coming?

Sebaga: And your sister inlaw is fine with that?

Mma Moagi: Yes. Why do you ask?

Sebaga: Nothing. I'm just asking.

Mma Moagi: I hear that your baby daddy wants to marry you but you're skeptical about it. My child, everyone makes mistakes. Allow the man to marry you. You don't have to worry about your sister snatching him away from you anymore.

Sebaga: I don't know what you're talking about. Maybe the person that told you that has better answers.

She forced a smile then continued washing the dishes as Mma Moagi shamefully stood by.

At Mma Sebaga's

Rra Moagi laid back and sipped on his coke then carefully looked at his sister as she reached the bottle for a third glass.

Rra Moagi: Are you sure that you are not addicted to this poison? Kana these days you take a whole two liter bottle by yourself.

Mma Sebaga: It's the only thing that gets me through the day since I can't eat.

Rra Moagi: Maybe you should see a doctor. It's not healthy to live like that. This is not life.

Mma Sebqga: Don't worry about me. I'm not sick. I'm simply paying for my sins and going through a stressful time. Maybe one day when the almighty is done punishing me then I will live like a normal human being.

She looked at her brother and sighed heavily.

Mma Sebaga: Pelo ye yame e botlhoko tota.
(My heart is really sore.) My own child doesn't see me as her mother even after all these years. Her father who I thought, I would grow old with is getting married today to a girl young enough to be my daughter. I have given everything to God but why does it hurt so bad? Is it knowing that it's all my fault that we are here?

She swallowed painfully then looked at her brother.

Mma Sebaga: I know that we don't always agree on everything but I would like to thank you for standing by my side and trying to be supportive in all things. I haven't always been good but you on the other hand, have remained a good brother and even though it meant that at

times you just had to support my children.

Rra Moagi: You're my sister and that is never going to change no matter how bad you get. I'm happy that you have changed. I know how much it must hurt to have your daughter keep her distance from you but I'm happy that she has forgiven you. If it gives her peace to love you from a distance then there is nothing we can do about it.

Mma Sebaga: Ee rra.

At Rra Sebaga's

Kgabiso walked hand in hand with her son to the tent that was being used by the ladies to perform a few tasks. She greeted her sister then pulled a chair and faced to Sebaga's direction who seemed very busy with the dishes.

Kgabiso: Hie.

Sebaga: Hie.

She kept her eyes on the dishes and ignored her sister.

Kgabiso: Can we talk?

Sebaga: What is it about?

Kgabiso: It's about Cody.

Sebaga: Then talk to the father about it. I'm not sure why you're involving me.

Kgabiso: Is this how you wanna be? Bitter till the bitter end?

Seba ignored her and rinsed the dishes.

Kgabiso: I know that it hurts but Cody is Fela's firstborn son and that is never gonna change. I made a mistake and hurt you. Mme mma you need to have some kind of ability to forgive as a human being.

Sebaga: Are you done?

She said putting the dishes in the other bowl. She picked a table cloth from the table then wiped her hands.

Sebaga: It was nice seeing you.

Kgabiso: Fela is no longer involved much in his son's life because of you. It is because of you that my son has to cry and act out just to see his father. You're a mother for crying out loud. Stop being selfish and think of my son. I mean

look at the boy, he is a complete replica of his father. There is nothing that you can do about it. Just accept it.

Sebaga: Sharp Kgabiso.

She said before leaving.

That same evening at Seba's

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#99

That same evening

At Sebaga's

Fela rubbed his woman's feet and watched her as she relaxed and closed her eyes. This woman was his peace and when she was upset, it angered him.

Fela: I know that you said I should let it go but I still think that I need to have a word with Kgabiso.

Sebaga: I doubt that it will change anything. I hate to say this but Kgabiso is just another bitter baby mama that finds it amusing to cause drama at every chance she gets. If you give her the attention then you will just be motivating her. People like her like an audience just so they

could perform further. I've never stopped you from seeing your son or having a relationship with him on any given day and I'll never. Me not wanting him to be a part of my life doesn't mean that I hate him or anything. I just prefer it if i wasn't involved in his life.

Fela: I know babe and I fully respect that. That is why I don't bring him around your space.

Kgabiso: I'm just shocked that she said I am the reason you don't spend enough time with him. Help me with this, when you're at your mum's during your trips here ,don't you give him enough of your attention. I know that I said I wasn't gonna get involved but I need to know.

Fela: I spend time with that little boy and I have always done everything in my power to make sure that I provide for him too. Kgabiso is just looking for a fight mme kana I will give it to her if that's what she wants.

Sebaga: Don't fight with her. Be the parent your son deserves and continue supporting him. One day that little boy will know who was the problem. Kids know these things. And as for me, my sister can't temper with my peace. There is no one in this earth that can break me. I've went through the worst kind of things that I thought would take me to the grave yet I'm still here.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too.

He looked at her ring and sighed. As much as he wanted to be patient, it broke him every single day to know that she wasn't ready to marry him even though they shared a child.

Fela: I just wish that this didn't affect you to a point you're not sure about marriage.

Sebaga: Whatever happened in the past is not the reason why it took me this long to agree to marriage. Fela I want to be whole when I get married to you. Two years ago, I would have slapped Kgabiso across the face because I didn't have peace. Two years ago, it hurt every single day I woke up next to you.

She looked at him and smiled.

Sebaga: But not anymore. I've worked on my own peace personally to a level no one can access it. Me marrying you now is not to get back at Kgabiso or prove a point, but it's because I'm madly and insanely inlove with you.

Fela: I must have done something right in the eyes of God to get a woman like you.

He smiled from ear to ear as she lifted up her dress then stood up.

Sebaga: I wouldn't mind being tucked into bed like Sefela.

Fela: (Bit lower lip) I like where you're going with this.

He stood up and followed her to the bedroom.

At Kgabiso's

Paul threw himself on the couch and sighed heavily. After the long day, they had, his body was ready to shutdown.

Kgabiso: Let's go out for some drinks.

She said walking into the living room in her shorts.

Paul: Are you serious? Babe we literally just got back. I don't know about you but I'm exhausted.

Kgabiso: Ok. We can go out another time I suppose.

Paul: Are you okay? You've been awfully quiet ever since we got back from the wedding. Did you get a chance to chat to your sister and ask her to be your best lady as you had wanted?

Kgabiso: I've changed my mind. I don't know what I was thinking but there is no way that I will ask her such a noble thing when she has showed me that she wants to be bitter till the end. I mean I've tried being nice yet she is still stuck up on the past. I don't understand why she can't just accept my son. Akere she sticked

with Fela meaning that she loves him. It shouldn't be hard to love his son who happens to be her nephew too. I don't understand why she wants to separate Fela from his son. If it wasn't for her then Cody would probably be living with his dad.

Paul: Babe? You think that it's that easy? Cody is not her biological son. She is not forced to love him.

Kgabiso: Ao? Mme ntlha wena you were able to accept him.(Yet you were able to?)

Paul: That's because he's your son and he's not fathered by my sibling over a betrayal. That can't be easy. I doubt that I would also be able to move past it. The fact that she is not interfering makes her a bigger person. I hate to say this but you're just looking for something to fight about. The boy is happy staying with us. Let it be.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#100

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Fela closed the house and locked the door as his woman and son sat in the car waiting for him. His phone rang for the millionth time and this time he was triggered so he reached for it and answered.

Fela: Hello.

Kgabiso: Finally! I was starting to think that you were ignoring me.

Fela: How can I help you?

Kgabiso: We need to talk about Cody. I think it's high time you took over and he moved in with you. Kana nna I'm preparing for my wedding day and I think it would be fair if I was also given space just as you have had your space to fix your things with Sebaga..

Fela: I told you why Cody can't be with me anymore. Akere you know that I travel a lot yaanong who will he be with?

Kgabiso: Who does your other son remain with kante don't you have a woman?

Fela: Since when is Cody her responsibility?

Kgabiso: Aren't you two getting married? Isn't

she supposed to love and accept your son if she really loves you?

Fela: I think that I've entertained you for too long. Are you forgetting that you raped me the night before I was to marry your sister. Did you forget that we didn't make this child out of love? Wa be o batla go mpuisa dilo akere? (You want me to end up saying things that will upset you?) Kgabiso for once, be the woman that man deserves. Don't ruin this for yourself because he seems like a good guy. Nna I will never love you no matter what you say or do. If you think that you will mess this up because we have a chance then you need to think really hard.

He hung up then went inside the car.

Fela: Are you ready?

Seba looked at him then held his hand.

Sebaga: O sharp? (Are you okay?)

Fela: Yeah.

He looked behind and smiled with his son then started the car.

Fela: So we're finally going back home.

Sebaga: I can't wait. I'm exhausted. Nna tota Gaborone is too fast for me. I prefer to stay in our quiet town where everyone knows everyone.

Fela: You mean where Serge knows everyone.

They both burst into laughter...

Sebaga: It's the same thing. Akere he always keeps us updated.

Fela: You can say that again.

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano slowly got out of bed then tip toed out of the house making sure not to wake up the old man as her phone rang. She closed the door behind and looked around to make sure there was no one before answering.

Maikano: Hello.

Mma Maikano: Mma Gabanne!

Maikano: (laughed) Imagine.

Mma Maikano: How far? It's been years and you're still failing to do what you went there for.

Maikano: I told you that you need to relax mum. Some things take time. I can't just wake up and kill the old man. I will be the first suspect kana. Akere le wena wa itsi gore batho ba setse ba sa ntshephe. (You know that these people already don't trust me and they are doubting my intentions for the old man.)

Mma Maikano: Just kill him and get that farm back. We will deal with the rest later.

Maikano: No! If I'm the one that has to do the dirty job then I will take my time and find the right way to get the job done.

Mma Maikano: Maikano! Listen to me. I'm your mother!

She hung up and clicked her tongue then went back inside. If the old woman thought that she could control her however way she wished then she had another thing coming.

At Mma Fela's

Sebaga and her son stepped out of the car then stood by the driver's side as Fela rolled down the window.

Fela: I'll see you in a bit. Should I bring anything?

Sebaga: No babes. We're good. Just make sure that we don't miss our flight. I don't wanna spend another night in Gaborone.

Fela: (Smiled) Got it. It shouldn't take long.

Sebaga: Don't fight when you get there. It's what she wants.

Fela: I actually have a better way of handling this. I'm not dealing with Kgabiso on sh*t.

Sebaga: Sharp.

He rolled up the windows then drove off.

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#101

At Paul's Office

Kgabiso furiously stood up as she looked at the time. Fela was running twenty minutes late and she was getting impatient. What was this little meeting he had organized with Paul all about behind her back?

Kgabiso: Call him and find out when he will be here. I'm running late. I also have things to attend to today. He surely can't think that we're just waiting for him.

Paul: Sit down and relax. I've already spoken to him and he's assured me that he's on his way.

Kgabiso: What is this even about and why does Fela feel comfortable to call and set up meetings with you? Aren't I the one he shares a child with?

Paul: You said you wanted me involved and you also said that he needed to respect that I'm a part of Cody's life and I think that's what he's simply doing. Sit down and relax babes.

A few minutes later there was a knock at the door. Paul got up and opened the door then exchanged pleasantries with Fela as they shook

hands.

Fela: Thank you so much for agreeing to see me at such short notice. Le nna I'm meant to fly in three hours so this won't take long.

He walked in and greeted Kgabiso then sat next to her.

Kgabiso: What's this about?

Paul: Ema pele Mmagwe Cody. (Wait first.)

He turned to Fela.

Paul: Boss, so how can we help you today.

Fela: I'm not sure if Cody's mum told you this but we have been having fights about Cody and

at one point she confronted my fiancée at the wedding and harassed her.

Paul looked at his wife to be and she shamefully looked away.

Fela: The issue is about me taking Cody with me because I live with my other son. According to Mmagwe Cody, I don't love him enough. It has now gotten to a point where she disrespects my woman when we talk about Cody but unfortunately I won't have that. I came here because I respect you and I respect how you have been a part of my son's life. I don't want to disrespect you in any way but please talk to your woman. I don't want to have to make things difficult for her.

Paul calmly looked at him then turned to Cody's

mum.

Paul: Babe do you have anything to say for yourself?

Kgabiso: I don't know why Fela thinks that I want to destroy his home when I've moved on and have no interest in him but let me make myself clear so he doesn't have to read in between the lines anymore. Nna tota I'm no longer interested in him. I will admit that in the past, I did a few questionable things but I'm not there anymore. My concern here is my son.

Fela: Don't I take care of him..

Kgabiso: Yes you do but what will happen to him once you cease to exist? Will he get what's rightfully his kana your wife to be is keeping him at arms length so he doesn't claim any of his things when you're gone?

Fela: I don't know where you get that. I'm not

dying ha gongwe ebole you will die before me.

The whole room went quiet...

Kgabiso: Will Cody get anything or not?

Fela: What I leave my son once I'm gone is not your business. Focus on your things and stay away from my family. I'm aware that I have two sons and what is on my will is not up for discussion with you. You need to remember that you and I were never involved.

He calmly turned to Paul.

Fela: Morena! I respect you so much. Please put your woman in her place.

He said before getting up to leave.

A few minutes after he had left, Paul sat in the room with his woman and quietly observed her. He knew her very well and her ways of scheming and he could tell that she was being honest about everything that she had said.

Paul: I don't know what your business is with harassing and confronting your sister but that's disrespectful even to me. If you're not ready to get married then you need to be honest. You can't run around like a little girl that's just discovered to date and embarrass me. I love and respect you but you mess this up then I'm gone.

Kgabiso: I didn't mean to disrespect you.

Paul: Pick what you want and stick to it. You're too old to be fighting with someone that doesn't

seem interested in fighting with you. Your focus should be on what you leave Cody. Stay out of other people's benefits and what they will leave behind. This is exactly how some people ended up behind bars for murder.

Kgabiso: Ee rra.

She shamefully agreed with him

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Bonus 4

The Devil I Never Knew

#102

At Mma Fela's

Mma Fela turned on the tv and put snacks in front of her grandson before leaving to attend to her daughter inlaw in the dinning room..

Mma Fela: I'm the luckiest grandmother ever. I don't know how I was blessed with well behaved boys because their father was a cry baby. Kana you couldn't leave Fela alone in the room for even five minutes at Sefela's age.

Sebaga: Owaii Sefela is such an angel.

Mma Fela: He is quite similar to his brother.

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Mma Fela looked at her daughter inlaw to observe the kind of mood she was in before she could say anything.

Mma Fela: So how is your day going and how do you feel?

Sebaga: I can't really complain. Everything seems to be in order.

Mma Fela: There is something that I want to talk to you about. If I'm crossing a line then let me know because by this conversation I mean no harm.

Sebaga: Ee mma.

Mma Fela: This is about Cody. My girl how long do you plan on closing your heart to that boy? I know that the way that he was conceived was hurtful but we can't ignore the fact that he is your nephew and also your son's brother. Why can't you accept him and let him into your home?

Sebaga: I don't mean to be disrespectful but this is a conversation I'm not comfortable having.

Mma Fela turned to check if her grandson was still comfortable then took her daughter inlaw's hand.

Mma Fela: Trust me, I more than anyone know how hurt and wronged you were. I've never judged you or blamed you for any of the decisions you took but my girl it's been years.

Sebaga. Can I ask you something?

Mma Fela: Yes.

Sebqga: If I had Cody at my house and something happened to him, would you ever believe me if I told you that it was a mistake or an accident.

Mma Fela: Ofcourse. I know that you would never wanna harm an innocent child. You're a mother after all.

Sebaga: Exactly, you know that but what about

his mother? If that boy was to fall in the bathtub or in the garden then I would never breath or have any peace because till this day, his mother insists on fighting. I understand that you love your grandson and you want what's best for him but I've always been very clear about my position in all of this. Le ene Fela I told him my conditions before we got back together. As selfish as it sounds, it's very important for me to protect my peace so that I can be a better mother to my son. I've never stopped Fela from having a relationship with his son or taking care of him. I just ask that you don't involve me. I've been through so much mama and I will never allow anyone to take away my peace or sanity especially my sister. If this act makes me bitter then I guess I'm comfortable with being called that.

Mma Fela looked at her and sighed heavily. A

part of her knew that to some extent, Sebaga was telling the truth. Kgabiso was not to be trusted and quite honestly, she was a difficult person to deal with.

Mma Fela: I hear you. It's quite difficult to dismiss what you're saying. I just wish that there was a way to work out things so that this innocent boy wouldn't have to suffer. It's going to be hard for him growing up knowing that he can't go to his father's home.

Sebaga: Mme kana Fela has his own house in Maun. If he decides that he wants to have Cody over then he can. Nna tota in my space, I have always been very upfront. Gape hela we are not married.

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano knelt down as she gave her husband water to wash his hands. There was never a day that passed by that he didn't feel like a king.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you my love.

Maikano: (Smiled) You're welcome my king.

She flashed a smile guilt stricken. In all the years that she had been with this man, he had protected her and done everything to make her feel like a Queen..

Maikano: There is something that I want to talk to you about. I don't know where to start because I know that it will upset you and there are very high chances of you wanting to leave me after you find out.

Rra Sebaga: There is nothing that can ever get

me to leave you. Be free and talk to me.

Maikano: When I first came here, it wasn't to find love or have any kind of relationship with you. I came here to...

She swallowed then got up and sat by his side.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#103

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano put her hand over Rra Sebaga and took

a deep breath as she looked into his eyes. The old man was not the bad guy her mother had made him to be and the more time she got to spend with him, she realized that her mother must have been the devil in this scenario.

Maikano: Do you remember the old man you bought this farm from?

Rra Sebaga: Yes. It was a long time ago. What do you know about that and who told you this?

Maikano: He was my father.

A tear rolled down her cheek as she summoned the courage to come clean.

Maikano: The reason why he came to you desperate for money is because I was sick and he needed to care for me and my mother. When

he failed to return the money, you seized his farm and we were left with nothing after he died. We had to go from farm to farm begging like paupers.

Rra Sebaga suddenly numbed up as his memory of his old friend came back.

Rra Sebaga: I didn't seize the farm. We had an agreement that if he couldn't pay me back, I would get the farm. Everything was done legally.

Maikano: But for what? For a few thousands or even hundreds?

Rra Sebaga: That's not true. I later gave him my car as part of the deal.

Maikano: Well not according to my mother. According to her, you stole from us and she later had to work in her own farm.

Rra Sebaga: That's not true and your mother knows it. Ask her to tell you the whole truth.

Maikano: I want to be honest with you, when I came here, I came looking for revenge. I was even ready to kill you.

She looked up trying to block her tears but as it was, nature won.

Rra Sebaga: And now? Do you still want to kill me?

Maikano: No.

Rra Sebaga: And what did you want to achieve by killing me?

She kept quiet and swallowed.

Maikano: I wanted to get our farm back.

Rra Sebaga: I hear you but you would have killed me for nothing because that farm belongs to both my children.

He stood up with mixed emotions.

Rra Sebaga: I'm going for a walk. I need to think.

Maikano: I'm sorry. I know that it might be hard to believe this but I don't wanna kill you. I'm with you because I care about you and my feelings have changed over time.

Rra Seba looked at her then stood up.

Maikano: Can I at least come with you?

Rra Sebaga: No. I need some space.

The old man left...

At Mma Fela's

Sebaga sat in the car as Fela and his mother stood outside the car talking.

Fela: We'll see you the next time we come. We will leave the car keys with the usual guy. You can send Tim to pick the car up tomorrow.

Mma Fela: Ok son.

Fela: Is she ok? I don't know but she seems rather a bit off.

Mma Fela: I don't know if I upset her but I spoke to her about Cody.

Fela: What about him?

Mma Fela: I was asking her to be a bit considerate towards the boy. Son, this is not a life for your son. You can't come all the way here each time you need to see him. It's been years, by now she should be opening up a bit to the idea of having him around. What's gonna happen when something happens to his mother and you have to take him in? Where will he go since your partner doesn't want him around her? Son I know that you love your woman but when you made the decision to be fully in your son's life, you were accepting the responsibility of putting him over anything and everyone.

Fela: And my other son? Do you really want me to force Seba to love this boy or even have him in her space? Everyone is talking about putting my son first yet they don't realize that I have put him first for the longest time and I still do. What happens if I shove him down Seba's throat and she harms him because she despises him?

Mma Fela: She would never!

Fela: I love my woman with every part of me but I don't want to dismiss that at times people do things that are out of character. Akere wa itsi how her daughter died? Mum that little girl was killed by her biological father. Leave Seba alone, atleast she is not pretending to love the boy. I have always done everything in my power to do right by my son and I will never stop.

Mma Fela: I hear you son.

He looked at the time then hugged her.

Fela: I need to go. Tell dad that I will give him a call.

Mma Fela: Bye son.

At Kgabiso's

Paul sat down and picked up a newspaper then paged through the headlines.

Kgabiso: I will never understand why you want the actual paper instead of reading it online.

Paul ignored her and continued reading...

Kgabiso: Babe, are you still mad at me?

Paul: What you did, did not only embarrass me but it left me with a lot of questions. Is this what you're gonna keep doing after marriage because if so then I would rather not get married to you.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry. No.

Paul: Maybe you need to go through counseling.

This back and forth can't be normal or even healthy.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#104

Later that evening...

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano put her hands over her waist and stood by the door as she watched her husband

packing up his bags.

Maikano: Please don't go. Can we talk about this and sort things out. I only came clean because the truth was burning me and I care way too much about you to build our marriage on lies.

Rra Sebaga: And I appreciate you for being honest but truth is that I can't share a home let alone a bed with you after hearing this. I'm here wondering what would have happened if your feelings for me would have not changed.

He sighed heavily then closed up his bags.

Rra Sebaga: I would have been dead for something I did in honesty. Maikano I never stole from your father. We had an agreement.

Maikano: Now, I understand that. I'm willing to defy my mother and work on our marriage. Love, I will protect you from my mother with everything I have.

Rra Sebaga: Till when? What happens one day when you have a change of emotions? I know that I'm old and I will eventually die but if it so happens then it needs to be the will of God, not that of a person. Maikano, I have children and grandchildren that still need me. I can't be selfish and die on them for the sake of love.

Maikano: Where will you go?

She said as a painful lump built up in her throat.

Rra Sebaga: Let me worry about that.

Maikano: And what about me? You're leaving me after promising to live the last years of your

lifew with me?

Tears welled up in her eyes as she knelt down to beg.

Rra Sebaga: Don't beg me. I'm not going to change my mind. You can stay here for as long as you like.

The old man picked up his bag and left her .

Maun, Botswana

Sebaga took off her shades and looked around the airport smiling. It felt good to finally be home away from all the chaos and drama.

Fela: And we're here.

He stood in-front of her then wrapped his arms around her and kissed her.

Fela: Welcome back home.

Sebaga: I can't tell you how happy I am. It's been awesome being back at home but our normal life is calling her.

He looked at her and chuckled.

Fela: Awesome?

Sebaga: You know what I mean.

Fela: Well I do and I'm proud of how you handle things each time we fly back home. The old Sebaga would have told everyone a piece of her

mind at the wedding and told them to stop pretending right away.

Sebaga: As you grow older, you realize that sometimes shutting your mouth brings a whole lot peace as compared to speaking your mind. It's not everyone that deserves that part of you.

He picked up his son and smiled at the mother.

Fela: And about what my mother said, I'm really sorry. She told me. I need you to know that I would never force you to be a parent to Cody. I spent a lot of time wondering why you failed to accept him overtime but the answer is always the same.

Sebaga: And it will never change. Maybe if the mother wasn't so toxic then I would take a step towards the parenting journey but like I've always said, I will put myself first. I'm sorry if

that doesn't match up to the woman you want to be with but that's what you get out of me.

Fela: I love you and I've always known this and accepted it. Let's go home my love.

She picked you up her son as her man pulled both their luggage bags.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso walked into the bedroom with a tray of refreshments then placed them by the bedside table

Kgabiso: Hey.

Paul: Hey.

Kgabiso: Can we talk?

Paul: Ee mma.

Kgabiso: I don't know a lot of things but what I know is that I don't wanna lose you. You're the only person that has experienced all my worst sides yet you have chosen to stay with me through the mess. I don't know why I often self sabotage but I realize that I do. I'm willing to go through counseling.

Paul: So do I but I think it's best we postpone the wedding till we are past this.

Kgabiso: Babe the wedding is in less than a week.

Paul: I know but I refuse to marry a woman that's still stuck up in her past. I've done everything to show you that our future is way better than the life you had wanted but you just keep going back there.

Kgabiso: Babe please.

Paul: I'm sorry but I've already spoken to my

parents about it and they are going to make an appointment to see yours.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#105

A few days later...

At Sebaga's, Gaborone

Rra Sebaga walked around the garden digesting what his wife had shared with him a few days

ago. He had not only loved but trusted this woman with his heart and home. How was it that he didn't see this coming. People were right after all. Maikano was not with him for love but for what she could get from him. The sound of his phone ringing brought him back to life.

Rra Sebag: Hello.

Sebaga: Hie dad. How are you?

Rra Sebaga: I'm still alive so I can't complain.

Sebaga: Are you comfortable? Is there anything that you need?

Rra Sebaga: No. Everything is in order. Thank you for allowing me to stay here.

Sebaga: You're welcome. You still don't want to talk about it?

Rra Sebaga: No. I would rather not.

Sebaga: Ok. I respect that.

She kept quiet for a while before breaking the silence.

Sebaga: Maikano called me.

Rra Sebaga: What does she want?

Sebaga: She wanted to know how you're doing.
She says that you're not taking her calls.

Rra Sebaga: And what did you tell her?

Sebaga: Nothing. Dad what's going on?

Rra Sebaga: I will talk to her when I'm ready.

Sebaga: You're my dad and I respect your privacy but if there is anything that I need to know then please be honest with me dad.

Rra Sebaga looked around as his mind

wandered. He knew his daughter too well. If he told her the truth then hell would freeze over. He was not gonna take any chances.

Rra Sebaga: You have such a beautiful garden.

This was his way of saying that he didn't want to talk about it. Whenever he found it uncomfortable to talk about a certain issue, he would change the subject.

Sebaga: I will check on you later.

Take care.

Rra Sebaga: You too my girl.

He hung up then continued walking around.

At Rra Sebega's

Maikano frustratedly rubbed her head as her mother spoke on the other side of the line.

Mma Maikano: My girl, you need to act fast. What happens when the old man starts having thoughts of giving the farm to his children? I still fail to understand what's difficult there. I mean this old man seems crazy in love with you. It shouldn't be too hard to poison him. Gape hela people now believe that you love him.

Maikano: What if I told you that I do?

There was an awkward moment of silence which was finally broken by the old woman.

Mma Maikano: Then I would laugh and thank

God because lucky for me, I gave birth to a smart child so it would just be a joke.

Maikano: I'm not killing him and neither I'm I getting back the farm.

The old woman felt her heart beat increasing.

Mma Maikano: Excuse me.

Maikano: I love him and I'm not killing him. I've told him everything and I'm sure that by now his children know so if you kill him then just know that you will be the first suspect. I understand that it broke you more than anything to find out that dad sold the farm and left us with nothing but I'm not killing a man i love for the sake of revenge and getting back a farm I have no idea how it was sold.

Mma Maikano: You have clearly gone mad.

Ware love? How do you love a man old enough to be your father? You think that you two will have a fairytale marriage? My child, wake up and smell the coffee, that man is dying either way. He is old and frail.

Maikano: If he dies then let it be according to the will of God not your evil will.

Mma Maikano laughed...

Mma Maikano: This is a curse. A girl as young as you are wants to ruin her life for an old man? Ele gore o itlhobogile Maikano? Aren't there boys your age that you can run around with?

She hung up then called her husband. She knew that there were very high chances of him not taking her calls but she was gonna try anyways.

Rra Sebaga: Hello.

She froze for a minute not knowing what to say.

Maikano: Hello. I'm on my way to Sebaga's. I know that you're there.

Rra Sebaga: Don't make that mistake because I will call the police on you. You want to finish me off?

Maikano: You think that if I wanted to kill you then I would have told you the truth. Pack your things up, I'm coming to pick you up.

She hung up then grabbed her car keys and left.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#106

At Sebaga's, Gaborone

Maikano parked her car outside the gate then hooted a couple of times. She picked up her phone to call the old man after waiting with no response.

Rra Sebaga: Stop making so much noise. Did I not tell you that I need some space?

Maikano: Let me explain. If you still don't want me around then I will leave.

Rra Sebaga: That's the problem with you youngsters. You never listen. When one says something, you want to do the opposite. You confessed to wanting to kill me. Do you really

expect me to open the gate for you gladly? I have lived for so many years, I won't behave like someone that doesn't understand how the world works.

Maikano: I love you.

Rra Sebaga: If you don't stop bothering me then I will report you to the police. I know my way back home. Stop pestering me like a teenager that's run away from home.

He hung up then picked up his plate and continued eating.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabi stood by the passenger side as Paul started the car. He had packed a few things with him and not knowing when he would be

returning scared her.

Kgabiso: So how long is this trip?

Paul: A few days.

Kgabiso: How long is a few days? We might be mad at each other but you and I are still married. I became your wife when my father accepted magadi from your family. I need to know when you're coming back home.

Paul: So you remember that I'm your husband? Good! Then you better have your head screwed on properly by the time I get back. Stop crying for your ex and behave like a woman who knows that I paid her magadi. This thing of yours of you acting desperate is not funny nor is it age appropriate. Arrange those counseling sessions. We're not moving on to anything till I know that you're ready to grow the fu*k up! I'll see you when I get back. I love you.

He started the car as she swallowed and moved back.

Kgabiso: I love you too babe.

He reversed out of the yard leaving her void.

At Sebaga's Office

Serge closed the office and sat down impatiently waiting for Seba. She kept her eyes on her computer and responded to the last of her emails.

Serge: You can't tell me that you have news then pretend to be busy when I get here. What

did you wanna discuss?

Sebaga: Tsala tlhe let me finish responding to emails. Akere I had said that we would talk after work.

Serge looked at the clock on the wall.

Serge: It's already after work. The time says fifteen minutes to five.

Sebqga: (laughed) That's plenty of time to wind up.

Serge: I will never understand how you people pretend to like work.

She pushed back her computer and laughed.

Sebqga: I don't know how you made it past law

school when you lack responsibility.

Serge: I kissed a few frogs and the rest was history.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: I think I'm finally ready.

Serge: For what? Stop speaking in parables.

Sebaga: For marriage. I have been wearing this ring for two years and we both know that I love him to the moon and back so I see no reason why we shouldn't be married. In the past few years, this man has proved himself over and over again.

Serge: And plus he makes you happy in bed as well. I see no reason to let go of that sugar.

Sebaga: (laughed) Wena kana.

Serge: I'm so happy for you my girl. You deserve all the best things in the world. That man is yours and it's time you claimed him.

Sebaga: There is just one thing bothering me.

Serge: What is it babes?

Sebaga: The type of marriage I want to go into.

Serge: Which is?

Sebaga: I want to get married out of community of property. I've thought long and hard about a lot of things. Like for instance, if anything was to happen to me, Fela would inherit my things then later pass them onto the children which include his first son.

Serge: Eish! I hear you. Obviously as a lawyer you weigh out all these things but will he understand where you're coming from? I personally don't see anything wrong with getting married out of community of property because if you're getting married for love then

why should it matter?

Sebaga: My thoughts exactly ! I don't know how he feels about it and I obviously want to hear his side. I'm willing to make a few compromises and meet him halfway provided that it doesn't drive any of us insane.

Later that evening

At Sebaga's

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Bonus4

The Devil I Never Knew

#107

Later that evening

At Sebaga's

After putting her son to sleep and doing the dishes, Seba turned off the lights and went into her room.

Fela: All done?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Fela: Should I run the shower?

Sebaga: In a bit. Can we talk first?

Fela: Yeah sure.

She sat on the bed and sighed as he did the

same.

Fela: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Yeah. I just don't know how to feel. I have so many mixed emotions. Like I look back from where we're from and I have nothing but gratitude. So much has happened in the past few years yet we're still making this work.

Fela: I can't tell you how grateful I am for this second chance we got. From the day that I met you, I've always pictured us sharing a life and kids.

Sebaga: (Smiled) Me too.

She took his hand and squeezed it tightly.

Sebaga: I'm ready to get married.

Fela: What?

He said jumping in excitement...

Fela: Are you for real?

Sebaga: (Laughed) Yes.

He stood up and carried her overwhelming her with so many kisses.

Fela: Babe you have no idea how happy you have just made me feel.

Sebaga: There is something else I want us to discuss.

Fela: Anything.

He said in a joyous mood.

Sebaga: I don't want a big wedding.

Fela: (Smiled) Whatever you want babe.

Sebaga: I also want to get married out of community of property.

He kept quiet...

Sebaga: Babe.

Fela: I hear you but where's this coming from?

Sebaga: In the case that anything happens to me, you would automatically inherit my half hence passing it on to your first born. Who knows how far his mother will go to make sure my child gets nothing.

Fela: What?

Sebaga: And if anything was to happen to you, I would have my sister fighting with me for your things because her son is also entitled. Nna tota Fela I've reached a point where I don't have any fighting in me left. You keep your things and divide them according to your wishes between the boys and I keep mine and divide them amongst my children should I have more.

Fela: So you're going out of community of property because you want to make sure that my son gets nothing from your assets? You hate him that much?

Sebaga: I don't hate him however I have every right to decide how and who I want to leave my assets with in the case that I depart this earth. I doubt that Kgabiso goes to work every morning with my son in her mind. Let everyone work hard for their own child. You have your own assets and businesses, divide them amongst your children.

Fela: You want to go on hating an innocent child that had nothing to do with what happened between you and his mother? Your nephew?

Sebaga: I have always been very clear about my position in all of this. I don't want that boy or his mother to be part of my life . I don't understand why everyone is pointing fingers at me when I have never made any false promises to make him a part of my life. I was honest with you.

Fela: To me marriage signifies togetherness. It means that we're together in everything. What's mine is yours and what's yours is mine. What kind of life do you want us to sign up for? How do we even begin to live separate lives as partners? Do you buy your own things around the house and I do the same?

Sebaga: You're overthinking here. Out of community of property doesn't have to be that way. Akere gone jaana we are living together but we don't have separate things. Fela I'm a

lawyer and I deal with these kind of cases. I've seen women have their bank accounts and property on hold simply because their step children are fighting for their father's estate with them. I work hard everyday and I don't ever want to find myself fighting for my things with your child or his mother simply because they want to prove a point.

Fela: And what about you? You really don't want any of my asserts?

Sebaga: No. You have two children that you can divide those assets amongst. I'm a big girl and I can work hard for my own asserts.

Fela: I honestly fail to understand your reasoning. Koore ga ke go utlwe. O tshwara kwa o lesa kwa. (You're all over the place.)

Sebaga: That's ok. I don't expect you to go into this simply because it's what I want. I was just stating my conditions to our marriage.

Fela: Have you realized that it's always about what you want? Like I sacrifice and compromise alone. Wena when will you do that for me? Ke raya gore when will you meet me halfway. It's always your mental health, your conditions. What happened to compromising for love?

Sebaga: So I must compromise even when I know it will make me miserable? Do you want me to make decisions that will affect my son badly just because I'm inlove?

He stood up and shook his head.

Fela: Yet I've done that. My son can not even come here because you want nothing to do with him.

Sebaga: I hate to say this but this is my house Fela! My space! If you want your son to visit

then take him to your house. Why are you all forcing me to love this boy or want him in my space? Shouldn't it come naturally?

Fela: You say that you love me, shouldn't that love also extend to my son?

Sebaga: Do you know how many women have killed their step children or ill treated them?

Fela: What's your point?

Sebaga: Most of them had their husbands shove down these children in their throats. I'm not here pretending to want this child only to lure them here and kill them. I'm being real with you.

Fela: You're being selfish.

She looked at her engagement ring then thoughtfully laid back.

Sebaga: Then maybe we should reconsider things because we're not on the same page.

Fela: Meaning?

Sebaga: We cannot go into a marriage together when we want the opposite.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#108

The following day

Seba and Fela both quietly got ready for work with burning emotions. After what they had discussed last night, no one was willing to back

down from what they stood for. Fela cleared his throat and finally broke the silence.

Fela: So you are set on your decision?

Sebaga: Yes.

Fela: Just like that?

Sebaga: Fela kana you want me to lie to you yet I have always been honest about how I feel about your child. When I express my views and my stand in all of this, I'm written down as a hater. I've never said I hate your son. If I did then I probably wouldn't want to hear his name or I would go as far making sure that you two don't have a relationship but I've never stood in the way of that. Whenever you would like to see him or release funds for him, I support you.

Fela: Then support me and extend your care towards him as well.

Sebaga: Shouldn't that come naturally? Isn't it the same as forgiveness? You want me to extend my care towards him by handing to him and his mother everything I've worked hard for?

Fela: You do realize that you saying that you want to get married out of community of property because you don't want my son to benefit from your asserts sounds hateful?

Sebaga: What I said was not coming from a place of hate. I'm sorry if I offended you or sounded like a hateful person.

Fela: Thank you. So can we find a better way of dealing with this? Seba I don't wanna have to choose between you and that little boy. You're the love of my life and that boy is my life.

Despite how he was conceived, he is a Molefe and that is never gonna change. I love him and who his mother is doesn't change anything.

She grabbed a pair of shoes then sat on the kist and bent down put on the shoes.

Sebaga: Ok. Let's do this. Let's arrange a meeting with Kgabiso and a lawyer then come to a civil agreement. If her son is to benefit from my asserts then it's only my fair that my child gets the same.

Fela: You hear what you're saying kana you're just saying this to get me off your back?

Sebaga: I'm not saying this to get you off my back. Securing my son's future is essential. I'm not gonna have another's woman child fight with him for what's rightfully his simply because I choose to get married in community of property. I just don't understand why we are fighting here because I've never said that you shouldn't give him anything. I clearly stated that I want nothing from your asserts and that you

could distribute them according to your wishes between the children. Why does it feel like you're fighting for me to give another woman's child what's rightfully mine. I respect the fact that there are women willing to do that but I want to be honest about my position. I don't feel that way.

He kept quiet then thought of what his mother had said in the past.

Fela: So what happens after we get married? Is my son allowed to come here? How do you expect me to separate myself during holidays?

Sebaga: That's something I'm willing to discuss and find a suitable solution to mme hela rra ya gore ore ke berekele ngwana wa ga Kgabiso yone e tlo pala. He's your responsibility and hers. You two are the only people that need to

work hard to put asserts together for him not me. I have a child of my own.

Fela: Your problem is wanting to be a lawyer even at home. Why can't you be a mother or a wife? Why must everything be black and white for you?

She stood up and grabbed her things.

Sebaga: Well let me ask you this, if anything was to happen to you then how do you think Kgabiso would respond in regards to your asserts?

He kept quiet...

Sebang: I have a case to attend to in court. I'll see you later.

He kept quiet and swallowed hard remembering his conversation with Kgabiso and Paul. To some degree he understood Seba's position but as a father he couldn't accept her reasons and conditions.

Later that day...

Somewhere in Maun

Paul sipped on his glass of water and settled down as Fela unpacked.

Fela: I don't know if this is fate or what but when you called and said that you wanted to meet up because you were in Maun, I was so relieved.

Paul: Are you okay man? Sounds like whatever you wanna talk about is hectic.

Fela: It is. It involves my son.

Paul: Is Kgabiso still harassing you?

Fela: No. she hasn't made any contact since we all last spoke. It's about my fiancée. She wants to get married but out of community of property.

Paul: And what's the problem?

Fela: Her reasons are that she doesn't want my son to benefit from her assets. I wanna be honest with you man, mentally I've left this relationship and I think I'm gonna call it quits.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#109

At the Restaurant

Paul: Is it that bad?

Fela: It is. I mean I thought that by now she would have accepted the fact that I have a son and maybe even started building a relationship with him.

Paul: What did you two agree on when you got back together because surely this must have been something that was brought up.

Fela: She has always said that she doesn't want anything to do with him but that was years ago. I understood that because she was angry and going through so much.

Paul: Yeah neh.

Fela: What?

He rubbed his face frustratedly.

Paul: Sounds to me like you knew what you were getting yourself into because she was very clear about what she wanted. I don't understand why you would want her to change her mind now.

Fela: I don't expect a sudden change in how she feels but what hurts me the most is her reasons for an out of community in property marriage. Don't get me wrong, I'm not mad because I want anything from Seba. Even if she didn't have a single thing to her name, I would still marry her. I love that woman with every fiber of my being for who she is and not what she has.

Paul: It's a difficult one. I personally wouldn't be in a relationship with a woman that can't accept

my children if I had any but at the same time the circumstances surrounding how those children were made would always count. I've said this to Kgabiso and I'm saying it to you. I doubt that I would accept Cody had he been my brother's child especially if my brother was a difficult person. I will tell you one thing, my woman is such a difficult person. If I didn't love her then I would have walked away but she somehow captured my heart.

They both laughed...

Fela: I still don't know how but this is the kind of love I'm talking about. Unconditional love. Where you love me with all of my baggage.

Paul: Believe it or not, love always comes with conditions. Human beings are not made to love unconditionally. There is always a deal breaker

at one point.

Fela: I hear you but where I'm i expected to take my child?

Paul: What's your concern here? The fact that she doesn't want her things shared with Cody or the fact that she hasn't accepted him?

Fela: The fact that she hasn't accepted him and how far she would go to prove that. I mean how do you say that you want an out of community of property marriage because of a kid? A child that's not hurt you for that matter?

Paul: Would you rather have her lie to you? From where I'm standing this is your best option. She is not willing to fight for assets with your children and doesn't expect you to leave the boy out.

Fela: Who she still won't accept.

Paul: She never promised to. I don't know how she feels because my relations to Cody are

different. I love that little boy and his existence somehow brought healing to me because before i met his mother I had just lost my son. If I knew that a woman wouldn't accept my child and we somehow decided to get married then I would be jumping at the opportunity to get married out of community of property because the truth is that you never know what's in the heart of a person. She could pretend to love this boy while you're still alive then leave him in the cold once you die. This is also a way to protect your son. If your main concern is her accepting him then just address that. Stop mixing it up with the Out of community of property issue. That one needs you to think about it wisely without using your emotions because you might make a wrong decision which will affect this boy for the rest of his life. And lastly be sure of what you really want. Make sure that if you leave this relationship then you aren't going back because you now have children to

consider as well.

Fela: I hear you man.

Paul: I wanna be honest with you. Kgabiso and I decided that we would be getting married out of community because we don't wanna complicate anything. Had Cody been my adoptive son then maybe we would have decided against it. Don't hate me but he has parents that already do a good job at looking after him. I'm here to support my woman. I provide him with anything he needs but I also have the right to choose where it ends.

At Sebaga's Office

Serge held his friend's hand as they both soaked in the quietness of her office. They usually had a lot to say but on this specific day, words seemed difficult.

Serge: I'm sorry babe. I don't know how the best night of your life could have turned out to be the worst. I can't imagine what you're both going through.

Seba gave him a side eye.

Serge: Well this is also hard for him. I wouldn't wanna be him right now.

Seba: I'm just tired babe. Like I don't understand how I'm expected to give something I never promised. I never lied about how I feel. To keep telling me that it's been too long when I never asked for time?

Serge: It's in the nature of a human being to be hopeful. I don't think any of you is wrong personally.

She gave him a side eye again.

Serge: I said from a personal point of view. Obviously as a lawyer I will tell you to protect your assets and your son with everything you can. If your own sister could betray you then what's a man? I've went down to court so many times because when women get married, they fail to apply their mind. They always choose to think with their hearts. Some live to pay for the rest of their lives because they got overly excited when they met rich men then went into community of property only to inherit all their biggest debts after the death of their spouse and lose it all including what they had. Human beings are for the thought that love should involve assets and property. The very same people that believe that marriage should be based on love. Property wise, you're on the right

track my friend. Those are your things and you have every right to decide how you want them to be divided. But...

He kept quiet for a while then sighed heavily...

Serge: If you really want to be with this man then maybe it's high time you two start finding common ground where it involves his son. I have no doubt that you love Fela and he loves you.

Sebaga: I don't know man.

Serge: Ke a go rata wautlwa the bead girl.

She smiled then got up.

Serge: And now?

Sebaga: I'm going home. I can't get sh*t done. I need to think.

Serge: Are you done for the day?

Sebaga: Yeah.

Serge: Ok. Let me walk you out.

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Bonus 2

The Devil I Never Knew

#110

Later that evening

At Sebaga's

Fela stood by the bathroom door and quietly watched as Seba gave their son a bath. She was such a good mother to their son which left him wondering how it was difficult for her to do the same for Cody.

Fela: How was your day?

Sebaga: It was fine. Yours?

Fela: Nothing too fancy. Just the usual.

He made funny faces at his son who cracked up in laughter soothing his pain.

Fela: Can we talk once you're done?

Sebaga: Yeah sure.

She grabbed Sefela's towel then wrapped him

around with it before picking him up.

At Gaborone, Sebaga's

Rra Sebaga turned on the stove then placed the pot of meat on the burner. He opened the cupboard and the only rice he found was 'Basmati'. He looked at the packaging wondering if it was cooked the same way as normal rice.

Rra Sebaga: Why couldn't she just buy normal rice.

He thought of Maikano then smiled as a memory of all the meals she used to make for him flashed. The truth was that each time he looked into the eyes of that woman, he saw love.

Love that couldn't even be faked. She was right, if she had wanted to kill him then she could have carried out her mission quietly. He grabbed his phone from the pocket and dialed her number.

Maikano: Hello.

Rra Sebaga: Tlaya o tle go nkapeela rice.
(Come and cook rice for me.)

Maikano: Rra?

Rra Sebaga: You heard me.

He hung up and left her smiling from ear to ear. This was probably his way of telling her that he missed her.

Maikano: Yes!

She ran into the living room with only one shoe on to grab her car keys then dashed out.

Maun, Botswana

Sebaga's

After feeding her son and putting him to sleep, Seba joined Fela in the bedroom.

Fela: Is he asleep?

Sebaga: Yes.

Fela: These days he goes to sleep quickly.

Sebaga: They spend the whole day running around and playing at school. He must be exhausted.

Fela: I guess so.

He looked at her and pressed his lips together frustratedly. His feelings for this woman had still not changed and now that she was here right in front of him, he became sickened by his thoughts to leave.

Fela: I know that we are both still trying to process what we talked about last night and this morning. Emotions are still very high but I don't want this to end into a fight. Let's both express our emotions without any outburst.

Sebaga sat by her vanity table and grabbed some cotton wool and make up remover then began to take off her make-up.

Sebaga: Nna ke tshaba go buwa (I'm now afraid to speak) because when I express my feelings, you get angry.

Fela: Can we try again.

Sebaga: I will follow your lead.

Fela: Years ago when you said that you wanted no part in my son's life, I understood and accepted that it would be that way for a while but I never stopped hoping that you would change your mind. Trust me, it wasn't easy for me to accept his existence but as time went on, I warmed up to the idea of him existing. That boy is my flesh and blood, I don't have the option of ignoring him and pretending like he doesn't exist. I respect your emotions but at the same time a selfish part of me wants you to accept and love him. I wanna be able to bring him over and spend the holidays with him. I know that you've never stopped me from being in his life or him knowing his little brother. I

know that you made your feelings clear from the beginning and it's so hard to accept that. I love you both and knowing that he has to exist somewhere far from my our home bothers me. And in terms of getting married out of community In property, you're right. Not only does this protect you but it also protects both children. I can accept that part but can you at-least try to accept the boy?

Sebaga camly took off her clothes and grabbed her bath-rob then sat by the bed.

Sebaga: I've heard you and I understand what you're saying but I will be honest with you. I never at any point made you false promises or made you believe that I was someone I'm not. I asked you so many times if you would be able to live with my terms and you agreed. For years

I tried to get away from you but you kept pushing for us to get back together even with those conditions. You're now accusing me of being selfish for something I never hid. I understand that over time it gets easier for some women and they accept their partner's children and even go to the extent of giving them their assets but that's not the case with me. I don't wanna lie to you then show you the opposite of what I said I would do. If you ask me that's selfish.

Fela: You said that you were willing to discuss visitation and other terms.

Sebaga: If we were to get married and settle into one house then yes I would consider.

Fela: I can live with that.

Sebqga: Don't rush into making that decision. Think things through then decide from there.
Akere wa utlwa gore I never on any day

promised to be the boy's mother. You're gonna expect that of me and that's not fair because in the end you make me the bad person. If you're not able to live with this then it's ok. I truly understand. I value our relationship but going into it with lies just to save it is not in the table for me.

Fela: I hear you.

At Sebaga's, Gaborone...

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#111

At Sebaga's ,Gaborone

Maikano drove through the gate and parked her car in the driveway. She stepped out then fixed her mini dress before walking to the door where she knocked. A few minutes later, the old man got the door.

Rra Sebaga: You came.

Maikano: Yes. So where is the rice?

He pulled her inside the house and closed the door.

A week later...

At Sebaga's

Fela stood by the mirror to fix his tie then turned back and looked at his wife.

Fela: Are you sure that you want me to ask her? I would rather not if you're gonna sit here miserable.

Sebaga: Fela you asked me to meet you halfway and now that I'm doing that you seem to be unsure as well. I've already given you the go ahead to bring the boy here... You can ask Kgabiso.

Fela: Thank you babe. I know that it's not easy for you.

He wrapped his arms around her then kissed her forehead. No matter how much she

hardened her heart, he knew how much this woman was a good person.

Sebaga: Let me know what you would like me to prepare. Breakfast is the warmer. I need to get to court. I'll see you later akere babe.

Fela: Emma. Thank you once again. I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too.

He let go of her and she grabbed her stuff then went into the living room where aunty and her son were sitted.

Sebaga: Moghel. I need to rush out. Let me know if you two need anything.

Aunty: Are you fine? You seem a bit...

She laughed then leaned in to kiss her son.

Sebaga: Wena aunty mma you treat me like a little girl.

Aunty: I told you that you're my little girl. To me you're Sefela's big sister.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: Bathong! Go sharp mma.

She rushed out of the house. Meanwhile Fela opened the windows in high spirits then sat on the bed and dialed Kgabiso's number. He took a deep breath and crossed his fingers as the phone rang. Like Paul had said, Kgabiso was a difficult person and reaching an agreement with her wasn't always easy.

Kgabiso: Hello.

Fela: Hie Kgabiso..

Kgabiso: Ee rra.

Fela: How are you and how is Cody doing?

Kgabiso: We're fine. Akere you checked in yesterday. What's wrong? Kana you finally had a dream about the type of father you need to be?

He held in all the answers he had to give... This call was for the sake of his son so he kept reminding himself.

Fela: Schools are closing up on Friday. Can I have Cody come over?

Kgabiso: Come over where?

He kept quiet trying to find a better way to put his answer in a kinder manner. God knows how much this woman annoyed him .

Fela: My place, in Maun.

There was a moment of silence as Kgabiso digested what he had just said on the other side of the line.

Kgabiso: I'm not sure I understand what you mean. When you say your house, do you mean at Sebaga's or a separate house?

Fela: At our house! Sebaga is my fiancé so we share everything.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry but I don't think that's something I would allow. I mean why now? For years your partner has rejected my son and now

she is suddenly willing to allow him to come over? I'm a mother and I will do anything to protect my son even if it means it's from my sister.

Fela: I'm not following.

Kgabiso: Your girlfriend never wanted my son. What if she has finally agreed to have him over because she wants to do something to him.

Like kill him?

Fela: Are you comfortable with the nanny bringing him over?

Kgabiso: I don't think you're listening to me Fela Molefe. Kare my son is not coming there.

Fela: And I think that you're forgetting that this is not just your son. This is our son. I have every right to have him here just as you do. You seem to forget a lot of things of lately. You and I agreed to co-parent and not so long ago, you were complaining about me not bringing the

boy over to where I live. Now that I want to do that, you want to play games. Kana mma I should have a chat with Paul?

Kgabiso: Where does Paul come in?

Fela: Akere he is the one that is willing to reason like an adult and put Cody first.

Kgabiso: It's fine. I will bring him over. I will send you all the details you need so that you can book us a flight.

Fela: You don't have to come here.

Kgabiso: If my son is going all the way to Maun then I'm the one that's bringing him. I'm not sending him like a parcel that's not wanted.

Take it or leave it.

Fela: Fine. Send the details.

Kgabiso: I don't know anyone there and I can't afford accommodation so make a plan.

Fela: Kgabiso kana nna I didn't ask you to come

over. Nna nne kere Cody should come over yaanong if you want to come over then you need to make a plan yourself.

Kgabiso: Do you want your son to come over kana jang?

He kept quiet for a few minutes then reluctantly agreed. Clearly he wasn't going to win this one.

Later that day

At Sebaga's Office

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The Devil I Never Knew

#112

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Sebaga browsed through her client's divorce settlement and took deep breaths then put the file down. She had known this woman for over four years and seen her start her businesses from the ground. Having to see her share everything with her partner of two years left her feeling sad but then again she had done her job and explained to her client what getting married in community of property meant.

Sebaga: Eish...

She took deep breaths and came back to earth

as her phone rang. She picked it from the table and answered the call.

Sebaga: Hey babe.

Fela: Hey. Still working?

Sebaga: No, I'm on a break. I just got back from court.

Fela: Can I come through with lunch? I'm just around the corner.

Sebaga: That would be nice. I'm starving. Ebile I was thinking of calling Serge and asking him to bring some food on his way from his meeting.

Fela: Well worry not baby girl. I've got you.

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso washed her hands then dried them

before picking up her plate of food and joining her mother in the living room.

Mma Sebaga: Kare these days you never come around to see me unless your man is out of town. You two are forever following each other.

Kgabiso: Are you complaining?

Mma Sebaga: Not even my child. That's all I want for you. Build your relationship with your partner and make sure that he becomes your best friend. Nna that's how I lost the plot. I stopped being friends with your father and found myself alone on a parth of distraction. Akere had we been friends that shared things regularly then he would have showed me or advised me on the right way of doing things yaanong because I didn't see him as a friend, I walked alone till I found myself on a parth that finally destroyed my home. You are the rib of

his ribs, don't walk around and make decisions on your own. Consult him and let him tell you how he sees things from his end.

Kgabiso: Ee mma.

She took a bite from her food then thoughtfully laid back.

Mma Sebaga: And how are things going with Cody's father? Are you still working well with him on raising that boy?

Kgabiso: Everything is fine. I'm taking him to see the father this weekend.

Mma Sebaga narrowed her eyes trying to understand what her daughter was on about.

Mma Sebaga: At the grandmother's house?

Kgabiso: No. In Maun. Apparently your daughter has agreed to have him over.

Mma Sebaga: That's really good. Maybe one of these days she will also warm upto you. You two are sisters and you shouldn't be this distant. Had i played the role of a mother then things wouldn't be like this.

Kgabiso: I'm not looking to reconnect or anything. I just want her to do right by my child.

Mma Sebaga: Didn't they make arrangements for Cody to get there? I mean it sounds like it will cost you an arm and a half to take him there. I remember when we went there for the funeral. It was quite expensive.

Kgabiso: I'm not spending anything. He's paying for the flight and my accommodation.

Mma Sebaga: Heelang! Don't you think that's madness? What will your husband think about

all this? Tota eibile what did he say?

Kgabiso: I haven't spoken to him about it but I see nothing wrong with it. All I'm doing is taking my son to see his father. I didn't say that I was going to build a relationship with the man.

Mma Sebaga: That is where your problem is. You never see anything wrong with the things you do. You don't listen to anyone or ever change. This will be the reason you lose a good man. Le ene Sebaga, she won't tolerate you for too long. Don't start screaming and crying foul when she deals with you. Nna tota I don't know how else to talk to you. It's draining and no one should ever really have to keep going back and forth. It's not even healthy.

Kgabiso: Let me make my own mistakes if at all it's a mistake. Who was busy shouting at you when you were making your own mistakes?

Mma Kgabiso: When that man leaves you, don't

cry ebile don't have any expectations from Cody's father because everyone knows that he doesn't want you.

At Sebaga's office

Fela smiled and grabbed a paper serviette to wipe his hands then dug into the paper bag for a can of juice. He handed it to Seba then grabbed his.

Sebaga: Thank you for lunch babe. I was famished.

Fela: You're welcome babes. There is something that I actually want us to talk about..

Sebaga: Sure what is it?

Fela: I spoke to Mmagwe Cody today.

Sebaga: Ok.

She said opening her can of juice and taking a sip.

Fela: She agreed to let Cody here but only on the condition that she comes with him.

Sebaga chuckled then pressed her lips together. She knew the drama that came with this child but then again, who was she to say anything?

Fela: I'll book them a flight to come here.

Sebaga: Ok.

Fela: She also wants me to arrange her accommodation.

Sebaga: Where is she staying?

Fela: I know that you don't trust me when it comes to her but I have a plan and I need you to trust me.

Sebaga: Nna tota there is nothing that I can say anymore because when I say something I end up sounding like an evil person so how you play your cards is up-to you.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#113

A few days later...

At Kgabiso's

Paul threw his bag pack on the couch and sat down to take off his shoes then picked up the phone to call his wife.

Kgabiso: Hey babe.

Paul: Hey. I'm home.

Kgabiso: Ok. I'm almost there. I had to pass by the store to grab a few things for the house.

Paul: Ok. Sharp.

He hung up then laid on the couch and yawned... After driving for almost the entire day, all he wanted to do was rest. He stood up and went into their master bedroom.

At Sebaga's

Fela stood by the guest room door and smiled from ear to ear as he admired everything that had been prepared for his son. As much as Sebaga seemed uncomfortable with this visit, she had went all out to prepare for his boy. He walked in and sat by the nicely made bed. It was not only thoughtful but nice that she had bought him a character comforter.

Sebaga: Hey.

She said sticking her head into the room...

Fela: Hey. Thank you.

Sebaga: For what?

She walked into the room and sat next to him.

Fela: For putting all this together and making an effort even though you're uncomfortable with the whole thing.

Sebaga: You're welcome.

She stood up and forced a smile...

Fela: I know that you don't trust me or my ability to put my foot down when it comes to Cody's mother but I want you to trust me. Sebaga I didn't fight for years to get you back just to lose you. You and I are like any other couple, we will have our disagreements and struggles because we are human. There will be days where it's sweet and everything seems to be on track and days we go back and forth. One thing you need

to know is the fact that my love has never changed and it won't change. I love you and you're the only woman I see a future with. I'm not leaving and neither will I let you leave.

He stood up to embrace her...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso sat by the corner couch and unpacked Paul's laundry.

Paul: Some of the things in there are clean tthe babe. You don't have to throw everything to the laundry.

Kgabiso: The fact that you mixed clean clothes with the dirty ones leaves no room for them to go into the closet. I will wash everything.

Paul: Mme kana if you were to smell them then you would realize that some are clean unless you missed doing my laundry.

They both laughed...

Kgabiso: I was speaking to Cody's father a few days ago and he asked if Cody could come over.

Paul: Come over to his mum's?

Kgabiso: No. To Maun and I don't know if I made the right decision or not but I agreed.

Paul: I see nothing wrong with that. Isn't that what you have always wanted. The fact that he has asked to see him in Maun could mean that the wife is finally opening up to the idea of having him around.

Kgabiso: Well they are not yet married and quite honestly, she doesn't have the right to decide

that for him, it's only that Fela can never put his son first.

Paul: So when is he picking him up?

Kgabiso: He won't be able to. Looks like he is working and can't make it here.

Paul: Oh. Is the mum taking him?

She licked her lower lip then calmly looked at him.

Kgabiso: No. I'm taking him.

Paul: I'm not following.

Kgabiso: He offered to pay for our flights if I take him.

Paul: And you didn't think of talking to me first?

Kgabiso: Is that going to be a problem?

Paul: Where are you staying?

Kgabiso: He's paying for my accommodation.

Paul: Just like that? Nare do you realize what me paying for your magadi means?

Kgabiso: I don't understand where I went wrong because if I had refused to take him then you would have faulted me. Tota gatwe what should I do?

Paul: You're my wife! How do you make arrangements with your baby daddy about taking a trip to see him and having him pay for your accommodation?

Kgabiso: I'm not going on a trip to see him. I'm taking Cody to see his father.

Paul: Without consulting your husband?

Kgabiso is there something that I need to know?

Kgabiso: I don't know what you're talking about.

Paul: You're not going there. Ask him to make a plan to pick up Cody.

Kgabiso: You can't just make decisions like that.
Cody is not your son! Don't forget that.

He stood up and swallowed... For a child he had loved and taken in as his own, hearing this hurt.

Paul: Then maybe you should be with the father so that you don't have to consult anyone else on what's good for him. I love you and there is only so much that I can take but this, hell no!
They were right about you.

He went into the other room and shut the door.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#114

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood by the door as she watched Paul loading his things in the trunk. So many words had been thrown around and none of them was willing to reach out to the other. Once Paul had loaded his things in the car he approached Kgabiso.

Paul: I will speak to my parents and let them know about this.

Kgabiso: Sharp.

Paul: I've always known that you're stubborn and it's not easy to get through to you but I never thought that things would end here

between us. I mean I've always been willing to work out things but this is something that's beyond me.

Kgabiso: Speak to whoever you need to speak to but the truth is that this time I did nothing wrong. Paul whether you like it or not, Cody is Fela's son and Fela has every right to make decisions that concern his son.

Paul: You're right. I was a fool to think that I'm somehow part of the boy's life or even expect you to consult me about what goes on in his life because he lives under my roof.

Kgabiso: You have always said that you would never stand in the way of Cody and Fela's relationship yet you're the same person that wants to stop him from seeing his son.

Paul: I would never think that highly of myself. You're my wife. I had expected you to speak to me about traveling to a different town as my

wife. As for Cody I would never stand in the way of him going to see the dad. It's the disrespect of your baby daddy flying you to his town and even paying your accommodation. Not that you would get it seeing that you're always ready to run to him. Tota hela wena if it was according to you, you would be with the man. I hate to tell you this but you're going to be miserable for the rest of your life if you don't accept the fact that the man only loves his child and not you. You're gonna ruin all the chances you have of building a family of your own while he cements what he has with your sister. But that's your choice after all.

He said getting into his car and driving off.

At Sebaga's

Fela browsed through pictures of the wedding venue he had seen a couple of months back then passed his phone to Seba.

Fela: So what do you think of this venue?

She looked through the pictures and smiled...

Sebaga: It's amazing but the fact that it's here changes everything. I don't think that our parents will be happy to marry us off here instead of back home.

Fela: We could have the traditional wedding and all the cultural proceedings done at home then maybe fly the family here for the white wedding.

Sebaga: I guess that could work.

Fela: Do you wanna think about it maybe?

Sebaga: Yeah.

He stretched his hand to hers then kissed it.

Fela: I love you. I know that at times it's hard to believe that but I really do. I wish that we didn't have to go through all this.

Sebaga: Me too.

A few days later...

At the Airport...

Cody put down his hand luggage and ran towards his father in excitement. Kgabiso smiled as she picked it up and approached them. This was all that she had ever wanted

and now having to witness it left her feeling at peace.

Fela: Hey.

Kgabiso: Hey.

Fela: Thank you for bringing him over.

Kgabiso: It's the least that I could do.

Fela put his son down.

Fela: Which one is his luggage?

Kgabiso pointed at the black suitcase...

Fela: Ok.

He pulled it with his other hand as the other held his son. They all quietly walked to the car where Fela loaded Cody's things.

Kgabiso: So where are we staying?

Fela: Cody get in the car.

His son did as he was told...

Fela: Change of plans. I can't organize accommodation for you.

He got inside the car and drove off leaving her stranded and frustrated.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#115

That same morning...

At the Airport

Kgabiso paced around outside with her phone on her ear as she tried calling Fela. This had to be a joke. There was no way that he could have allowed her to fly all this way only to leave her stranded in a town she wasn't familiar with.

After several attempts to call him with no answer, she dialed her mother's number. There was a sigh of relief as the old woman instantly took the call.

Mma Sebaga: Yes girl.

Kgabiso: Mama, I need your help.

Mma Sebaga: What's going on? Is everything ok?

Kgabiso: I am in Maun and I don't have anywhere to stay. I don't know anyone around here or my way around.

Mma Sebaga: I'm confused. What do you mean you don't have anywhere to stay? Didn't you say that Fela promised to find you accommodation and pay? Yaanong where is Cody?

Kgabiso: He took his son and they drove off leaving me alone.

Mma Sebaga: Did you two fight?

Kgabiso: I only asked him where we would be staying. I assumed that since I wasn't comfortable with Cody staying with Sebaga, he would let him stay with me but instead of giving me a response he got his son's things and got

into the car then drove off.

Mma Sebaga: Tota mme wena where were you going? Why couldn't you just ask his mother to take Cody there? I don't understand why you have to complicate your life with a man that's already showed you that he hates you. Call your husband and ask him to organize you accommodation or pay for a guest house. In the morning, make sure that you take the first bus out of there. I can't talk to you about the same thing year in and year out.

Kgabiso: (Crying) We broke up.

Mma Sebaga: Ware broke up? Wasn't his family here to pay for magadi not so long ago?

Kgabiso: We had a disagreement about me coming over here.

Mma Sebaga: Akere mme wa bona gore ke ne ke buwa ka eng? (Do you see what I was talking about?) Why couldn't you just listen to

me. No man is going to tolerate this madness of you following Cody's father like he is your god. Why can't you just love yourself and choose your happiness for once? Tota gatwe what does Fela have that you're following? A o monate thata? (Is he too sweet in bed?)

She wiped her tears and sniffled.

Kgabiso: Can I please borrow one thousand pula for accommodation and transport?

Mma Sebaga: Where do you think that I can get that kind of money when you hardly give me any? Gape didn't you get paid the other day?

Kgabiso: I have already spent it. I didn't think that I would need money for this trip.

Mma Sebaga: Don't tell me that you traveled that far without a single thebe. Nna mma I don't

have money.

Kgabiso hung up frustratedly...

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Moagi put down her glass of water and sighed heavily as Mma Sebaga narrated to her what was happening.

Mma Sebaga: This girl never listens to anyone. I warned her even way before she travelled.
Gompieno yaana she has lost a good man and for what?

Mma Moagi: I hear you and I understand your frustrations but atleast lend her the money. She will return it back.

Mma Sebaga: Over my dead body! This child needs to understand that this is real life and she needs to apply her brain. For how many years have we said the same thing for? Who will ever want to marry her? God was on Kgabiso's side when he brought Paul into her life. That man is gentle and patient. If he has given up on her even after paying her bride price then who do you think will want her? Let her learn her lesson. Nna I'm not sending her anything.

At Sebaga's

Fela parked his car in the driveway then stepped out and got the door for his son. He went on his knees and held his son's hand tightly.

Fela: Ok son, we're here. Let's be on our best behavior.

He got up and they walked hand in hand to the house. Once he got to the door, he stood there for a few minutes trying to find the courage to open the door. What would be Seba's first reaction now that the boy was here? Maybe he had made a mistake after all. He took deep breaths and knocked on the door before opening up and walking in with his son.

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano anxiously sat next to her husband as he spoke to the phone. This was clearly a money conversation and based on the old man's body language, he was uncomfortable.

Rra Sebaga: How much do you need?

Kgabiso: (Crying) One thousand.

Rra Sebaga: Ok. Let me talk to my wife. I will call you back. Please stay there. Don't do anything crazy. It's already crazy that you went there.

He hung up then turned to Maikano.

Maikano: Who was that?

Rra Sebaga: Kgabiso. She wants to borrow one thousand. She is stranded in Maun mme nna I don't think I would ever borrow my children money. I would like to give it to her. Is that fine with you?

Maikano: Ee rra. That's fine. Send it to her.

Rra Sebaga: Thank you.

At Sebaga's

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The Devil I Never Knew

#116

At Sebaga's

Sebaga stood up and put her son down then turned to the door. Her heart pounded as Cody approached her. He was such a cutie up close and everything about him resembled Fela. The boy was too adorable and there was something about him that radiated happiness. She smiled as he extended his hand to greet her.

Cody: Hello aunty.

Sebaga: Hey Cody.

She smiled and turned to her man...

Sebaga: You wanna play with your little brother?

He went around the couch and sat on the floor then began to play with Sefela who also sat down.

Sebaga: Hey.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Did you teach him to greet like that.

Fela: (laughed) No.

Sebaga: It's quite adorable.

Fela: I was a bit nervous. He said bowing his head.

Sebaga: I understand. I was not sure how it would go as well.

She turned behind and felt some kind of peace as she watched the boys playing. Why was life so unfair? Why couldn't the circumstances of this whole situation be different?

Sebaga: And his mum?

She said with a straight face.

Fela: Don't worry about her. I sorted her out.

Sebaga: Oh.

Fela: I will tell you all about it later. I didn't

entertain her if that's what you wanna know.
She knows exactly where we stand today.

Sebaga: Ee rra. Let me turn on the geyser and check on the pots. Will you take his things to his room?

Fela: Emma. Thank you once again my babe.

Sebqga: Sure.

Later that day

At the busrank

Kgabiso paid for her trip then went into the bus to locate the sit she had booked. She placed a little fleece blanket that she had bought from the Chinese store earlier on then went outside to buy snacks by the vendors. Each time she thought of the specific moment Fela got into

his car and drove off leaving her stranded, tears built up in her eyes. This man clearly did not care about her and for the very first time, it hit harder. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she stood outside waiting for the time of departure.

Conductor: O timile megala sisters? (Did he turn off his phone?)

She kept quiet and swallowed.

Conductor: You ladies are a problem. I don't understand how you decide to take such a long trip to someone that's unsure about you.

Vendor: That's not always the case. You are judging her before you even know what her story is about.

Conductor: One thing I'm certain about is the

fact that it includes a man. You women are always crying for men and nothing else.

Kgabiso wiped her tears then went back inside the bus. This had to stop. It was clear that this man felt absolutely nothing for her.

At Sebaga's

Seba rested her head on Fela's chest as he traced his fingers on her back. It was always such moments that made him realize just how important this woman was to him.

Sebaga: I hear you but maybe you should have been honest with her from the beginning.

Fela: Kgabiso despises the truth. Trust me, this is the best way to deal with her. She may be

your sister but I know that woman better. Over the years I've tried to be honest but she seems to understand it better when we play dirty.

Sebaga: I hear you.

The following day...

At the bus rank

Kgabiso grabbed her suitcase from the boot and walked towards the cabs. Her last conversation with Paul played over and over again. How had she been so stupid to think that she could win against Sebaga? That girl had nine lives and she always found a way around. She took out her phone to call her father.

Rra Sebaga: Hello.

Kgabiso: (Crying) Papa!

Rra Sebaga: Kgabiso?

Kgabiso: Papa! It hurts so bad.

Rra Sebaga: Sa lele ngwanaka. Wela dibete o buwe le nna. (Calm down and talk to me.)

She hung up and got a cab to her father's house...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#117

At Rra Sebaga's

Maikano pulled Kgabiso's luggage bag into the spare bedroom then joined them in the living room.

Rra Sebaga: You have got to stop doing this. It's no longer healthy for any of you. Why can't you just accept that the boy's father has taken his responsibility and that's as far as it will ever go?

Kgabiso: I can accept that he doesn't want me and he has never wanted me but to leave me stranded out there? It shows just how much he hates me. Wasn't there a better way of solving our differences? Ga ke gane ee I'm the one that insisted on going there but that's only because I'm concerned about my son. I mean who wouldn't have any doubts or questions if the person that had rejected their child for years suddenly wanted to accept them? I'm I wrong to

want to protect my son?

Rra Sebaga kept quiet not wanting to pick any sides. On the other end Maikano rolled her eyes. For a man that was so smart, she couldn't understand how the old man had managed to sit there with his scheming daughter and listen to her half stories that didn't even make sense.

Rra Sebaga: I will tell you one thing my child, with Paul you messed up. There are not so many people that can ever understand you or understand your struggles but that man did. One thing you need to understand is the fact that each one of us has someone God has made for us. With your sister it's Fela and it will always be him no matter how we may want to chew off our elbows. For your own peace of mind accept that and rejoice because your

sister is not vile. It may scare you as a mother to have your son at her house but you know somewhere in your heart that she would never harm him. At least you know the type of person he is with. Imagine if he was with someone you didn't know. You would have sleepless nights just wondering how he was being treated. You made a mistake and through that mistake, Cody was conceived. God was merciful enough to touch his father's heart. Unlike other mothers, you have nothing to complain about. His father is present. Take a step back and reflect on your life. Are you really living or you are living to outlive your sister? Is Kgabiso happy or she is still the same bitter and angry girl? My child, you need to heal. If you continue to live this way then that boy will grow up to resent you. You have parents that love you. I understand that your mum hasn't always been a good role model but you and I can both agree that she has turned things around. Why can't you learn

from that?

Maikano gave him a side eye but he ignored her and continued talking...

At Sebaga's

Aunty walked into the living room with two bowls of motogo then handed them to Sebaga.

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BW

Aunty: Here you go. Are you sure you have time to feed them both?

Sebaga: (Smiled) Yeah. I took the rest of the day off. I'm taking them out for lunch then we're

going to the park afterwards.

Aunty: I'm proud of you my girl. I was a bit scared about how this would turn out but I'm so happy that you're giving yourself a chance to get to know him. You're a good mother.

She put the plates on the table then stood up and took aunty's hand leading her back to the kitchen.

Sebaga: I'm a bit nervous and I don't want to get too attached to this boy.

Aunty: Don't be afraid to love him. He is an adorable boy. It's hard not to love him really.

Sebaga: I know but the mother is crazy. God knows how what she will do once we start to have a relationship.

Aunty: I understand you my baby but kids don't

always have to suffer for the sins of their parents. I'm happy you're starting to realize that even though you won't say it.

Sebaga: I hope it doesn't end badly.

Aunty: It won't.

A few days later...

At Paul's office

Kgabiso stepped out of the lift then fixed her dress and hair before walking down the hall to Paul's office. The fact that he had been ignoring her calls for days left her nervous. She stood by the glass door and swallowed as he buried his head in his workload. She knocked and stood by like a lost puppy as he raised his head then stood up and walked to the door. Her heart

began to pound as he opened the door.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#118

At Paul's Office

Kgabiso uncomfortably settled into her chair as Paul sat in his with his eyes fixed on her. Based on the way that he had been looking at her, she could tell that he had so much to say even though he had remained mute.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry for rocking up unannounced.

I tried calling a couple of times and eventually gave up. I respect your decision not to talk to me or even see me especially after how things ended. You and I have been through so much together and it would be very wrong of me not to have this conversation with you in person.

Paul: The fact that I haven't been taking your calls should tell you that I'm not interested in talking to you.

Kgabiso: And I can respect that. You don't have to say anything to me. I'm the one that has so much to say.

She took a good look at him and sighed. Ever since this man had become a part of her life together with her son's, things had been so different. For once in her lifetime, she had felt pure love and had the closest thing to a perfect family. There were no questions about how

genuine this man was when it came to her son. He played the role of a father with everything he was and there wasn't a day she doubted him. It was just her selfish and stupid ambitions that had led her astray and allowed her to ruin her family. Her mother was right, a foolish woman always broke her home with her own hands.

Kgabiso: I'm not here to ask you to take me back or forgive me because I know the depth of the pain I've caused you. I came here to thank you for all that you have been in my life and Cody's then finally apologize for when I made you feel like you were not enough even though you have always put in your best. I want you to know that you were an amazing father to that little boy and you loved me right. You see the thing about women like me, it's hard to love us and stay for this long in our lives but you stayed right till the end. My heart breaks at this loss

and the level of my stupidity but then I realize that I don't deserve you. You deserve better than me. Le nna hela I'm not in the right state to be with anyone. It's been years yet I'm still holding on to so much anger and bitterness.

She looked up to smile and block out her tears.

Kgabiso: Almost all my childhood, I've held on to so much anger towards my sister because she always did everything better. When we grew up and her life turned out better even though I was the one that started working first, I became so bitter because I knew how being compared to her was far from over. As life would have it, things took shape in her life and I hit my lowest then began to plot against her.

Paul: That is still not an excuse for the person you are Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: I know. I had a chat with my dad the other day and I realized that in all of this, I'm the problem. I'm still hurting and holding on to that anger hence why I can't move on. I'm in no position to be in a relationship with anyone because no matter how much they love me, I'm still toxic and things won't change till I've worked on myself. I wish you all the very best because you're a good person and you deserve better.

Paul: I wish you all the best too.

Kgabiso: And thanks for mentioning that I need therapy. I've booked a couple of sessions and I really hope that for the sake of my son, they work.

Paul stood up then went to her sit and took her by the hand as she stood up. He hugged her tightly.

Paul: I hope you mean it this time. You can't go in circles your entire life. You deserve to have peace of mind and be loved without you self sabotaging. What I felt for you was real.

Ten years later...

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BW

At Sebaga's

Sefela and Cody fist bumped as Cody put his things down. Sebaga walked in and greeted them then looked at the time.

Sebaga: I tried calling you for over three hours.
Soccer practice ended hours ago.

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You have no more inserts left!

The Devil I Never Knew

#119

Ten years later...

At Sebaga's

Sefela and Cody fist bumped as Cody put his things down. Sebaga walked in and greeted them then looked at the time.

Sebaga: I tried calling you for over three hours.
Soccer practice ended hours ago.

Cody: I had a couple of things to do. It's just been a few hours. Chill!

Sebaga: Don't tell me to chill when I've driven everywhere looking for you. Next time just take my calls and let me know you're safe instead of just disappearing and leaving us worried.

He threw his bag on the floor.

Sebaga: You know where to put your things after practice.

Cody: I'm meeting with mum. Later.

He said leaving her and Sefela behind...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood by the sink and filled it with soapy water then began to do the dishes from the previous night while listening to the radio. It was always on days like these that she felt alone. If only she had given love a chance and had more children then maybe things wouldn't have been this way. She quickly rinsed her hands and headed to the front door as she heard a knock. Who could it be? She usually didn't get guests after all. She opened the door and there was her handsome boy standing with a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates.

Kgabiso: Hey son.

He kissed her cheek and hugged her...

Cody: Happy birthday once again mum.

Kgabiso: Thank you son but you didn't have to.
You have already done enough by organizing
dinner last night.

Cody: I wanted to.

Kgabiso: Where did you get the money to buy
these?

He walked into the house...

Cody: I used my lunch money.

Kgabiso: Did you ask your parents before you
did that?

Cody: Do I have to?

Kgabiso: Yes. Remember what we talked about

the other day?

Cody: Kante why do you suck up to those two? I mean you always want to please them and ask for permission on everything. Why can't we just live our lives without having them as dictators. Nna I want to move back with you.

Kgabiso: Cody, can you please stop.

Cody: I won't stop till you understand that I don't like them and I don't wanna stay with them.

Kgabiso: What went wrong? These are the same people that raised you and you used to love.

Cody: Well that was before I understood that Sebaga is the reason you and dad are not together anymore.

Kgabiso raised her hand to slap him then

quickly put it down when she remembered her last chat with Sebaga. If it was not for her gentle parenting nonsense then she would have already stepped on the boy's neck.

Kgabiso: Who filled that big head of yours with that nonsense? And it's aunty Sebaga to you. Busy calling an adult by her name as if she is your mate.

Cody: Well it's common sense. I'm way older than Sefela and his mum got married to dad after I was born. She obviously snatched him away from you. I have seen my friend's parents get divorced.

Kgabiso: Ke tla go gata gore. Do you think we pay your fees so that you can invest your energy into our business. Use all this wisdom and common sense you think you have to pick up your grades.

She clicked her tongue and sat on the couch...

At Sebaga's

Fela walked into the kitchen and hugged his wife from behind.

Fela: Mmagwe Basimane. (mother of my boys.)

He kissed her neck and spanked her...

Sebaga: Hey. How was your day?

Fela: It was amazing. I closed off that deal with the Namibians.

Sebaga: Oh that's amazing. Congratulations

baby.

She grabbed a kitchen towel to wipe her hands then turned around and wrapped her arms around his neck. Her deep kiss was followed by a deep sigh of frustration.

Fela: Ba kae basimane. (Where are the boys?)

Sebaga: Fela is in his room doing his homework. Cody went to see his mum.

Fela: This late le gone on a weekday? Akere he was there last night so what exactly is he doing there now when he should be studying? This boy is going to give me a blood pressure. Didn't I talk to him yesterday about this behavior?

Seba kept quiet and checked on the pots.

Fela: And you didn't stop him?

Sebaga: So he can insult me again? Akere you heard what he said to me last week. Tota nna I have tried my best.

Fela: I'm going to start whipping his ass yaanong. He thinks he can be a grown man in my house.

A car hooted by the gate... Meanwhile Kgabiso and her son car sat in the car waiting for the gate to open.

Cody: They won't open unless you call them.

Kgabiso: If you ever put me in this position then I'll never allow you to come back home. Do you enjoy me playing little master to my sister?

Cody: I'm sorry.

Kgabiso: Heii fotseke maan...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#120

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso stepped out of her car and fixed herself then licked her lips pressing them together. It had been a lazy day for her and she knew she didn't exactly look the part.

Kgabiso: This should be the very last time you put me in this position. I told you that I hate doing this yet you want to do this to me all the

time..

Cody: I'm sorry mum.

Kgabiso: Shut up!

They walked towards the door then knocked. A few minutes later Sefela got the door.

Sefela: Dumelang. (greetings)

He greeted his aunt then ran back into the house. Kgabiso looked at her son waiting for him to take the lead. Being here always made her feel very small. She followed her son into the house and the first person that greeted them was Sebaga.

Sebaga: Please come in.

She lead them to the living room.

Kgabiso: I'm very sorry to come here unannounced. I came to drop off this young man.

Fela: In the middle of the week le gone at this time?

Kgabiso: I'm sorry about that. I wasn't aware that he would come to my house that's why I brought him back. He has something to say.

She looked at her son...

Kgabiso: Akere Cody?

Cody: I actually don't. I don't understand why I need to apologize for going to see my mother.

Doesn't she deserve to see her son?

Kgabiso: Cody!

Fela: And who do you think you're talking to like that?

Cody: To whoever has a problem with me going to see my mother.

Sebaga: My boy, I don't think that anyone has a problem with you going to see your mum. We set the rules together and would all just appreciate it if they were followed.

Cody: You're not even my mother. I don't understand why you think you can give me any rules or tell me what to do. Why don't you give those rules to Sefela? I mean how come your son gets to stay with you twenty four seven and I get scolded when I go to see my mother?

Sebaga quietly stood up and went to her son's

room. In the past two months, this boy had chosen to be a thorn on her side but she wasn't about to let him break her.

Fela: Do you see what you're doing? Why have you chosen to disrespect your mother?

Cody: She is not my mother. My mother is right here. The woman you choose to leave.

Kgabiso: Cody! Nna tota I don't know how you want me to talk to you. Didn't I tell you to stay away from matters that don't concern you? You're a child, let it stay that way. I don't understand why you're trying to act like an adult when you're not.

Cody: Why are you so afraid of him? He's the villain in this story.

Kgabiso: Cody! Ke tla go clapa kana monna.

She stood up and tried to put her hands on him but his father blocked her.

Cody: You think you're a man son? You now wanna be involved in adult matters? Maybe it's time you and I had a little chat about this truth that you think you know.

Kgabiso: Can you two stop it?

Cody: I don't even wanna be here anymore.

Fela: Then get out! Leave and don't come back. You're ungrateful son. My wife has been nothing but good to you. You wanna act like she is nothing after she has raised you? Follow your mother boy.

Kgabiso: Can you excuse us?

She said turning to Cody who reluctantly stood up...

Kgabiso: I'm sorry about that.

She said as he got into his room and burst his door closed.

Fela: Did you tell him that I left you?

Kgabiso: No! I don't know where he gets that nonsense from. Listen I'm really sorry about this. I don't know how to fix it but I will find a way.

Fela: It's time we told that boy the told.

Her heart pumped blood backwards at the thought of having to face her son and tell him her past.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#121

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso knelt before Fela with tears rolling down her cheeks and begged him. She had made so many mistakes her entire life and knowing that this one could destroy her boy's life broke her.

Kgabiso: I know that the truth is very important but I'm begging you, please leave this issue. We agreed not to tell him till he turns eighteen. You

and I both know that this will destroy him emotionally I. The boy is only sixteen.

Fela: Well that was before we knew that he was old enough to handle anything. Kgabiso I know what we agreed on that but I can't let this behavior go on for too long. My home has become miserable simply because your son sees my wife as a devil yet she raised him with love.

Kgabiso: And I'm not condoning his behavior. I understand how stressful it must be for Sebaga and that's why kere I will talk to him. Cody is just going through a phase. You know how these teenagers get mme I will discipline him.

Fela: Then let him go through the phase with the truth. I'm sorry but I'm not going to allow that boy to abuse my wife in her own home. It's been months re re it's just a phase and it will pass but it gets worse everyday.

Kgabiso: Give me atleast a week to fix it.

Fela: In the meantime he can move in with you.

Kgabiso: You know that I can't give him the life you two give him here.

Fela: At the same time Sebaga is not his mother as he often reminds her so he can not continue to live here like her son. That boy is cheeky and I won't be taking it anymore. Wait for him. I'm going to tell him to pack his things.

Kgabiso: Now? Ao rra, o koba ngwana jaaka ntja masigo? (you're kicking him out like a dog in the middle of the night?) Can I atleast talk to Sebaga?

Fela: No. Leave my wife alone.

He stood up and went into his bedroom where his wife was laying on the bed reading her kindle.

Fela: Hey.

Sebaga: Hey.

He sat on the edge of the bed...

Fela: Can we talk?

Sebaga: Yeah sure.

She took off her reading glasses and put down her kindle then sat up looking at him.

Fela: I'm really sorry about what happened out there and everything that's been happening in this house. I appreciate everything that you have done for my son since the day that he's set foot in this house. I understand that it

wasn't always easy but somehow you made it work. His recent behavior has been concerning.

Sebaga: You're welcome love.

Fela: I think that it's time that he moved out and went to stay with his mother seeing that he can't follow our house rules or respect us.

Sebaga: Whatever you think is best is fine by me. Tota nna I don't want to get too involved because the boy doesn't see me as a mother and neither does he respect me. Let him go back to his mother. Le nna hela I don't think that I feel safe or uncomfortable around him.

Fela: Ee mma. Thank you for trying.

He hugged her then kissed her forehead before leaving the bedroom. He closed his bedroom door and stood there for a while fighting back his tears. His worst fear had come true. The boy had turned out like his mother. He gathered

some strength then walked into Cody's room. He looked around the messy room and shook his head. How was it possible that a human being lived in here.

Fela: You're a man right?

Cody kept quiet and focused on what he was doing.

Fela: Pack your things and go where you think you will be happier. Your mother is waiting for you in the living room.

Cody: Great.

Fela: You will regret this son but since you think that you're a man and you can handle everything, goodluck.

Cody: I don't wanna be here anyways.

Fela: Ok. I hope that when the world is harsh out there and you realize that life is not what you thought it was, you don't come back running here because you have burned bridges with my wife.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#122

A few days later...

At the Airport

Sebaga smiled and held onto her friend with her

dear life. It had been months since they had last seen each other and nothing made her happy like seeing him doing well.

Serge: Girl you're gonna squeeze the life outta me. Was I missed this much?

Sebaga: I'm so happy you're here. It's been a minute.

A tear rolled down her cheeks as she let go.

Serge: Oh baby!

He kissed her cheek... This was the one person that made his trips back home worthwhile. She and her husband were the only family that he had here after all.

Serge: It's so good to see you.

He looked at her carefully and it looked almost as if she had lost a bit of weight.

Serge: New diet?

Sebaga: Huh?

Serge: I see that you've shed off some few kilos.

Sebaga: I wish that was the case but I've just been going through a bunch of things in the past few months. Let's go home. I'll tell you all about it.

Serge: Is hubby treating you well at-least?

Sebaga: Always. Akere you know how we roll.

At Mma Fela's

Fela placed a tray of tea on his mother's bed side table and sat on the chair by the side.

Fela: Hey Ma. I'm sorry I haven't come to see you this whole week but I've made you tea.

Mma Fela: It's okay my son. I understand how busy you must be.

Fela: I still don't understand why you're refusing to move in with us when Sebaga has offered so many times. Dad is no longer here and it makes no sense to be stuck in this big house alone.

Mma Fela: I would never do that to that poor child. I have a helper here and she is doing really well. I'm not lonely.

Fela: We're worried about you.

Mma Fela: Well worry about your wife and children. Nna I'm doing well. I would never

expect your wife to look after me when she already has so much work to do. In the past years she has done so much for me including taking in Cody. I will die a happy woman knowing that both my grandchildren are safe and happy.

Fela looked at his mother and swallowed. What good did it do to hide the truth from her?

Fela: That's why I'm actually here. I came to tell you about the situation that we're having.

Mma Fela: What situation?

Fela: Cody has moved back with his mother?

Mma Fela: Why? Is the mother harassing Mma Molefe?

Fela: No. Actually that woman has been on her best behavior for years and we're all shocked.

It's now Cody that has taken after her. In the past few months he's changed completely. He doesn't respect Mma Molefe nor does he respect her household rules. Of lately he has made it a habit to remind her that she's not his mother and that she took me away from him and his mother.

Mma Fela: Then someone is whispering in his ear and I bet that it's his mother. Where is he suddenly getting such nonsense from? Such a respectful and loving boy. Kgabiso knows something.

Fela: That's what I wanna believe but this time she is the one that's been against this behavior more than anyone. Seba and I decided to use the gentle parenting on him but his mother is very vocal. At one point she wanted to slap him for disrespecting Seba. She has called him to order so many times even in our presence.

Mma Fela: Ele gore what's suddenly changed?

Maybe you should physically discipline him. You know how teenagers get when they are discovering themselves. I'm pretty sure that if you whip him then his head will work properly. I know that you say that Kgabiso has changed but that woman cannot raise that boy otherwise he will become the devil himself. People like her don't just change.

Fela: If it was years ago then I would have agreed with you but so much has changed mum. It's not just you having wrinkles and being frail. That woman has turned things around.

Mma Fela cleared her throat then looked at her son. It was very scary how naive he and his wife had become even after all these years.

Mma Fela: For both your sake, I hope you're right son.

Fela: Yeah and maybe it's time to tell him the truth about how he was born. Who knows, that could change his mindset.

Mma Fela: At his age? My boy, you will damage that boy emotionally forever and cause wounds that cannot be healed. His brain is still too small to comprehend such things. Maybe when he's eighteen and finished his studies. For now he will turn out worse.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso walked into her son's room and sighed heavily as she looked at all the mess that he had made. Dirty plates had pilled up on his study desk and his bed wasn't made. She pulled the curtains open and opened the windows to let fresh air in then began to pick up his dirty clothes from the floor. How had Sebaga

survived this boy when he lived like a pig? She clicked her tongue and picked her phone to call her sister.

Sebaga: Hello.

Kgabiso: Hello Mmagwe Sefela.

Sebaga: Hie. How can I help you?

Kgabiso: I'm sorry to bother you but I was hoping that we could meet and talk.

Sebaga: Have you talked to Fela? I don't know what you and I could possibly talk about.

Kgabiso: Your first born son. Seba this boy has a problem and he needs our help. If we don't help him then it might turn out to be worse.

Sebaga: I'm sorry but your son has made it clear that I'm not his mother so take it up with his father.

Kgabiso: You know that he doesn't mean it.

That boy loves you and I know that you feel the same exact way about him. Please meet me halfway. Le nna I don't like this behavior.

Sebaga: Like I said, take it up with his father. I've done my part.

Sebaga hung up on her...

At the restaurant...

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365 days of 365 days 

The Devil I Never Knew

#123

At the Restaurant

Sebaga put her phone down then downed her cocktail as if she was having a glass of juice. Serge rolled his eyes then sipped on his.

Serge: Let's talk about it. I know that you said that you were off today but pretty ladies keep it classy all the time. I'm not carrying you to the car because you're drunk. I don't have muscle babes.

Sebaga laughed then shook her head.

Sebaga: I see that.

She said looking at his well manicured nails.

Serge: Wanna talk about it?

Sebaga: No. Actually yes. That was Kgabiso and she called to ask me to meet up with her just so we could discuss her son's behavior.

Serge: The nerve! After everything that you've done for that boy, he treats you like a stranger.

Sebaga: You know what they said about not feeding a stray dog because it could need all that energy to bite you? Excuse my language but I've just had it with that boy. The way I sacrificed so much and took him in only to have him abuse me in my own house. Kana the other day he just walked into my bedroom while I was sitting there and took his father's card. When I tried to reprimand him, he told me that it was his father's money that me and my son were eating. That boy has hurt and disrespected me in the worst and most painful way that I don't

see myself ever letting him into my heart. Fela and I would argue for weeks simply because of that boy.

Serge: I think he's better off with his mother. You did your part and no one should make you feel guilty.

Sebaga: Exactly! I'm just happy that Fela understands that better.

Later that day...

At Kgabiso's

Cody walked into the living room and threw his things on the couch then went straight to the kitchen where his mother was busy cooking.

Cody: Hey.

Kgabiso: Hie mum. How are you? How was your day? I'm well son. How was yours?

Cody: Isn't that what I just said when I walked in here?

Kgabiso: I'm not your mate. When you greet me, greet me like someone that buys the groceries and goes an extra mile by cooking them.

He opened the pots and sighed...

Cody: So we're having rice for the second time this week?

Kgabiso: What do you want?

Cody: I don't know. Be more creative in the kitchen. Maybe make some couscous or something different. We can't be having pap, rice and pasta all week.

Kgabiso: Why don't you help me by making a contribution so that I can buy all that? This isn't your father's house. Here I only buy the basics.
Nna I'm not rich.

Cody: Maybe you should work hard.

Kgabiso: And maybe you should have had some manners so that they would let you stay there. I'm not all about that gentle parenting nonsense young man, I'll knock off your teeth with just a slap. Under my roof, you're a child and you need to learn to respect me. From now on your curfew is at Five. There will be no movie Saturdays and all that stupid stuff I can't afford. Sebaga has spoiled you waitsi.

She looked at her son with her hands on her waist.

Kgabiso: And here the only sentences allowed

after meals is thank you and the food was nice. If you don't have anything nice to say then you shut your mouth. Go change so we eat and you wash the dishes.

There was silence as Cody silently went into his room.

At Sebaga's

Everyone around the dinning table held hands to pray before they could eat.

Sebaga: Friend can you say the grace.

She said turning to Serge.

Serge: Ok family, let's say the grace.

They all closed their eyes.

Serge: Lord thank you for your love and for the people gathered on this table. Thank you for your blessings and protection. God bless the hands that made this food. Give them the creativeness they need in the kitchen as well as in the bedroom.

Fela opened his other eye to check if his son had gotten that part.

Fela: Amen!

He said quickly cutting off the prayer.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#124

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso opened Cody's bedroom door and walked right in without knocking. She stood by the door with her hands on her waist.

Cody: Ever heard of knocking?

Kgabiso: You're in my house. You have no room, the one you're sleeping in is borrowed. I assume that they didn't tell you that the only

people that deserve privacy are the ones that built their own houses. This is my house and I will go into it as I please.

Cody: Ever thought that I could be naked?

Kgabiso: What's new? I mean what could I possibly not know? Cody I gave birth to you and nursed you. I have seen everything under those clothes.

He picked up his phone and connected it to the Bluetooth speaker.

Cody: So what do you want?

Kgabiso: The dishes!

Cody: Oh yeah. I'll do them tomorrow morning.

Kgabiso: Perhaps I wasn't very clear about how things work in my house but here we go to bed with clean dishes. We don't leave anything

unattended so get up and go do them now.

Cody: Now you're being unfair.

Kgabiso: I'm I? Cody in this house there are rules and we run by them. You're the one that wanted to live here so embrace them.

Cody: Maybe you should get a helper. You can't expect me to do your house chores. At my house we have a dishwasher.

Kgabiso: Then go there.

She held her waist and laughed...

Kgabiso: I guess not because you insulted them and made sure that they don't want you. Get your lazy ass off that bed and go into the kitchen, those dishes must sparkle.

She stood there till he dragged himself out of the room to the kitchen.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga rinsed her hands after doing the dishes then grabbed a kitchen towel to dry her hands before taking off her apron.

Serge: Can I help you with anything?

Sebaga: No. I'm good friend. I'm gonna check on Sefela before bed then go to sleep.

Serge: I can do that for you so you have more time to get down and dirty.

Sebaga: So you tell him things that are not written in the bible? Nnyaa friend, let me go.

They both laughed...

Serge: I have a feeling that God somehow forgot to put some of those things down.

Sebaga: And he sent you?

They continued giggling...

Serge: I know that it's been such a stressful time and you have had a hard time dealing with Cody but that doesn't mean that you should abandon your marriage my friend.

Sebaga: Wena kana when someone tells you something, they are indirectly killing themselves because that's exactly what you're gonna use against them in future. I said that we weren't having sex because of the arguments not that I was abandoning my marriage.

Serge: Same difference to me. Go get laid.

Sebaga: And that prayer. What was it all about?

Serge: What did you miss lover girl?

Sebaga: I've chilled your wine.

Serge: Thanks babes.

She hugged him.

Sebaga: Goodnight babe.

The following day

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso picked up her diary on the couch and packed her things together with her lunchbox.

Cody came out of the room with his bag then greeted her.

Cody: You forgot to give me money for lunch.

Kgabiso: I made you a lunchbox.

Cody: Mum, I stopped taking a lunchbox to school in primary school. Just give me money. We have a plate for thirty pula at school..

Kgabiso: I can't afford to give you that money daily that's why I cooked.

Cody: No ways! You want the whole school to laugh at me? Mum I don't know how things work at your government schools but that's not the same way they work at private schools.

Kgabiso: Then maybe it's time you moved to a government school.

Cody: I'm telling dad about this.

1K followers to go Slays Parlour : S P

He said taking out his phone and dialing his father.

Fela: Hello son.

Cody: Dad please come pick me up. I can't live with mum anymore, she is impossible.

Fela: I'm sorry son but I can't do that.

Cody: Why?

Fela: Well you would have to abide by the rules of this house and respect my wife seeing that she owns this house but by the look of things, you're not willing to so I doubt that she is also willing to have you back here. Le nna hela I'm not open to the idea. I can't have you disrespect us like we're your agemates.

Cody: Dad you and I both know that it's your

house and you're the one that built it. You're just saying this because you always choose her.

Fela: This is why I can't have you back here. You still don't understand that this woman you see as nothing sacrificed so much just to raise you. Did you know that she had to give up her job in Maun and start over mo Gaborone because she wanted you to have a better education? My wife took so much crap from your mother and no one will reward her with stress.

He hung up on him leaving him with so many questions... What exactly had went down between the two sisters?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#125

That same week...

At Mma Sebaga's

Cody walked into the living room with a tray of tea then placed it on the table before serving his grandmother. If there was one thing this boy mastered was the way that his grandmother loved taking her tea. She had become old and frail and not many people came to visit her but her grandson! This boy was so precious to her and he understood it so well.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you for coming to see me. I was starting to think that you had grown sick of me.

Cody: Who? Me? Never. You know that you're my number one.

Mma Sebaga: Good. You're my number one as well. I didn't buy anything for your mother's birthday but I saved some money and I was hoping that you could run that errand for me. Akere you know that I pay well.

They both laughed...

Cody: Grandma?

Mma Sebaga: Yes my boy.

Cody: Can I ask what happened between my mum and her sister? I mean I know that they pretend to work together but I can tell that deep down they hate each other.

Mma Sebaga: You know how the past is. The other went after the other one's man and it was

never the same again.

Cody: Please explain more.

Mma Sebaga: I think that your parents should be the ones to tell you my boy. I don't want to be accused of corrupting you.

Cody: You know that I never tell them anything that we talk about. I just want to understand that's all.

Mma Sebaga sighed deeply. How had they not told this boy the truth about his parents? After all he was old enough to understand everything.

Mma Sebaga: Before you were born, your father and aunt were in a relationship and set to get married. The whole marriage preparations were surrounded by so many issues because your father's family didn't believe that your aunt Seba

was good enough to get married to him. Even so, the preparations went on. Your aunt and dad's relationship was envied by so many and I guess it didn't sit well with your mother. A night before her sister's magadi, your mother met up with your father and that's how you were conceived.

Cody's brain froze and everything became numb...

At Fela's office

Kgabiso pressed her lips together and sat up straight as she waited for Fela to finish up with work. She had been waiting for over thirty minutes but what could she do? Those were the results of rocking up unannounced to someone's office.

Fela: Great. I'm done. What did you want to discuss again?

Kgabiso: Cody.

Fela: What about him?

Kgabiso: I think it's time we moved him to a government school.

Fela: Why? I don't remember complaining about the fees. Is there a problem?

Kgabiso: No but it's given him some kind of entitlement. I don't know what kind of lifestyle you wanted to create for him but I believe it's part of the problem. Cody is lazy and can't do anything around the house. Was Sebaga doing everything for him? Tota she has spoilt this boy. I'm not surprised that he disrespects her.

Fela: We did the best we could do. There is no need to point fingers. My wife did everything

she could for that boy. Kana had we sent him to a government school and made sure he did house chores then you would have accused us of ill treating him. Tota hela now that I think about it, I think it's best he stays with you because no matter how well Sebaga tries to raise that boy, she will always be blamed for something. Let every woman raise their own child. This thing of expecting step mothers to raise our children is so unfair because in the end they get blamed for things they shouldn't even be blamed for. Gape hela the truth is that the only person that can connect with their child in a better way is the mother. I wish that I had known all this years ago. My wife has sacrificed so much to raise that boy in the best way she knew but it still isn't enough for everyone. As a father I will always be there for my son and nothing can separate me from him. Let me know how best I can assist whether financially or physically. As for moving him from private

school, that's entirely up to you but I personally don't have a problem with paying his fees and all the other things he will need at school.

Kgabiso: Thank you. Cody is a child, with the right kind of disciplining, he will do well. I know that you all see him as a little devil but this is a teenager we are talking about. It's just a stage. Sooner or later, he will be back to the normal Cody we know.

Later that day...

At Mma Sebaga's

Cody took off his headsets and laid his head on his grandmother's lap as tears rolled down his eyes. It was clear to him that his aunt was selfish.

Cody: It's clear to me that my aunt is selfish, clearly dad had chosen mum, why couldn't she back off and allow us to be a proper family.

Mma Sebaga: It's not as easy as you put it. There are details only your parents can tell you. Your dad never wanted to be with your mum. It's complicated son.

Cody: Then uncomplicate it for me.

Meanwhile Kgabiso parked her car outside her mother's house and stepped out. She took deep breaths before going inside the house. Raising this boy was draining but she wasn't going to give up on him. She walked into the house and greeted.

Mma Sebaga: You're back.

Kgabiso: Did I take too long?

Mma Sebaga: No. You know I love spending time with this sweet gentleman. He always takes good care of me.

Kgabiso: How was your day son?

She asked as she noticed the change of mood.

Cody: It could get better if you tell me how exactly I was made and why you and dad broke things off.

Kgabiso: Cody!

Cody: What? I already know that I was conceived the night before dad's wedding day so I'm sure we can all share.

Kgabiso looked at her mother with so much

anger...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#126

Kgabiso forced a smile then put down the plastics she had brought with her from the shops. Who did Mma Seaga think that she was?

Kgabiso: Cody can you please take these to the kitchen and pack them up?

Cody: No. Why don't you do it yourself?

Kgabiso: Don't forget that I'm your mother boy!

Cody: The one that's a home wrecker.

Kgabiso moved closer to him and served him with a hot slap that had him questioning his existence.

Cody: Mama!

He said holding on to both his cheeks.

Kgabiso: Get in there or I will break your teeth. You think that you're a big person and you can now suddenly talk back? Get your ass in there!

She said moving closer to him.

Mma Sebaga: You will hurt him.

Kgabiso: Wena mama didimala. (keep quiet mum) You failed to parent your own children after all.

Mma Sebaga: Don't forget yourself my girl. You're still a child to me. Mind the way you talk to me.

Kgabiso: If I was you, I would stay out of this because you're not even worthy to be called a mother. The reason I still come around is because I feel pity for you otherwise you're just as good as dead to me. Who told you that you can tell my son things about me? Who ever went around telling your dirty secrets?

Mma Sebaga: Nna I came clean and admitted to my mistakes. Gape I didn't rape my sister's husband just so I could have a baby with him and use the child as a meal ticket and a weapon against my sister.

The entire room went quiet... It was now mother against daughter.

Cody dropped the plastics he had then ran out of the house as if he had seen a ghost.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga stood by the door and smiled as the boys installed her strip pole in the bedroom. She wasn't sure how her husband would take it but she was now open to trying new things and spicing up her bedroom life.

Serge stood behind her and cleared his throat.

Serge: I see that someone took my advice.

Sebaga: I don't know what you're talking about.

She turned around with a serious face.

Serge: Ok.

Sebaga: I guess you're right. I need to step out of my comfort zone. Just because we're parents and aging, it doesn't mean that we can't be fun.

Serge: Yes girl. Once you are done with that, attend to your lingerie collection.

Sebaga: Bathong Serge, how much I'm I gonna send on a sexual experiment?

Serge: It's an investment my girl. It will strengthen your marriage for a lifetime. Most married people take that for granted and end up cheating because they want better. Gone mme why search for better out there when you can

create magic with your partner. Kana you have an advantage with them. Knowing what makes them tick, what leaves them screaming and yearning for more. That level of knowing each other can't be bought. It makes me so sick when I realize that y'all don't know what you have.

Sebaga: Heish! Neh.

At Fela's Office

Just as Fela was about to pack up his things and retire for the day, a phone call came through.

Fela: Kgabiso!

Her cry left him wondering what kind of drama

had taken place this time.

Fela: What is it? If you're gonna cry without telling me what the problem is then I won't know how to help you.

Kgabiso: It's Cody. He ran away. I don't know where to look for him.

Fela: What happened before that?

She hysterically cried till he hung up.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga walked behind her daughter with her walking stick as she ran to the car crying.

Mma Sebaga: I'm sorry my girl. I didn't mean to

say anything. It just came out in the midst of all the anger I had.

Kgabiso: If anything happens to my son. It's all on you. I should have never brought him here.

At Sebaga's

Cody stood outside the gate and pressed the intercom several times as tears blurred his sight. He wanted to just drop and die. So the woman he had defended and cherished all along was a rapist?

A few minutes later Seba opened the gate and Cody ran inside. Before she could ask what the problem was, he held onto her and wept bitterly.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#127

At Sebaga's

After nearly an entire hour of comforting Cody in his room, Seba went into the kitchen and made him a platter of snacks. She grabbed a glass then filled it with his favorite juice. That boy had put her through so much but seeing him this broken hurt her.

Fela: Thank you.

He said as he walked into the kitchen.

Sebaga: For what?

Fela: After everything that he's done, I thought that you would send him away.

Sebaga: I'm a mother. I'm not that heartless you know.

Fela: I know babe. That's not what I meant. I appreciate you.

She put down the tray and hugged him.

Sebaga: I love you.

She kissed him then squeezed his hand tightly as she let go.

Sebaga: And how do you feel?

Fela: I don't know.

Sebaga: It's okay to feel a bit sad or angry. What happened to you was terrible and even though it's been years, I'm aware that you can't forget completely.

Fela: It's okay babe. I long accepted the circumstances. I'm glad that it didn't change who I am. If anything then it helped me do things the right way.

Sebaga: I will see you in a bit. Let me attend him.

Fela: Ee mma.

He walked into the living room and joined Serge who seemed a bit off.

Fela: Hey man.

Serge: Mr M.

Fela: Are you okay?

Serge: Yeah. I'm just worried about her. She seems to be taking it as hard as he did.

Fela: It's been years but it can never be easy.

Serge: That's true. She has a big heart. I didn't think that she would raise him.

Fela: She sure does.

There was an awkward moment of silence as each of them digested their own thoughts.

Fela: What's your take on the whole thing? I mean as a lawyer and as someone that has known us for over a decade?

Serge: For the very first time, I don't have answers. A lot has changed in the past ten years. Seba has somehow grown fond of the boy and it was so with the boy until God knows

what changed so it's hard to position myself.
My heart goes out to both of them because they
are both victims in all of this.

Fela: Would I be wrong to send him back home?

Serge: I honestly don't know my friend. That
answer lies with you and Seba. You're the ones
that know what will work for your family better.

Fela looked at him and shook his head smiling.

Fela: Who are you and what have you done with
Serge?

Serge: I don't know, life always looks different
when you're on the ground so maybe falling off
so many times changed my entire perspective
on life.

Meanwhile outside Kgabiso stood by the gate

and rang the intercom a couple of times till someone came to the gate.

Fela: What is it?

Kgabiso: You said that my son was here, I'm here to take him home.

Fela: I don't think that's a good idea.

Kgabiso: Fela I wasn't asking you on that. I want my son.

Fela: Cody is fine. He is with Sebaga. He's just a bit shocked because obviously someone decided to throw the truth at him without a warning that it would traumatize him.

Kgabiso: Fela I want my son. Can you please give me my son.

Fela: Kana kare he is safe. Seba is with him as me speak.

He took out his button and opened the gate.

Kgabiso: No! I'm taking him home. This is my mess. Let me fix it.

Fela: You think that he wants to see you now? Kgabiso, that boy is broken and he believes that you ruined his life. Allow him to heal first. We will bring him back. Seba will take good care of him.

She ignored him and walked into the house while arguing.

Kgabiso: You want your wife to poison my son against me. I want my son, if your lawyer wife wants to counsel someone then she should counsel her own son. Akere she has a child of her own.

Fela: Heela Kgabiso!

He said walking behind her.

Kgabiso: Cody! Cody!

Sebaga came out his room.

Sebaga: Hie. He's in there. I've just calmed him down. Why don't you give him a bit of time?

Kgabiso: You're lecturing me about parenting while you only made one child in the entire ten years that you've been married to your husband. Wait for your son to be a teenager then you can play your role. I'm taking my son with. You people have spoilt him and now that he's rotten to the core, you act surprised.

Fela came behind them.

Fela: Don't you insult my wife. If you feel like
your son is better off without us then take him.
Ga o na tanki waitsi.

She went into Cody's room and came out
dragging him.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#128

At Sebaga's

Sebaga tearfully watched as Kgabiso dragged Cody outside and forced him into the car. The boy wasn't hers and there was nothing much she could do if his mother wanted to take him with. Her husband held on tightly to her hand as Kgabiso got in the car and drove off in an unusual speed.

Fela: O sharp? (Are you okay?)

Sebaga: Yeah. Do you think that it's a good idea to let him go with her?

Fela: I don't think so but she is still his mother. We can't stop her from taking him and who knows, maybe some time together will do them some good. She has a lot of explaining to do. Cody is old enough to understand most things and I can understand how scary it is for her. He

will ask for certain details and that's scary for any parent to have to explain. I'm not condoning the fact that we kept the truth hidden for this long but it's hard to see your own child hate you. She is acting out of fear and doing everything wrong. That boy needs to calm down before she can shove her truth down his throat.

Sebaga: Yeah neh.

Fela: It hurts to know that he's in so much pain but it's for the best. This is the reality of life.

Sesha: True.

Fela: And you did your best. The boy might have his own mistakes and madness but you raised him well. I think it's time the mother took over. I don't know how to apologize for all that you have had to endure but I do apologize. No one knew that things would turn out this way.

Sebag: It's okay. There is no need to apologize.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso parked her car under the tree then turned to her son as he took off his seat belt.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry baby. I don't know where to start but I want you to know that I love you and I've loved you from the very first moment I found out about you. I have made so many mistakes and hurt so many people. Most times it was intentional but I've moved and healed from that. Son I don't want you to ever think that your existence is somehow a mistake or some kind of punishment. Your father and I love you very much. Although our relationship was complicated for years, we worked through it and did our best to raise you.

Cody: Can I go inside? I want to rest.

Kgabiso: Ok my boy. I love you.

A few days later...

At Kgabiso's

Mma Sebaga laid back and comfortably sat down as her daughter brought a tray of tea.

Mma Sebaga: So how is he?

Kgabiso: He acts like he's ok but I can tell that he's still very angry.

Mma Sebaga: I'm really sorry for the damage I caused.

Kgabiso: It's fine. I should have told him the truth a long time ago. I don't know how I thought we would be able to keep it away from him. Now he knows so we can deal with it

together. Mum I've failed at so many things but I won't fail my son. I don't blame you. It's all on me.

Mma Sebaga: And your sister?

Kgabiso: I apologized but that's not my priority right now, my priority is my son. I will deal with them later.

At Sebaga's Office

Leo walked in with a bouquet of flowers then placed them on the table as Seba prepared her things for court.

Leo: I already know what you're gonna say but today I'm not taking no for answer. Have lunch with me.

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On my last day of leave with my little tribe. I'll see you tomorrow evening, tomorrow is travel day. ❤

The Devil I Never Knew

#129

At Sebaga's Office

Seba grabbed her things then picked her car keys. She chuckled shaking her head then went back and put her things down. She fixed her dress to sit down.

Sebaga: You don't get it, do you?

Leo: No. You're right, I don't get it. I'm merely asking to take you out for lunch. I'm not asking to sleep with you or anything.

Sebaga: And I keep telling you that I don't wanna go. Leo I don't know how things work in your marriage but in mine, we respect each other. If it's acceptable for you to take women on lunch dates instead of your wife then that's fine but at my house things are different.

Leo: Then maybe it's time you looked really deep into your marriage to understand it. Respect should come with trust. Being married doesn't mean that you cease to stop existing.

Sebaga: I hear you but on the other end I'm quite curious to understand how your wife would feel when she finds out that you've been buying another woman flowers. Out of curiosity, do you buy her flowers too?

Leo: What does this have to do with her? Like I

said in our marriage, trust is everything.

Sebaga: Got you but let me advise you for free. Before you go out to buy other women flowers, buy them for your wife. Who knows, the poor woman probably wants them. And by the way, my husband has never disrespected me with such a small bouquet before.

She stood up and grabbed her stuff...

Sebaga: After you boss.

Leo: I'll lock up for you.

Sebaga: Thanks but I can do that myself.

At Kgabiso's

Cody sat by the bed and packed up his things.

The thought of living with the same woman that had forced herself on her father made him so sick. Each morning he looked at her, his anger towards her grew. Just as he was about to get up and leave Kgabi walked in.

Kgabiso: And now?

Cody: I'm going back home.

Kgabiso: Son this is your home.

She said seating down.

Kgabiso: I know that you hate me and you don't wanna see me right now but I'm still your mother and this is still your home. Nothing will ever change that no matter how you feel about me. I was very wrong those many years ago and the person that I became destroyed my entire

life. That is why I don't have anything to my name even though I still work. You see this thing called character? It can ruin your future. I've booked some counseling sessions for us so that we can attend together. If you don't like attending with me in the long run then we can attend separately. My boy, I know how much you hate me at this point and how much it must hurt to have to live with me but I don't want you to turn out like me. Please give me a chance to be your mother.

Cody: Can we agree that if it doesn't work out then you will let me go and live with dad.

She forced a smile and shamefully bowed.

Kgabiso: My boy, it won't be that easy. You hurt your aunt and she needs some time to heal. You can't just force your way into her home.

Cody: You mean dad's home?

Kgabiso: No. Her home. Their home. You need to understand that your dad and your aunt Sebaga are one. You simply can't separate the two. I tried for years and trust me, I ended up angry and bitter. Let's take this as a chance to heal my boy.

At Sebaga's office

Sebaga sighed heavily as she frustratingly opened her office. She had not lost a case in the past year and this one came as a blow. The thought of that poor woman having to go to jail broke her but what could she do after all? The law was the law. She shook her head as she noticed countless bouquet of flowers in her office that had taken over her space.

Sebaga: Waitsi kana!

She put her things on the little space that she had left then clapped her hands. Just as she was about to take out her phone, Leo walked in.

Leo: Hey. I hear that you had a bad day, I hope this makes up for it.

Sebaga: Leo, I thought we understood each other this morning.

Leo: When was the last time your man bought you flowers or came over and took you out for lunch?

Sebaga: Now you're crossing a line.

He closed the door and pushed her against the wall then looked into her eyes for a while before letting her go.

Sebaga: I don't wanna remind you about what the law says about this. Please take your flowers and leave.

A knock brought all of them to reality.

Seba quickly went to the door and opened up.

Fela: Hey babe.

His mood fell into his boots as soon as he saw his wife's office filled with flowers. He cleared his throat and walked in as Leo fixed his suit.

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The Devil I Never knew

#130

In Sebaga's Office

Fela hugged and kissed his wife before extending his hand to greet Leo. You could tell that the mood was tense but he stood by his wife's side and held her hand.

Sebaga: Babe, this is my boss, Leo. The one that I've been telling you about.

Leo: Nice to meet you.

Fela: After such a long time. I'm glad that we finally got to meet and congratulations on making partner.

Leo: Thank you.

He shamefully looked away as Fela picked some of the flowers.

Fela: Her favorite flowers are white roses and she is not a big fan of such a bunch.

He smiled then turned to his wife...

Fela: Are you ready to go home?

Sebaga: Yes love. Leo?

Leo: Oh yes. I was also just leaving.

Fela: And by the way, what you're doing is considered harassment. If she reports you the next day then you might kiss your career goodbye. You're a lawyer and you're in a better

position to understand that. I've had an opportunity of working with your wife a couple of times. She is a very principled woman, don't embarrass her mate.

Leo suddenly felt the room getting smaller as Fela maintained such a strong eye contact. The man knew way too much about him and if he wasn't careful, he would lose it all.

Leo: It was nice meeting you.

He said right before leaving with his tail tucked inbetween his legs.

Fela: You're good? I guess you were right. Maybe you should report that man after all. I just thought that he would somehow get the

message since he deals with the law everyday.

Sebaga: Yeah. That doesn't look like a man that will stop anytime soon.

Fela: Sorry babes. We shouldn't even be taking it for granted. A person like this can ruin your life.

Sebaga: I'll have a chat with the big boss tomorrow morning. He's already left to go home.

Fela: Can we talk?

Sebaga: Yeah sure. He looked around to see where he could sit but there were flowers everywhere which left his ego bruised. He hadn't loved this woman right for so long or even taken his time to be with her in the past year and something inside reminded him how things could quickly change if a guy loving and convincing enough would come along. His wife was not the type to cheat but even he knew that circumstances had a way of unlocking sides to

people you never knew of.

He frustratedly pushed all the flowers on the table to the floor then picked up his wife to put her on the table before kissing and caressing her. Each moan she made left him wanting more of her.

Sebaga: Babe let's get home first.

He ignored her then took off his blazer before lifting her from the table.

Fela: No. I want you right now, right here.

She bit her lower lip as her undies instantly soaked up. This man hadn't touched her this

way nor taken control of what was his in a long time. Feeling his hands all over her as he lifted up his dress and pulled down her thong excited every part of her body.

Fela: Ka go rata wa utlwa?

He lifted her then sat her by the edge of the table before taking off his belt and letting his pants and briefs down. He did all this while maintaining eye contact. By the time he rubbed against her, she was crying and begging to feel him but he was a gentleman after all. He took his sweet time.

Sebaga: Babe.

She tried to pull him in but he moved back and

took a closer look at her cookie jar. With that look, the man was about to fu*k the hell out of her. Her heart rate increased as her hunger did. Seeing her this desperate made him want her even more. He was gonna take his sweet time and remind her that he was hers and nothing would change that. She gasped for air as he slowly squeezed his way in. Damm she was so tight... He hung both her legs on his shoulders and began to untap and unlook all different types of pleasure.

Sebaga: Uhhhh...

She tried to hold in the moans but the pleasure blew her off and for a moment she felt as if her heart would stop.

Meanwhile Leo stood by the door and shook his

head. So at their age, they still behaved like teenagers.

At the mall

By the till

Cody stood behind his mother as she took out her purse to pay for the mini groceries they had done. The cashier impatiently waited as Kgabiso counted her small coins. Behind him was Paul and his daughter who instantly recognized her.

Cashier: We are delaying the line.

Kgabiso: Tell them to jump me if they can. This is my time so don't tell me about wasting theirs.

Paul laughed and shook his head. She was still the same Kgabi he knew from those many years ago. The sound of that laughter behind her son annoyed her so she raised her head to look and there he was...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#131

At the Mall...

Kgabiso shamefully giggled as Paul stepped out of the shop to greet her and Cody. They

hadn't seen each other for years and this was such a nice surprise.

Paul: It was nice seeing you. By the way this is my daughter Lana.

The pretty little girl smiled and greeted Kgabiso and her son.

Kgabiso: Akere you know Cody.

Paul: Yeah. He's gotten really tall. Such a fine handsome young guy man.

Kgabiso dug for her car keys in her handbag then gave them to Cody.

Kgabiso: Put those in the boot.

Cody: Sure.

He turned to Paul.

Cody: Go siame.

Paul: Sure son.

There was an awkward moment of silence as each one of them digested this moment.

Kgabiso: You have a beautiful girl. Who does she take after? Her mother?

Paul looked at his daughter and chuckled. He knew the exact question she wanted to ask but pride wouldn't allow her. He took out his car keys from the pocket then gave them to Lana.

Paul: Wait for me in the car, I will be right over.

Lana: Okay dad.

He kissed her little cheek then smiled as she ran off to the car.

Paul: How have you been?

Kgabiso: Been good.

Paul: Any new man? Pets or more children?

Kgabiso: (laughed) No.

Paul: Oh ok.

Kgabiso: And you?

Paul: Just one kid.

Kgabiso: You know what I mean.

They both laughed...

Paul: It's complicated.

Kgabiso: I see.

Paul: Oh I love the new car by the way.

Kgabiso: Thanks. It's not exactly new but yeah.
You know how it goes akere.

Paul: Can I take you out for a drink. So we catch up?

Kgabiso: (Smiled) I would love that but I wouldn't want to rub your girl off the wrong way.
Akere wa itsi gore nna ke ipuela hela. (you know that I just talk and answer back anyhow.)

Paul: Some things will never change hey.
Realized that when we were inside the shop.
Kana I used to avoid shopping with you because one wrong mistake then you would put the cashier in their place.

Kgabiso: (laughed) Yeah neh. And who can believe that it's been ten years. I wanna see the girl that settled with you. She is probably a saint because you don't like noisy people.

Paul: I will tell you all about it when we link up for drinks.

Kgabiso: Sure.

Paul: Can I have your number?

He said taking out his phone before passing it to her.

Later that night evening...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso hummed and danced as she stood in

front of the stove and cooked.

Cody: Was that another one of your victims?

She turned around and shook her head.

Kgabiso: You are your mother's son, aren't you?
This behavior will get you nowhere my boy.
Keep behaving like that and you will be counting
small change while the cashier shouts at you.
Character can break you.

He laughed feeling bad...

Cody: It's not a bad thing to count coins you
know. It was just in the way you were doing it.

Kgabiso: How was I doing it?

They both laughed...

Cody: Like really slow. It was as if you wanted to annoy them further. Tota you wanted to annoy them, that I know.

Kgabiso: They were all giving me funny stares so yeah I had to make sure.

He looked at the oven tray that had fish on it and moved closer.

Cody: I've always wanted to learn how to make some fish.

Kgabiso: I can teach you. Let's pick out some spices together.

For the very first time, these two were working together without any frights.

Kgabiso: Grab that apron and let's get cooking.

At Sebaga's

In the bathroom

Seba softly moaned as her husband drilled her from the back. Each time she tried to limit his depth he held on to her waist and gave her deep strokes that left her in tears.

There was a knock at the door but they both ignored it. A few minutes later they heard the bedroom door opening.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#132

At Sebaga's

Fela slowly let go of his wife then grabbed his robe and went into the bedroom. He shook his head and sat on the bed as his son put back his mother's handbag on the bed.

Fela: What's going on here?

Sefela shamefully looked away. After being caught red handed, there was nothing much to say.

Fela: I asked you a question young man.

Sefela: I was checking to see if mum has some vix. My ankle hurts.

Fela: And you couldn't knock?

Sefela: You had said that you coming going to bath so I didn't want to disturb you.

Fela: Look at me.

He said maintaining eye contact with his son.

Fela: How old do you think I am? I mean how easily can you fool me?

Sefela: I'm not fooling you dad. It's the truth.

Fela: Okay. Would you like to share this truth with your mother as well?

Sefela: Dad please don't tell her. You know that she is going to shout at me.

Fela: Mme kana I'm going to tell her because you don't wanna be honest. I caught you going through your mum's bag without permission. It's clear to me that you were stealing.

He looked at his father with reddish eyes.

Sefela: Please don't tell mum.

Seba walked in with her rob.

Sebaga: Don't tell mum what?

Fela looked at his son.

Fela: Tell your mother what's going on.

Sebaga noticed that her handbag had been moved around then quietly sat.

Sefela: I came in here to look for vix in your bag and dad saw me.

Sebaga: What vix?

Sefela: My ankle hurts.

His mother looked at him and burst into laughter.

Sebaga: I'm not in the mood to whoop anyone's as* but if you push me to the wall, I will my boy.

Don't do stuff like that then lie to us like we are fools. When did you start stealing? It's clear that you were going through a bag that's not yours in a room that is not yours as well. If you were genuinely looking for vix then you would have knocked as usual and asked me to assist you.

She opened her drawers then grabbed a belt.

Sebaga: Ware what were you looking for?

Tears built up in his eyes...

Sefela: I wanted a hundred pula so that I could share my lunch money with Cody.

Fela: Did he send you to steal from your mother?

Sefela kept quiet.

Sebaga: Can you please go out of the room and excuse us? We will call you back.

Sefela shamefully walked out of the room wishing the world could come to an end.

Fela: Do you see what that boy has now done? Even after leaving, he still causes more damage.

Sebaga: No! Don't excuse your son's bad behavior by using Cody. That boy had his flaws but open your eyes and see who we are dealing with now. Cody didn't sneak into our room or open my bag. Sefela did.

Fela: But he's just said that Cody sent him.

Sebaga looked at her husband and chuckled.

Sebaga: And you want to believe that? Babe, Sefela is old enough to know what's right and wrong. If anyone had sent him then he had a choice. He walked in here willingly and opened that bag on his own.

Fela: I know that but Cody is the reason why this is happening. I'm calling Kgabiso.

Sebaga: For what? Reprimand your son. I understand that you're still angry that he left but you can't blame Cody or Kgabiso for the things that go wrong in your house. No son of mine is going to grow up believing that they can shift blame to others and get away with it. Now that Cody has left, I think it's time I raised this boy the way that I've always desired. Moretlwa o simolla go lela.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso threw herself on the couch and smiled with the phone on her ear as Paul spoke on the other side of the line.

Paul: So she left to pursue her studies and never came back.

Kgabiso: Eish. Sorry tlhe rra.

Paul: It's okay. It's what she wanted. I can't stop her from building the life that she wants. At least she left me with a beautiful girl.

Kgabiso: She is such a royal.

Paul: So now that I told you the truth about my relationship status and you know that no one can cause drama for you, will you go out on a date with me?

Kgabiso: (Giggled) Let's see how it goes. I'm a

busy woman.

Paul: (Smiled) I see that.

Kgabiso: It was really nice seeing you.

Paul: Same here. Tlhe mma tla kwano. (Come over.)

Kgabiso: I'm tired. We can always meet tomorrow.

Paul: Tlhe mma wena. I just wanna see your face again.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#133

That same evening

At Paul's

Kgabiso and Paul tip toed to the main bedroom like naughty school kids being mindful of his daughter that was in the other room. Kgabiso sat by the bed and released a sigh of relief as Paul closed the door and joined her.

Kgabiso: Tell me why we are in your bedroom when we agreed that I was just coming to see you?

Paul: Lana is in the other bedroom. I don't want her to hear or see you.

Kgabiso: Is that so? So I'm being hidden even as a friend?

Paul: No. But you know how kids are. I don't

want to traumatize her or anything.

Kgabiso: Ok.

He could tell that she was offended even though she hadn't voiced her concern.

Paul: Ever since her mother left, I've never introduced her to any other woman and the honest truth is that I don't have any plans to anytime soon.

Kgabiso: Ok.

There was an awkward moment of silence as Kgabiso quietly fiddled with her track top zipper.

Paul: And Cody? Are you willing to introduce him to anyone? I mean even if it's just a friend?

Kgabiso: With Cody it's a bit different. He is a teenager and he easily understands even if I don't tell him anything.

Paul: Would you sneak me into your room or tell him that you have company?

She kept quiet feeling defeated... The truth was that with everything that was going on, she wouldn't breathe a word,in-fact when she left the house she had told him that she was picking up her files from work. That boy had been through a lot and she wasn't about to do anything that would set him off again. They were truly making progress.

Kgabiso: Never mind.

He turned towards her and gently kissed her. Oh

God! The hunger he felt couldn't be contained anymore. It had been over a year since he had last touched a woman and he wasn't gonna let go of this opportunity.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry but I don't think that we should be doing this. It's been over ten years since we last had a decent conversation and there's just a lot going on.

She moved back and breathed heavily as her body betrayed her. Every trace and every touch reminded her of how she and this man used to make some magic together in the bedroom.

Paul: I'm sorry that you're going through a lot right now.

He said gently kissing her neck and leaving her wanting more. He knew that this was her weak point.

Kgabiso: Let's just stop.

Paul: Why? It won't hurt. I'll just put the head.

He said as he unzipped her track top and slid his hand under her top to play with her tits.

Kgabiso: Ng ng!

Paul: It will be just the tip of it.

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga walked into her son's room and closed the door behind her then sat on one of the chair by the study table.

Sebaga: Hey.

Sefela: Ee mma.

He said with his head lowered probably still feeling a bit embarrassed from the other day.

Sebaga: Can we talk?

Sefela: Ee mma.

Sebaga: I don't like what happened the other day. Baby you can't just walk into my room and pick whatever you want. That is theft and there are serious consequences for that. You said

that you did what you did because you wanted to share your lunch money with your brother.

Sefela: Yes.

Sebaga: Can I ask you something? Did you steal because you wanted to share the money with him or because he asked you to share with him?

Sefela: He didn't ask me to share with him. I felt bad that dad had stopped giving him his share so I wanted to give him.

Sebaga: That's very thoughtful of you my boy but your approach is wrong. Next time ask me and I will give you. Don't just walk in and take what doesn't belong to you. Do you see him a lot? I mean does he cross over to your school most times to see you?

Sefela: Yes. Everyday he checks on me. The kids from the big school always come to see us during break and lunch.

Sebaga: That's sweet of him. I will talk to your dad about it but you need to know that what you did is wrong and the next time I catch you, I won't be very forgiving. I'm gonna whoop your as*. I ain't raising a thief.

At Paul's Office

Paul nervously smiled as Kgabiso closed the door and pulled up her dress exposing her cookie jar. He became very uncomfortable as he looked at the time. It was usually around this time that his woman popped in for lunch.

Paul: I didn't know that you were coming.

Kgabiso: I wanted to surprise you.

Paul: That's very sweet of you but I have an appointment in a few minutes.

Kgabiso: You haven't called me since that night at your house.

Paul: I know and I'm sorry. It's just been too busy.

Kgabiso: Really.

She went around the table and sat on him.

Kgabiso: This time I don't want just the tip of it. I want everything.

Paul: There is something that I need to tell you.

The thought of Megan walking in on them made him sweat.

Paul: I'm not...

Kgabiso: Are you okay?

Paul: I'm not exactly single. I have a girlfriend and she I...

The door opened and Megan walked in.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#134

At Paul's office

Kgabiso jumped from the chair and pulled down her dress swallowing a lump as a young girl that looked like she was in her early twenties pulled a chair and calmly sat down. She had

pressed her pink painted lips and cleared her throat as the two both stood up.

Megan: I'm late to the party?

Tears built up In Kgabiso's eyes as the young girl smiled.

Megan: I asked you two a question.

Paul shamefully fixed his pants...

Paul: Babe, I can explain.

Megan recognized Kgabiso from the pictures in his old album and laughed.

Megan: I guess I missed out on the reunion memo.

Kgabiso: Listen, I truly didn't know that he had a girlfriend. He just told me a few minutes ago.

Megan: Well I knew that there was someone.

She looked at Paul and laughed.

Megan: The next time you decide to cheat, make sure that you replace the condoms. I counted five when I left and we only have two left.

Paul: Listen babe, it was a one time thing. We met up to catch up and one thing led to the other. It will never happen again.

Kgabiso: Yes.

The thought of being embarrassed in-front of the entire office scared her. She was making progress with her son and she couldn't afford to disappoint him. As much as a part of her wanted to bang these two's heads against each other, she knew that she had to be humble.

Kgabiso: I don't know what is going on but I want to apologize because right until a few minutes ago, I knew that Paul was single otherwise I wouldn't have embarrassed myself by sleeping with him or coming all the way. I'm really sorry. Please don't cause a scene.

Megan: Lift up your dress.

Paul: What? Megs, you don't have to do this. This is all my fault. I'm the one that lied to her and lead her on.

She ignored him and turned to Kgabiso as she walked over slowly to where she was.

Megan: Would you like me to help you?

Kgabiso: Listen young girl, I'm not in the mood to fight. I've already apologized. I don't know why you think a woman as old as myself will stand here and undress for you just because you caught me with your man who is weak if you ask me. I'm too old for this and I don't know if he hasn't told you about me but I'm not as nice as I look.

Megan ignored her and lifted up her dress then ran her hand to her cookie jar. She became very excited when she realized that she wasn't wearing any undies then moved closer to kiss her. As much as this felt good, Kgabiso moved back to break the kiss.

Kgabiso: What the hell are you doing?

Megan: Tell me that you didn't enjoy that?

Paul: You're now crossing a line.

Megan: Which one? You had your chance the other day, didn't you?

Paul: And I was wrong but you're going too far.

Kgabiso: I don't know what trouble you two are having with your relationship but you clearly need to fix your things and stop using me. I'm too old for that.

Megan wrapped her arms around her and kissed her like her life depended on it. This time she lead her hands to all the right places leaving Kgabi wet. As much as this was weird, it felt so good.

Megan: Lift her up and put her on the couch.

Paul: What?

Watching these two got him really hard that he found himself breathing heavily in-between. He lifted up Kgabi and laid her on the couch then went ontop of her and kissed her. Meanwhile Megan locked the door and began to take off her clothes. What the hell was this? Kgabiso's heart pounded as Paul went on his knees and spread her legs apart then hung each of them on his shoulders and buried his head in-between her legs. Was this a dream or it was actually happening. Megan desperately watched as Kgabiso put her hand over her mouth. She knew what this man was capable of after all.

She went on her knees planted a kiss on

Kgabiso's mouth then slowly moved to her ti*s...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#135

At Paul's Office

Tears rolled down Kgabiso's cheeks as Paul....

Got Spicey

Later that day...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso took off her dress and wrapped herself with a towel as Paul stood by the door.

Kgabiso: What do you want? Haven't you embarrassed me enough?

Paul: I don't know what the hell happened there and I don't know how exactly to feel about it but I came out here to apologize for lying to you. Megan and I have been seeing each other for a while and to be honest with you, it's become more of an understanding than a relationship.

Kgabiso: Is she the mother of your child?

Paul: No.

Kgabiso: And what exactly did you want to achieve by lying to me? Did you and your little girlfriend plan this?

Paul: No! Ofcourse not. You didnt tell me that you were coming over. I had no idea that you would turn up and the both of you would be there. I wasn't honest with you because I still have feelings for you and I somehow wanted to win you over. I realize that was selfish of me.

Kgabiso: Well what happened there will never happen again just so we are clear.

Paul: Ee mma. Do you want me to scrub your back?

She clicked her tongue and grabbed her phone as it rang.

Kgabiso: Hello.

Megan: Hey. It's Megan. I got your number from Paul.

She looked at him and rolled her eyes shaking her head. What exactly was this man playing at?

Kgabiso: Can I help you?

Megan: We didn't exactly meet under the right circumstances so I was hoping that we could meet up and get to know each other. Maybe over lunch? How does tomorrow sound?

Kgabiso: I'm busy. I've got a real job you know.

Megan: I can come over. I really don't mind even if it's for twenty minutes.

Kgabiso: Oh no. Let's meet up for lunch at Mercs. I will communicate on the times.

Megan: Great. I will see you tomorrow.

Kgabiso: Bye.

She hung up then threw her phone on the bed

and turned to Paul.

Kgabiso: Why the hell is your girlfriend calling me now?

Paul: Can you give me a bit of time to work this out?

Kgabiso: What's there to work out? You clearly prefer to play games.

He moved closer to her and tried to hold her but she moved back. Regardless of what had happened, she still genuinely loved this man.

Kgabiso: I'm too old for this Paul. I can't be competing for your love and attention with a young girl that can do things I can never do. I'm asking you nicely to leave me and allow my heart to accept that you and I can never be

together.

Paul: I still care. Give me a chance to fix this.

At Megan's

Megan's best-friend shook her head and laid back as her friend spoke. So these kind of stories existed? Had her friend lost her mind?

Megan: I mean, I like her and I feel like I wouldn't mind if she and I shared Paul. She understands and reciprocates my energy in bed. Waitsi gore nne gole monate gore. (it was so nice.) She and Paul's energies also match. Koore do you know how it's such a turn on to watch your man fu*king another woman with the right rhythm and pace. Seeing her at his mercy and holding on to him with her dear life

as she reaches a whole different level of pleasure.

Friend: You have clearly lost your mind if that's how you see things. That's not how God created things. What you want is insanity.

Megan: Call it whatever you want but I'm pitching this idea to her.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#136

That same evening...

Cody stood by the dinning room and waited by

as his mother came back into the house. She greeted him and walked past feeling embarrassed and wondering what exactly he had seen.

Cody: Walk of shame?

She turned around and with a serious face.

Kgabiso: Young man, what are you on about?

Cody: I just saw that guy leaving.

Kgabiso: Have we left our manners out there? Did I just hear you call a whole adult a guy? And mind your business.

Cody: Well don't be so loud then.

She felt her confidence drop instantly and for a

moment she felt like a cartoon. She clearly needed to start acting like the adult around here.

Kgabiso: Can we talk?

Cody: You don't have to explain. I'm sixteen. I know what happens.

Kgabiso: Well not about that. Clearly you have more information than I do.

It was already embarrassing enough that her son had caught on what was happening in her love life and the last thing she wanted to do was talk about it. Well maybe another day....

Kgabiso: I wanna know how you feel about our counseling sessions. Are you happy with them? Is there anything that you wanna change?

Cody: Not really. Why do you ask?

Kgabiso: I don't know but I was thinking that we could invite your dad and aunt one of these days. I don't like how things were left between us. I was very wrong to act the way that I did on that day and you were also wrong for how you acted out. You shouldn't ever treat people that love you that way. It's wrong to live a life alone where you think that you don't need anyone. The truth is that you will need them at some point. I've made so many mistakes in the past and I don't want you to repeat them.

Cody: Then you should start with grandma. You were wrong.

Kgabiso: You are right my boy. I've apologized and I promise to do better.

Cody: And mum?

Kgabiso: Yeah.

Cody: Do what makes you happy, if sneaking around with that guy makes you happy then

don't look back. You can't be alone forever you know.

Kgabiso: (Smiled) You're truly my second chance. I love you son.

Cody: Woooh! Let's not be dramatic ma'am.
Goodnight.

She laughed as a tear rolled down her cheek.
This boy gave her hope every single day. They had their differences but he was the son that she needed.

The following day...

At Sebaga's Office

Leo stood by the door and knocked a couple of

times before being let in. He and Seba had not spoken much since their last confrontation.

Sebaga: Goodmorning. How can I help you?

Leo: Can I sit?

Sebaga: Is this about work?

He pulled a chair and sat down even though he could tell that she wasn't pleased with it.

Leo: I came to apologize for the way that I've been behaving. Not only was it unprofessional and disrespectful but it was also childish.

You're a married woman and I should respect you as much as I respect my wife. Being your boss doesn't mean that I have any right over you or your office. I sincerely apologize. It will never happen again.

Sebaga: Thank you. I appreciate that and I hope that moving forward, you will remember this conversation. I'm your colleague and not your friend. Let's respect each other.

Leo: Emma.

Just as he was about to leave, his wife walked in banging on Seba's door.

Lizzy: So you're the tramp that's having an affair with my husband?

Sebaga: Excuse me?

She shouted on-top of her voice.

Lizzy: You're going to understand why you should stay away from married men.

Leo: Lizzy!

She ignored her husband and went around Seba's table then pulled her by her weave.

Sebaga: Leo talk to your wife.

A hot slap landed on her and just as she blocked her other cheek, Lizzy sent another got one that had her seeing stars. Colleagues quickly came as they heard the noise. While some tried to intervene, some took videos.

Lizzy: If any of you tries to put their hands on me, I'm going to bang your head against hers and hang you on this ceiling fan.

She said pointing at the fan as they moved back.

Sebaga: Tlhe mma wa mpolaya. (you're hurting me)

She grew weak as Lizzy sat ontop of her face with her butt.

Leo: You're going to jail. Wa peka nare!

He pulled her from Seba.

Leo: Are you stupid? Are you forgetting that we have children? Yeses

He dragged her.

Leo: Someone get Mma Molefe some help.

Lizzy: So she is now Mma Molefe? When you slept with her, you had forgotten that? The husband must also come deal with you.

The ladies giggled as Leo dragged his wife out.

Later that day...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#137

Later that day...

At the Clinic

Serge and Fela sat outside the doctor's consultation room as he attended Seba. Serge looked at Fela and gave him a look of comfort.

Serge: I promise you that the woman who did this will pay for it. I'm taking this case and we're gonna sue them for all they have.

Fela: I don't understand how one person managed to beat up my wife while there were so many people in that office. And the ones that took the video? That's a law firm. How the hell is all of this circus possible. Nxa! Leo le mogatse ba tlie go nyela. (Leo and his wife are going to shit on their pants.)

Serge: Calm down big bro. I promise you that

they will pay but we need to follow the right channels. We can't just go around acting like lunatics when we have the law to protect us.

Fela: The fact that she went in and put her hands on my wife without asking makes me boil.

Serge: I'm sorry. I feel completely the same way. I can only imagine how Seba is feeling. Kana that video is all over. Those idiots have tainted her name. There is no coming back from this no matter how we clear her name. People will always see her as the lawyer that slept with her boss to get to where she is.

Fela: I don't know how to feel because I know the whole truth. I'm so angry.

At Leo's

Lizzy took out her phone and opened all the screenshots she had then threw it at her husband. He browsed through Sebaga's pictures and laughed.

Lizzy: I don't know if you're stupid or slow but all those pictures are in your phone. I took screenshots from there. You two are having an affair and you're not even ashamed to keep her pictures in your phone.

Leo: So that's the proof you have? Pictures of her in my phone? Pictures I saved from her Facebook account? Apart from this, do you have any other proof? What will you say when the judge says things like "beyond reasonable doubt"? Can you defend yourself? And here I was thinking that I married a smart woman kante she is an idiot. Nna mma I've never had an affair with Mma Molefe. I will admit that I had a thing for her but she never gave me a

chance.

Lizzy: And the flowers that you are said to have bought for her and filled in her office?

Leo: So that's it? All you have for these baseless accusations are rumors and a bunch of pictures I stole? E tlo go kabolla ditsebe judge. You went and messed with a whole lawyer without any back up? Nna I'm not going to help you with anything. You got yourself into this mess and I won't help you. Ke gone o bakileng. I mean why couldn't you come to me? A whole educated woman acting like a street mate!

At Mercs...

Kgabiso sipped on her drink and cleared her throat as Megan bit her lower lip and zoomed in on her tits. It was so uncomfortable sitting like

this knowing that she was undressing her with her eyes.

Megan: I will come out and say it. I like you and I know that Paul loves you. There is no denying it, our energies match and we understand each other. I see no problem with sharing.

Kgabiso: Sharing what?

Megan: Sharing the man. I don't see why we should just share the dic when we can build a whole sisterhood and a relationship together. This way he's not cheating on any of us. You know when he's with me and so do I. None of us is stressing over his whereabouts or him cheating.

Kgabiso widened her eyes and shook her head. Was this girl being serious.

Kgabiso: Tell me you're joking.

Megan: And tell me that you didn't enjoy our little adventure the other day.

Kgabiso: It's one thing to explore like we did the other day but a whole relationship?

Megan: Sounds questionable but it can work out as long as we all work together.

At Fela's

Sebaga looked at the stitches she had on her forehead and shook her head. How had everything went south so fast?

Sebaga: I'm going to sue that woman and send her to jail.

Fela: I'm just glad that you reported her for assault. She needs to pay.

Sebaga: Both she and her husband.

Fela: I agree. I want you to know that I will help you with everything that I can.

He said rubbing her shoulders.

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Bonus1

The Devil I Never Knew

#138

Later that day...

Sebaga replayed the video that had been trending on social media and shook her head. She went through every single comment and laughed alone as most people trashed her.

Sebaga: I don't know if Leo told his wife who I am and what I do on a daily basis but I'm gonna teach that woman and her cheerleaders a lesson they will never forget including the ones that took the video and posted it.

Serge: I'm with you on this baby girl. Whatever you need.

Sebqga: How do you attack someone without getting your facts straight.

Her phone rang and she clicked her tongue as she looked at the caller identity.

Serge: Who's it?

Sebaga: Leo.

Serge: Don't take his call. As of today anything he needs to say will be said through me. I will give him an official warning tomorrow.

Sebqga:I don't know why he's calling when all this is his fault.

Serge: Men like him drive women insane then act surprised when they show them that they can be crazy.

Sebaga: Tell me about it. I still don't find it as a reason to wild out like his wife did today. If she had any suspicions then she should have taken it up with her husband not me.

The following day...

At the Office

Leo walked into Mr Moranang's office and greeted before sitting down. It wasn't every day that he got called into the big boss's office but when he did it was either to be congratulated or rebuked.

Leo: Sir, you called for me.

Mr Moranang: What is going on?

Leo: Rra?

Mr Moranang: Are you having an affair with Mrs Molefe?

Leo: No sir.

Mr Moranang: Then what's the problem? Why is your wife behaving like Mike Tyson in the office?

Leo: I apologize about what happened and I

assure you that it will never happen again. My wife acted out of emotions and insecurities. Mrs Molefe and I are not seeing each other and we've never had any relationship beyond a professional relationship.

Mr Moranang: Do you realize that if that's true then Mrs Molefe will sue your wife?

Leo: I'm aware. She has already reported her for assault. Last night the police came looking for her at our house.

Mr Moranang m: Is she in custody?

Leo: No. They didn't find her.

Mr Moranang: Where is she?

Leo: I don't know sir.

Mr Moranang: For your sake, I hope that they find her and you're not implicated in anyway because if you are then you might lose everything that you've worked hard for here.

Leo: Yes sir.

At Paul's Office

Megan giggled and put her feet up on the table as Paul shouted at her.

Megan: I understand that you're not happy but think about it. What do you have to lose?

Paul: You and I both know that there's nothing left between us. We're just hanging on a thread. There's no love between us.

Megan: I know that and I've never denied that. All I'm saying is that think about it. You could have your bread buttered on both sides. You love her and you don't exactly hate me. I'm offering you the best sexual experience of your life.

Paul: You clearly know nothing about love.

Megan: You're right. I don't but neither do you because you also lied to her about me. You don't lie to the people you claim to love.

Paul: I have some work to attend to. Please leave.

Just as she stood up, her phone rang. She looked at the caller identity and chuckled as she took the call.

Megan: Hello.

Kgabiso: Hie. I've given what you said some thought and I'm in.

Megan: As in you're wanna do this?

Kgabiso: Yeah.

Megan: I don't know what to say. Can i call you

back?

Kgabiso: Yeah sure.

She hung up then celebrated.

Megan: She said yes.

Paul: What?

At the Office

Sebaga parked her car then wore her shades and stepped out of the car with Serge.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#139

At the Office

Sebaga parked her car then wore her shades and stepped out of the car with Serge. She stood by the car for a few moments and took deep breaths. Her friend reached out to her and held her hand.

Serge: Hey. You have nothing to be ashamed of. You did nothing wrong. I know that it must be hard to walk in there and pretend that you don't care especially after your name has been dragged in the mud but you need to keep showing up.

Sebaga: Yeah. You're right. I did nothing wrong and I shouldn't be afraid to ever walk in there. The only people that should be hiding is Leo and his wife.

Serge: That's my girl.

Her phone rang and she smiled from ear to ear. It was always sweet how this man always stood by her side.

Fela: Hey babe.

Sebaga: Hey.

Fela: How are you holding up? Are you at the office yet?

Sebaga: We just got here. The meeting with the big boss hasn't started. I'll let you know how it goes.

Fela: Ok babe. Don't let them talk you out of

anything. You're past solving things internally.

Sebaga: Never. We're dealing with this in the public eye the same way that they decided to do things.

Fela: Call me after the meeting and let me know how it went.

Sebaga: I will. Sharp babe.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you more babe.

She hung up then turned to Serge.

Sebaga: Let's do this.

In the office

Leo walked into his office then closed the door behind before taking his wife's call.

Leo: Where the hell are you? The police are looking for you.

Lizzy: I'm pregnant!

He could hear her crying on the other side of the line.

Leo: What?

Lizzy: Please talk to Sebaga. I can't go to jail in my condition. I will do whatever it takes to fix things.

Leo: Koore why the hell did you act this crazy? Why couldn't you come to me? We could have dealt with this as a family. Nna kana I've never dated Sebaga because she's turned me down

so many times. At some point her husband even stepped in because I couldn't back off. Yaanong wena ebe o rwala ditsebe o ya go betsa ngwana wa batho.

Lizzy: I was so sure that you're dating her. The receptionist at your office called to tell me everything and when I found you two in her office, I was so happy that I had finally caught you two.

Leo: And here I was thinking that I had married a smart woman. What world are you from? You work in corporate for crying out loud so you know just how much receptionists gossip. A whole educated woman!

Lizzy: Do you blame me? I mean after everything that you've put me through? Are you forgetting that I've lost two pregnancies because of you and your side chicks? How many times have I caught you? How many times have I been embarrassed yet I stayed

with you? You're the last person to tell me that you won't help me especially after I stayed with you all these years even after all your mess. Do you want me to lose this baby as well?

Leo: Even if I wanted to help you, it's out of my hands. Sebaga won't back down from this. If she was in a different profession then I could convince her but unfortunately no lawyer will let anyone embarrass them like that in public and let it go. She is going to drag you to the courts just to prove a point. There's no getting out of this one. Just go to the police station. You're making it worse by running. I'll get you a good lawyer. It's an assault case so they will probably let you go after a while.

Meanwhile Sebaga and Serge walked into Mr Moranang's office. They all exchanged pleasantries before starting the meeting.

Sebaga: Sir this is my lawyer Mr...

Mr Moranang looked at him and chuckled. Who didn't know the famous lawyer M?

He was a beast in the court room and the people's favorite in the streets too.

Mr Moranang: Lawyer ya Ma bad bad.

Serge: It's always a pleasure to meet you Sir but today I'm not here for the praises, I'm here on behalf of my client Mma Molefe.

Mr Moranang: Yes. I know that. The reason why I called this meeting was because I was hoping that we could solve this internally and not let it drag to court. Let's be honest, we all know what would happen to this law firm if it did.

Sebaga: I'm sorry sir but this goes beyond just this law firm. It extends to my reputation and my family. I was dragged and beaten in a working space where I should be safe by my colleague's wife for an affair that never took place. And not only that, people that I work with found it fit to take a video of a such a heartbreak occurrence and post it on social media. I'm not going to put the law firm above myself. Can you understand the stares I get in public only because people see me as home wrecker and a lawyer that made it through by sleeping with her boss. Sir I take myself and my career very seriously. I've worked really hard to get here. I didn't cut any corners. If me standing up for myself means that I have to choose between this law firm and myself then I will choose myself. I'm not backing down.

Serge: You heard my client. So will you be

standing by a criminal or standing up against crime?

Mr Moranang: Can I talk to you for a bit?

Sebaga: Not without my lawyer.

Mr Moranang: I was hoping to speak to your lawyer.

Serge looked at her and nodded then she stood up...

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Bonus 3

The Devil I Never Knew

#140

At Moranang's Office

Serge cleared his throat and maintained a straight face as his ex stood up and locked the door.

Serge: Moranang I'm here on official business so if you need to talk to me then I suggest that you don't forget that. I would unlock that door if I was you. It would be such a pity to have this law firm dragged in the mud for two scandals.

The old man shamefully unlocked the door and sat down.

Serge: Thank you. So what would you like to discuss?

Mr Moranang: You and I both know that Mrs

Molefe's name has already been tarnished and there's not a thing that we can do about it. Even if she drags those two to court, she will just be seen as a bitter side chick.

Serge: So what do you suggest? That she should keep quiet and move on like nothing happened?

Mr Moranang: That's not what I'm saying. We can find other ways to deal with this. I will be happy to compensate her and do anything to make her life easier here including getting rid of Leo.

Serge: Can I ask you a question?

Mr Moranang: Please.

Serge: It's been over twenty four hours since the incident took place. Have you dealt with the people that posted that video on social media?

Mr Moranang: We're dealing with it.

Serge: Who posted it and what are you doing about it?

Mr Moranang: Like you said, it's only been twenty four hours. We will get justice for Sebaga.

Serge: The fact that you're taking your time shows me that this matter is not a priority. And be warned, if you try and gamble with my client's career to protect your law firm then we will make sure that by the time we're done with you, this law firm is just a building. Is there anything else?

He stood up and fixed his suit then walked out...

Meanwhile Leo marched to the reception area with so much anger. The thought of having to pick between his wife and career left him furious.

Leo: I hope that you're happy that you've destroyed lives.

Mimi: Sir?

Leo: What were you hoping to achieve by telling my wife that I was having an affair with Mrs Molefe?

Mimi: Rra?

Her heart pounded and she found herself sweating and shaking even though the air conditioner was running.

Leo: You're going to jail with her. You think that people's lives are toys that you can play with? I don't know how stupid you are but that video you took will send you straight to jail.

Mini: I'm not the one that posted it. I can explain.

Leo: Tell that to the judge.

He clicked his tongue and left.

In Sebaga's office

Sebaga: So how did it go?

Serge: The usual. The big guys trying to silence the victim and save their buts.

Sebaga: And what did you tell him?

Serge: That we would fight till the bitter end.

Sebaga: Thank you. I know that there's some history there and it can't be easy dealing with him.

Serge: (laughed) You're joking right? Babe my personal life can never be attached to my

professional life. I don't know how the babes attach the two but that can never be me.

A phone call came through....

Serge: Who's that? I hope it's not one of those newspapers.

She looked at the caller identity and took a deep breath.

Sebaga: It's the officer that attended to us.

Serge: Take it.

She laid back on her chair and answered the phone.

Officer: Goodmorning. You're speaking to Officer Thagame from Brut Police station.

Sebaga: Dumela rra.

Officer: I've called to let you know that the lady that assaulted you has just turned herself in.

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Bonus 4

The Devil I Never Knew

#141

At the Police Station

Leo parked his car next to Sebaga's then turned

to his wife's lawyer as he went through the case study.

Leo: Sebaga is already here. The police must have told her that Lizzy has turned herself in.

Lawyer: Remember what we talked about? You keep calm and follow my lead no matter what. I know that you're a good lawyer but this is my case.

Leo: I know that it's a tough one especially with the video that's circulating but please do your best. That woman is mad for what she did but that's my wife and I'm the one that drove her to all this. Her life is as good as over. No company will ever want to be associated with her again. Maybe you can convince Sebaga to settle out of court. I'm willing to pay anything.

Lawyer: That's not going to happen. You're a lawyer and you are aware of how our brains

work. Sebaga is waiting like a wolf to rip your wife apart. All we can do at this point is apply for bail and find out where the police are going with this case.

Leo: I'll pay you anything tthe monna.

Lawyer: Sir I'm a lawyer not a miracle worker. No matter how we approach this one, your wife is going down. You know what section 246 says. It's either jail time or Sebaga is going to drag both of you to court and serve you as a cold meal. So why not let one person take the fall. Gape you're not the one that sent her so you might as well as let her pay for her crime. I'm pretty sure that if she pleads guilty then she can do just a few months looking at the fact that she is a first time offender.

Inside the police station

Serge pulled Sebqga to the side to discuss their options.

Serge: We have the upper hand here and the luxury to decide if we want her to do jail time or pay you. What do you wanna do?

Sebaga: Criminals belong in prison. I don't need that woman's money. I want her to pay for what she did and the only way she can learn is if she serves her time.

Serge: Ok. So we go ahead.

Sebaga: We go ahead.

Serge: Ok. Let's do this babes.

In the holding cell...

Lizzy looked around the tiny room and wiped

her tears as reality shook her. No matter how well this case was handled, her life was already ruined. After this no company would ever want to work with her and God knows what was going to happen to her marriage. It was quite clear that her husband was done with her and there was no way to fix this broken marriage. She had tried for years and the truth was that there was no hope. She looked up at the bars and so many thoughts flashed through her mind. This was no life and she wasn't going to continue living like this.

Meanwhile Serge read through Sebaga's statement before handing it back to the officer that was handling her case.

Serge: Thank you. That will be all.

Office: Thank you sir. So now we wait for the

case to be heard by the magistrate.

Serge: When will she be arraigned?

Office: Tomorrow morning the case will be heard.

Sebaga maintained a straight face as Leo walked in with their lawyer. From the looks of things he would be fighting on his wife's side but that didn't bother her. She was prepared to deal with each one of them.

At the office

Mr Moranang shook his head and passed off a document for his receptionist to sign. Given how she had struggled to get this job, he was disappointed in her.

Mr Moranang: I didn't expect this from you. You work with lawyers every single day and you should know the law better. For your sake I hope Mrs Molefe doesn't take serious action against you because no one will ever touch you again if she does.

Receptionist: I made a mistake by taking that video. I really need this job. Please give me another chance.

She went on her knees and pleaded.

Mr Moranang: I'm sorry but we can't work with you. If you can't respect simple principles like confidentiality then how safe is our company secrets with you? Our clients files that you get to see? Pack up your things and leave.

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React quickly to show you are present so we move to the next insert.

The Devil I Never Knew

#142

Later that day...

At the police station

Leo paced around the office and wiped his sweat with the back of his hand as his lawyer tried to calm him down. He had seen his wife a couple of hours back and now he was being told that she was no more.

Leo: Lareng kante? What happened to my wife because I saw her a couple of hours back?

Office: From the look of things she used her sweater to hang herself but we are still waiting t...

Leo: (laughed) Does that make sense to you? Why would Lizzy hang herself? We are talking about a woman that was facing assault charges and we all know that it's not that serious.

The police officers looked at each other and shook their heads. How was a lawyer this ignorant.

Officer: We are still conducting our own investigations so we will let you know as soon as we have answers.

Leo: If I find out that any of you pushed my wife to that depth then you're all going to dance to the music.

His lawyer pulled him outside by the hand...

Lawyer: Can we get out of here?

He looked at his reddish eyes and his heart sunk. This was a man that was prepared to do anything to get his wife out of that cell a few hours ago. Now hearing that she had taken her own life must have shook his entire world.

Leo: There's no way that my wife could have gone that far. I'm telling you, those officers are hiding something. We were there a couple of hours back. There's something they are hiding.

My wife was pregnant...

He broke down and cried as the burden overwhelmed him.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga clicked her tongue and breathed heavily as Serge broke the news to her.

Serge: I haven't been told officially yet but that's the news I received.

Sebaga: Stupid woman took the easy way out! Now she will go down as the poor wife that had no choice but to take her own life because she was burdened by the husband's affair and assault charges.

Serge: You know what!

He rubbed his forehead...

Serge: For the first time I don't know what to say but something tells me that there's more to this issue. I'm sure that she didn't just kill herself for the charges she was facing. The jail time she was facing is not even that long. That woman must have been facing way more than this. I don't know her personally but from the articles I've read about her in her industry, she was a principled woman. How does one go from that to this total madness?

Sebaga: I don't know, mark me as evil if you must but I don't feel anything for that woman and now that she's gone, her husband must face the music. It's either me or him, Mr Moranang must make a choice. I'm not working

with him. Now that I think about it, this is all his fault, had he respected my feelings and decisions then we wouldn't be here. Men like him need to know that they don't own women.

At Mma Lizzy's

Mma Lizzy shut her eyes then opened them up almost immediately. Was this some kind of dream or her sister was pranking her?

Mma Lizzy: Ware what happened to my child? Wame ngwana a ipolaya? (My child killing herself?) Be serious, my child is not capable of killing herself. Tell whoever told you that to quit playing.

Her sister looked away as tears welled up in her

eyes.

Mma Lizzy: So it wasn't enough that Leo infected my daughter and embarrassed her in the whole city, now he has killed her?

Her wailing could be heard from next door.

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React quickly on insert to mark yourself present so we move to the next one.

The Devil I Never Knew

#143

That same evening

At Mma Lizzy's

Leo bowed and scratched his head as his mother inlaw spoke. Everything that she had said was true. If only he could go back in time and change how he had lived his life with his wife till this point then he would.

Mma Lizzy: Had you loved my child right and been the man that you promised to be when you married her then we wouldn't be here.

As much as she was angry at this man, she was also angry at the decisions her child had taken. For years she had asked her to leave this marriage and start over but she didn't want to

hear anything when it came to her marriage.

Mma Lizzy: And if only my child had valued her life and health more then we wouldn't be here. My child has never ever laid her hand on a human being her entire life nor does she know the doors to a cell.

Leo: I know mama and I'm sorry. I still don't know what to say.

Tears rolled down his cheeks.

Leo: I didn't think that this would drive her here especially because even though it was serious, it could have been solved. With a good lawyer and good negotiation skills, she could have avoided jail time.

Mma Lizzy: So you still think that my child killed

herself because she had assaulted someone? Leo my child was burdened and she couldn't take anymore of the pain that you have caused her. Not only had you infected her but you had also made it a point to embarrass her the entire city. Everyone knew that you couldn't keep your pants zipped. As if that was not enough, you physically abused her. I still don't know why you're still here because if you don't leave the next person that will be entering a jail cell for the first time it's me.

She stood up but her sister got up in time to block from reaching Leo.

At Kgabiso's

Paul sipped on his juice and turned to Kgabiso who seemed a bit too relaxed for someone that

lived with her son in the same house then back at Megan.

Paul: Do you think that we should be discussing this here? I mean Cody could walk in any moment from now.

Kgabiso: He's not home. He's spending the night at his dad's tonight otherwise I wouldn't have invited you here.

Megan: Nice. We're all adults here and I'm sure we all understand what we're getting ourselves into.

Paul: I'm still not sure what we're getting ourselves into.

Megan: An opportunity of a peaceful polygamous relationship which comes with a great sexual fulfillment.

Kgabiso: I would prefer to label it as a sexual

relationship. I'm not interested in anything serious nor do I want to commit myself to anything that will destroy me in future. I'm here for the sexual fulfillment.

She looked at Megan with a burning desire imagining all the things that she had done to her the other time.

Paul: What you two want is impossible.
Someone is bound to catch feelings.

Megan took off her top and exposed her big melon tit* that left Kgabiso feeling aroused. How was it that her tit* were still standing at her age?

She stood up and sat between Paul and

Kgabiso then turned to Kgabiso and kissed her.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga quietly ate her meal as the boys and their father had a conversation about football. This wasn't exactly comfortable especially after how things had went down but for once it was nice to listen to people talk about anything besides the drama that was happening in her life.

Cody: I would like to say something.

His father nervously looked at him and hoped that whatever it was, he wasn't going to leave anyone offended.

Seaga: Yes my boy.

Cody: Thank you for letting me stay for the night. I know that I have hurt you all in the past few months and I apologize for my behavior. I'm sorry for hurting you all and I promise to behave in a better way.

Seba looked at him and smiled... This child had been through a lot and it was so good to see him smiling and taking responsibility for his actions.

Seaga: It's all water under the bridge.

Fela: That's true but let's not forget to always respect others and understand that there are boundaries. Boys, I will not condone any kind of disrespect towards my wife. This woman has worked hard to raise you all. She doesn't deserve to be given a hard time.

The boys both agreed...

Cody: Is it true what they said about you on Facebook? Did you...

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React quickly to show that you're present so we move on.

The Devil I Never Knew

#144

Cody: Is it true what they said about you on Facebook? Did you cheat on dad with that woman's husband? Gatwe she has now kil...

Sebaga picked up a glass of water and quickly downed it then calmly looked at the boy.

Fela: Didn't you just apologize for your rotten behavior? Is this why you came here?

Sebaga: It's fine.

She looked at her son and her heart broke. He wasn't a very vocal boy nor did he ever ask questions even when he was bothered by something so for his sake, she was going to answer Cody.

Sebaga: No. It's not true.

Cody: But that woman hit you so bad. So it was all for nothing?

Fela shook his head and stood up feeling very embarrassed. It was as if this boy existed to make his life difficult.

Sebaga: In life, there are people that take pleasure in blaming others for their misfortunes. Most times they act without getting their facts straight then end up getting into trouble. Do you remember why we fought all those months ago?

Cody kept quiet.

Sebaga: You didn't get your facts straight, instead you blamed me for something that wasn't even my fault. It's such simple things that can ruin your life in a heartbeat my boy.

She took a bite from her meat then looked at him.

Sebaga: Do you have any other questions my boy?

There was silence as everyone kept their thoughts to themselves.

Sebaga: Sefela my boy, I'm aware that you have access to Facebook and you know everything that's happening. I'm sorry that it has made your life uncomfortable. I'm pretty sure that other kids are making fun of you or doing everything they can to embarrass you. Son you more than anyone know me. Your heart and mine beat for the same course.

She stood up and grabbed her phone from the table.

Sebaga: Goodnight boys. Make sure that the dishes are washed before you sleep..

Sefela: Goodnight mama.

Cody: Goodnight.

Fela waited for his wife to disappear into the room then turned to his son.

Fela: What was that all about?

The boys kept quiet.

Fela: There are certain things you don't ask at a dinner table especially after apologizing. If at all

this was sincere then you would have used the right approach. Putting people down like that will only hurt you in the end.

He stood up and followed his wife to the room.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso laid in bed and bit her lower lip as Paul carried Megan and laid her on the bed next to her. Her whole world went insane as she watched his erect D freely standing. How she wanted him. They both looked at each other with a dark desire as he went around the bed and pulled her to the edge. She breathed heavily as he spread her legs and hung each of them on his shoulders then slowly penetrated. Fuc!

She closed her eyes feeling Megan's hands run

everywhere. With each stroke Paul made, Megan moaned louder getting Kgabiso even more turned on. Oh God! Oh God! It felt so good. Feeling every inch as he went in deeper.

There was something about the level of these two's chemistry that made sex a beautiful experience. Paul was fully aware of where and how to touch Kgabiso at the right moment. Even when they looked into each other's eyes, you could see an unbreakable bond.

The following day...

At Sebaga's office

After standing by the door for a couple of minutes, Mr Moranang walked in as Seba got

the door. It wasn't easy to be here especially after their last conversation but it had to be done after all Sebaga was still his employee and there was no way that they could avoid each other forever.

Mr Moranang: I came to check on how you're holding up. I know how difficult this must be.

Sebaga: Do you?

He cleared his throat feeling a bit embarrassed....

Sebaga: Do you understand how this has turned my whole life upside down? Clients are canceling their meetings with me and my children are asking questions. Not only is this madness happening but it's happening at a

point where the only person that had answers for her accusations has killed herself. People are now blaming me on social media for her death. My life has been ruined and for what? A man I never entertained yet he's getting messages of condolences and flowers.

Mr Moranang: Eish. I understand your frustrations.

Sebaga: Do you?

He kept quiet not knowing how he was going to answer back.

Sebaga: If you do then you will get rid of him. I mean it, it's either him or me. I'm not going to work with a man that's ruined my reputation and pretend that I'm okay when I'm not.

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Goodmorning. Kindly react quickly so we move on to the next insert.

The Devil I Never Knew

#145

At Sebaga's office

Mr Moranang tried his best to reason with Sebaga but it was clearly too late. The woman was scorned and there was no telling her nothing.

Mr Moranang: Mrs Molefe, I understand your anger and I'm really sorry for all that you and

your family is going through. If there was a way to make all this go away then I would do it in a heartbeat because you're one of my best lawyers and I don't want to lose you.

There was silence as Seba closed her eyes and gathered her thoughts.

Mr Moranang: The person that's responsible for all this mess is gone. The truth is that Leo only played a role in all of this. He isn't directly responsible for this mess. Yes, his wife came after you and attacked you because of her husband's actions but if we're being truthful, he didn't send her. Or did he put his hands on you. I can't just fire him. He's a good lawyer and I value him as much as I value you. You need to remember that this man never hid the role he played at any point. He's always taken

respectfully for his actions and for me that's enough. The man has already lost his wife. How much more should he lose from just a silly mistake?

She stood up and clapped her hands.

Sebaga: Just a silly mistake? A mistake that almost cost me my entire career that I've worked so hard to build? A mistake that almost cost me my life? What about my peace? My children's peace? Do you understand that my kids are asking about this and I can't even look them in the eye and explain because I already know that kids believe whatever they read on social media? And are you aware that I can't freely walk into a mall or any public space without getting funny stares or having people point at me?

She took a deep breath and chuckled...

Sebaga: I don't know why I keep wasting my time and yours hoping that you will see things from my perspective. Once again, it's a woman that has to take all the bullets yet it's a man that messed up. Sir I love this law firm and I've put my heart and soul into it for the past seven years but maybe it's time we went our separate ways.

Mr Moranang: We can find a way around this and solve things amicably. It doesn't have to end this way.

Sebaga: I will give you an official notice and start preparing for my exit. Thank you for your time.

At Kgabiso's Workplace

Paul parked by the gate and stepped out of the car. He went around to the passenger side and opened the door then grabbed some take-always and a bouquet of flowers. He wasn't sure where all this was going but he loved this crazy woman of his and he was going to do everything to win her back. A few seconds later Megan drove past him and parked her car inside. She picked the goodies she had brought with her then waited for Paul as he made his way in.

Paul: And now?

Megan: Hello to you too. What are you doing here?

Paul: I should be asking you the same thing. Why do you insist on embarrassing yourself like

this? Do you really think that you two will turn into bestfriends?

Megan: Maybe we will or maybe we will become more than just bestfriends. You never know.
Her choice, not mine or yours.

Paul: If you're doing this to spite me then I suggest you back off because you don't know that woman the way I know her.

Megan: Who says that everything is about you here? Just because you have a dic, you think that you're the table and everything that's on it?

Paul: (laughed) You don't know Kgabiso the way that I do. You're just a catalyst in our reunion.

Megan: I guess we will find out.

1K followers to go Classy & Sassy Boutique

He ignored her and took out his phone to call

Kgabiso.

Later that day...

At Sebaga's

Seba laid back and closed her eyes as her husband put her feet in the foot spa and gently rubbed them.

Fela: I'm sorry that you're going through this crap but maybe this was just a way to help you realize that you can go solo. Babe you've put your blood and sweat into another man's company for way too long. I think it's high time you opened up your own thing. I know that it's not gonna be easy but I'm here to help with everything that you need. You can't build

another man's empire for the rest of your life.

Sebaga: And who will ever want to work with me after this whole drama?

Fela: Clients that know and trust you as a lawyer. Trust me, there are loyal clients out there. The moment they learn that you are leaving and you're starting up your own thing, they will follow you. You can't live in someone's shadow forever. That's why I left my parents company and started my own.

At Kgabiso's workplace.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#146

At Kgabiso's Workplace

Kgabiso placed both take-always on the table then stepped out to join Paul and Megan who were still standing outside.

Kgabiso: Thank you for lunch. Can I walk both of you out?

Megan: What time do you knock off? Do you have time to go shopping afterwards by any chance?

Paul looked at her and shook his head.

Kgabiso: Are you paying?

Megan: Yeah. It's my treat.

Kgabiso: Then I'm happy to come along.

Paul: I'm invited?

Megan: No. it's a girls outing.

Paul: Even if it means I'm bringing my card for back up?

Kgabiso: I mean the more the merrier.

This was getting exciting. Not only were these two here to offer her the best sexual experience but if she played her cards right then they would also support her financially. What more could she ask for?

Kgabiso: Thank you for lunch. I will see you guys later. Send me the details of where we are meeting. I will take a cab there. I don't have enough fuel for the week.

Megan took out her phone and transferred a thousand pula to her through ewallet.

Megan: Now you don't have to worry about it. Fuel up. You can't take a cab.

Kgabiso smiled and thanked her while Paul's face turned green with envy.

At Sebaga's Office

Serge read through Sebaga's contract then put it down and picked up his phone.

Sebaga: And?

Serge: I'm going back to fix a few things on the

official notice.

Sebaga: Thank you my friend. I don't want to miss anything because I have a feeling that Moranang will try and make my exit difficult. That man is never ready to let anyone go unless he is the one doing the dismissal.

Serge: He won't try you. Trust me. There's a lot riding on this than you think. This whole fiasco has shaken them up. Anything they do from now on is calculated.

Sebaga: Well clearly that's not enough because if they had done their math right then they would have let Leo go.

Serge: It's going to take a lot of work for this industry to take women seriously as much as they take men seriously. I don't like how they downplayed this and treated you but I agree with Fela. It's high time you spread your wings.

Sebaga: Says a guy that's not worked in over a

year.

Serge: I've worked hard my entire life and made enough money that's just sitting in the bank. I deserved this gap year and all the traveling I have been doing. I know I've got you but in honest truth, apart from a comfortable life, I have nothing to work for.

Sebaga: Oh babe. Your family is still not taking your messages?

Serge: No. They are all ignoring me and I won't lie, it hurts. You know when you're young and carefree, it means nothing but when you get to our age, you start caring. Seba, I don't wanna die alone and I want answers.

He stood up and looked away to hide his tears.

Sebaga: Oh babe.

She stood up and wrapped her arms around him.

Sebaga: I love you.

Serge: I know babes.

Sebqga: That's the part where you say I love you too, you idiot.

They both laughed.

Serge: I've been thinking of paying them a visit. Like some things need to be done face to face. I need closure and in order to get that, I need answers.

Sebaga: Are you sure about that? I mean sometimes the silence is all the closure you

need. What if seeing them takes you back to that dark place again?

Serge: Then I'll deal with it. I want to understand why they never wanted me.

Sebaga: Do you want me to come with you?

Serge: I would appreciate that.

She more than anyone knew the pain of being betrayed by your family and feeling like an outsider.

Sebaga: You don't need to thank me. You became my family when I didn't have anyone. When I lost dad,I...

She sighed heavily then smiled...

Sebaga: You're my ride and die.

Serge: Don't let Fela hear you say that otherwise you will sleep pressing your legs together.

They both laughed.

Later that day

At the Mall

Megan rolled her eyes as Paul held Kgabiso's hand and walked ahead with her. No one had said anything ever since they met up at the parking lot.

Megan: So I was thinking that we could start with woolies. I saw some really nice coats there

that we could get for work.

Paul: Kgabiso hates those. Maybe we can check other shops.

Kgabiso: Well I like coats now. That was ten years ago. My fashion sense has evolved.

He swallowed a lump as she let go of his hand and headed with Megan into woolies leaving him there standing like an idiot. He shook his head and dialed his best-friend.

Thata: Hey man. What's up? I was starting to think that this friendship has expired.

Paul: No. Not at all. Where are you?

Thata: I'm on my way to gym. You need anything?

Paul: Maybe I also need a gym session. I need to blow off some steam.

Thata: What's happening? Talk to me man. The last thing I want to hear is that you hanged yourself because you didn't have anybody to talk to.

Paul: (laughed) You know that's mad.

Thata: No. So much is happening these days. I was also going to reach out to you but you know how these things are.

Paul: Jay's gym?

Thata: Yeah.

Paul: I'll see you in a bit. Let me grab something suitable for gym. I wasn't prepared.

Thata: Sure mate.

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We've had a slow week. Let's react quickly and

move.

The Devil I Never Knew

#147

At the Gym

Thata walked around the cardio room flaunting his muscles as two drop dead gorgeous ladies walked in. He signaled his friend to get off the treadmill.

Paul: And now?

Thata: Let's let the ladies work out first.

Paul: But we got here first. I'm pretty sure that they can afford to wait.

He gave them funny stares as he slowed down

and got off.

Paul: Really now?

Thata: Let's go and work out in the weights room. Ladies have a great cardio session.

Paul picked up his gym bag and headed out.

Paul: And now? What was that all about?

Thata: Ever since you started chasing that old woman of a lunatic, you have lost your touch. I still don't understand why you want to fight for an old hag when you can get yourself a young hot little independent thing that won't bother you for anything. Except with good sex of-course.

He laughed as he wiped his sweat with a towel.

Paul: Old she may be but that woman is fuc*ing amazing. She has a side to her most women I've met don't have or will never reach the level.

Thata: And now you're fighting for her with another girl. Come on my guy, respect yourself. Fuc them both and leave. Stop getting your feelings involved like you're a high school kid.

At the Mall...

Milo's Cafe

Kgabiso sipped on her mocktail and went through the menu as Megan did the same. Her life hadn't felt this peaceful in such a long time.

Kgabiso: Thank you for today. I somehow needed it.

Megan: You're welcome. I can say the same.

Kgabiso: So tell me the truth. How's your relationship with Paul? Is it just me or you two fight all the time?

Megan: I don't know where to start but the truth is that our relationship died a long time ago. Apart from the sex, there's nothing between us.

Kgabiso: Then why did you suggest this arrangement?

Megan chuckled and put her glass down then reached for Kgabiso's hand.

Megan: Because I like you and I wanna get to know you.

Kgabiso: You didn't have to go through Paul to build a friendship with me.

Megan: You and I both know that I want more than that. I know you feel it and I feel it too. We could have a good thing going and on here. We don't need Paul or any other man.

Kgabiso widened her eyes from the shook.

Kgabiso: Are you?

Megan: Bisexual? Yeah. You can say it.

Kgabiso: I don't know what impression I gave you but I'm straight.

Megan: Yet you made out with me and enjoyed it?

Kgabiso: That was just a sexual experience. That's all.

Megan: You want to put that to the test?

Kgabiso shyly looked away...

Megan: I can make you happy. I know that you think that dic is everything but there's more to a sexual relationship than just a dic.

Kgabiso: So how would that work with Paul?

Megan: We ditch him and do our own thing. We don't need him anyway. What can he do that I can't do for you?

At Sebaga's

Sebaga opened the gate and stood by as Cody walked in.

Sebaga: Did you wait for too long?

Cody: Yes.

Sebaga: Sorry my boy. I was taking a shower. I didn't know that you were coming.

Cody: My mum is not home and the house is locked.

Sebaga: Ok. Come in and go make yourself something to eat in the kitchen. You must be hungry.

He took off his shoes and went in.

Sebaga: Do you want me to call your mum?

Cody: Emma.

Sebaga: Ok.

She went into bedroom and dialed Kgabiso's

number.

Kgabiso: Hey. How.. How are you?

Her voice became faint.

Sebaga: Cody is here are it's locked at home.

Her moans could be heard on the phone.

Sebaga: You can call me back when you're not busy.

She hung up and clicked her tongue.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#148

That same evening...

At Kgabiso's

Megan sat up on the bed and tied her hair into a bun as Kgabiso walked in with some juice.

Kgabiso: Hey.

Megan: Hey.

She gave her another glass and sat down

admiring her tattoos as she sipped on hers.

Kgabiso: That's some piece of art. No offense but why do colored people all have tattoos?

Megan: (laughed) Not all colored people. And quite honestly tattoos have nothing to do with us being colored. It's just a personal preference.

Meanwhile outside Sebaga waved at Cody and reversed out of the yard as he stood by the door and knocked. A few minutes later Kgabiso got the door.

Kgabiso: Hey son.

Cody: Hie.

He walked past her and went into the house.

Kgabiso: I'm really sorry that I kept you waiting and you had to go to your dad's. I lost track of time at work and forgot that you would be here earlier than me today.

Cody: Seriously? You forgot that you had a whole human being that needed to be home and get his assignments done? You disappoint me mum. A whole teacher?

Kgabiso: Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Don't forget that you're still a child in this house. I'm the adult and as the adult of this house, you need to respect me. I made a mistake and I'm acknowledging that.

Megan walked into the living room and greeted the teenager who seemed to be a bit starstruck.

Megan: Hie.

Cody: Megs!

Megan: Hello.

She shyly looked away. She wasn't always comfortable with people treating her like a famous person.

Kgabiso: You know each other?

Cody: Mum! Don't tell me that you don't know Megan from the Absolute 4.

Kgabiso: What?

Cody: The girl band!

He looked at her then jumped to touch her wondering if she was real.

Cody: Is it really you in my house?

He threw his bag on the floor and looked around for his mum's phone.

Cody: Mum where's your phone?

Kgabiso: Why do you need it?

Cody: You have to take a picture of us! The guys at school are never going to believe this. A whole Megan in my house!

Kgabiso: Go and get yours.

She said with a bit of frustration behind her voice.

Cody: Mum!

Kgabiso: Cody go and get your phone akere

you're the one that wants a picture. Nna kana
Megan ke a mo itsi. (I know Megan.)

He ran to his room leaving them.

Kgabiso: So you're famous?

Megan: I wouldn't exactly call it that.

Kgabiso: And you didn't think it was important to tell me? Megan the last thing I want is a scandal in my life. I can't handle such things. I have a teen-age son that's already been through so much. If he finds out what's going on then we're gonna have a problem.

Megan: You're just worried for nothing.

Kgabiso: I don't want my life splashed on the newspapers. I'm not rich enough to sue anyone or survive it.

She kept quiet as her son walked back into the room and handed her the phone.

Cody: Mum please take some really nice pictures.

Kgabiso: Sure.

Cody put his arm round Megan and held onto her like his dear life depended on it.

Kgabiso: Space out!

At Sebaga's

Fela laughed as his wife told him about her phone call to Kgabiso.

Fela: Atleast she is getting some. Who knows maybe this time around she will settle down and build a family.

Sebaga: Yeah maybe but it wasn't necessary to take my call if she was busy.

Fela: (laughed) You seem to forget who your sister is. That one can never eat without throwing the bones at others just to make them aware.

Sebaga: And as for locking out Cody but I guess we've all been mischievous somehow when we had a good chance to gettin dic.

Fela: Exactly!

Sebaga: Babe.

Fela: Mma?

She ran her hand on his head and gently massaged it.

Sebaga: I've decided to take your advice and start something of my own but I need some time out just to get my head in the right space. I was thinking of going with Serge to his village for a few days. Just for some moral support as he tries to find closure.

Fela: Go for it love. Sefela and I should be fine.

Sebaga: I need to start finding aunty's replacement waitsi.

Fela: Eish kana there's that. It's not easy to accept that she's leaving.

Sebaga: Yeah but she's right. She is now old and she needs to rest.

Fela: Yeqh. Maybe you can check with her to see if she knows anyone trustworthy out there. These days you don't just wanna hire someone and bring them into your home without understanding what type of a person they are.

Sebaga: I'll check with her tomorrow.

Fela: Sure.

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Goodmorning

The Devil I Never Knew

#149

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga and Fela sat in the living room with a potential helper and ran a few questions with

her. From the answers she had given, she was the perfect fit for their family. With their previous helper's recommendation, this one was definitely the one.

Sebaga: So how old are you if you don't mind me asking?

Arefa: I'm twenty six. I just completed my diploma in tourism a year ago.

Fela: So in other words, this is a temporary job for you?

Arefa: Rra?

Fela: If you were to get a job, does that mean that you would be quitting?

Arefa: I.. I'm not going to just leave you without any alternative if that's what you're asking. I'm looking and hoping for better opportunities but I also understand how it's important not to burn

bridges with people that have helped you out in the past.

Sebaga looked at her husband and smiled... She and this girl were going to get along.

Sebaga: Are you aware of the duties you will need to perform around here? Aunty or she has already briefed you but I need to know if you are comfortable with all of them.

Arefa: Ee mma. I'm not picky. I will be happy to perform any duty around the house. Ke ngwana hela wa motswana, ke itsi ditiro tsa mo lapeng ebole ga ke matepe. (I'm a tswana child. I'm not lazy. I'm very much capable of performing any duty.)

Sebaga: Thank you for that. Here are my expectations of you.

Fela held his wife's hand and gave her a side eye that instantly had her standing up.

Sebaga: Excuse us for a bit. We need to attend to something before we continue with this conversation. I'm really sorry about that but it's something that I just remembered.

Arefa: Ee mma.

Fela stood up and followed his wife to the kitchen.

Sebaga: Hey. Is everything ok?

Fela: Yeah. I'm not too sure about her.

Sebaga: Ok. What seems to be the problem? What don't you like?

Fela: She might drop us at any time. Girls like her don't last on jobs like these. She is way overqualified to do this.

Sebaga: I understand your concern and I see where you're coming from.

Fela: I sense a but right there.

Sebaga: But babe there are no jobs out there. A lot of over qualified people are going to settle for these jobs because they don't have anything to hold on to. Do you remember how prepared I was to do any job right after I graduated? I see nothing wrong with someone that has qualifications as long as they respect their job and do it well. I'm not saying you're wrong but why don't we give her a chance and see how she will do. If she doesn't live up to our expectations then we can part ways. We all deserve to be given chances otherwise we will never get anywhere. You're here because someone took a chance on you. Le nna hela jalo.

Maybe she won't last here but who knows, maybe this job is a pathway to her destiny.

Fela: I hear you. Eish! At times like these, you wish that you could give everyone their rightful job. This country is turning into a dark hole day by day.

Sebaga: So what do we do? Do we give her a chance or keep looking?

He thoughtfully opened the fridge and grabbed a bottle of water.

Fela: Are you happy with her? I mean babe this is your house and you're the one that knows how you want it to be taken care of.

Sebaga: I think I like her. You obviously can't judge a book by its cover but yes, I'm willing to give her a chance.

Fela: Ok. Then let's give her an offer.

Sebaga: Let me draft it first then we can present it to her tomorrow. If she's happy with our terms and everything we have to offer then she can start on Thursday. Mme go raya gore I have to postpone my trip with Serge so that I can observe her first.

Fela: That's fine by me.

In the living room...

Arefa looked around the big living room and admired the interior. This woman had clearly taken her time to plan everything around. From what her aunt had told her, this was a good family and they would compensate her well. She thoughtfully looked at their large framed wedding portrait and smiled. The people she had met told a different story from the one she

had recently seen on Facebook about the wife. This man looked at his wife with so much love and the same could be said about the wife. She sat up and smiled as they walked back into the room hand in hand. They both settled back on the couch.

Sebaga: I'm sorry about that. I hope that we didn't keep you waiting for too long.

Arefa: Ee mma. It's fine.

Sebaga: So my husband and I have agreed to hire you.

She went on her knees as a tear rolled down her cheek.

Arefa: Thank you so much. You have no idea how much hope you have given me. I promise

not to let any of you down.

Sebaga: Please get up, you don't have to thank me, I'm happy with your resume . I would appreciate it if we worked well together. We both need to have an understanding that none of us is doing each other a favor. You're selling your services to me and I in return pay for them as I also need them. Let's respect each other and we will go far together. You can come in tomorrow to sign a written agreement.

Arefa: Ee mma. I would really appreciate it.

At Kgabiso's

Megan unlocked the door and moved to the back waiting for Cody to go in. The two had only spent a few days together but the boy was already so fond of her that she was convinced that she didn't have any more competition from

Paul.

Megan: Your mum will be home in an hour or two so in the meantime we can make dinner together if you don't mind.

Cody: I would love to.

He said blushing...

Megan: Ok. Let me go get changed so we can get started. You do the same.

Cody: Sure. Megs?

Megan: Yeah?

Cody: Can I ask you something?

Megan: Yeah sure.

Cody: Are you really my mum's friend? I mean are you genuine? My mum has told me that a

lot of her friends betrayed her hence why she doesn't have any friends.

Megan: Your mum is a good person and I have no reason to betray her. She has been a good friend to me as well.

Cody: (Smiled) Okay.

Later that day...

Kgabiso drove through the gate and sighed heavily as she saw Megan's car parked in the yard. Wasn't she just supposed to drop off Cody and leave? What other business did she have with her son?

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#150

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood by the door and knocked a couple of times before Cody got the door. She looked at him from head to toe then walked in.

Kgabiso: What are you up to?

Cody: Hie mum.

She forced a smile...

Kgabiso: Sorry my boy. I'm tired as hell, I even

forgot that we haven't seen each other. How are you?

Cody: I'm good. Well you'll be happy to know that you don't have to cook. Megs and I are making dinner.

Kgabiso: Megs?

Cody: Yes.

Kgabiso: I don't know how old you think you're but it's aunty Megan to you. She is not just a star from the band. She is an adult who's old enough to be your mum.

He looked at his mother and burst into laughter.

Cody: Mum, Megan ain't that old. I'm pretty sure that she's ten years younger than you.

She walked past her son and went into the kitchen. The first thing she noticed was Megan's mini dress.

Kgabiso: Hie. I didn't know that you were still here. I had thought that you would just be dropping him off.

Megan: Yeah well I thought it would be nice if we made dinner and you found everything ready since you had a lot of work today.

Kgabiso: I really didn't mind coming back home to cook. It's already part of my daily routine.

She looked at Megan's mini dress once again and turned around to see if Cody wasn't anywhere around.

Kgabiso: I don't think I'm comfortable with you

dressed like that when he's home.

Megan looked at her dress then back at Kgabiso.

Megan: Is there anything wrong with my dress?

Kgabiso: Yes. It's too short. Megan, Cody is a teenager and he's just discovering himself. I wouldn't want him looking at you that way and believing that he could have anything with you. You saw how he reacted when he first saw you here. That boy has a crush on you.

Megan: I understand how you feel but that's just how teenage boys react. Just because he was happy to see me doesn't mean that he's into me or he sees me in a different way. Gape hela le nna I would never entertain him. He's as good as my son.

Kgabiso: Hoo brikha! I don't know what impression I gave you but I'm not looking to co-parent. Megan what we have going on is just fun between two adults. There's no reason why it should extend to my child. I appreciate that you're trying to help but please stay away from my son.

Megan: Emma. Like I said, I was just trying to help. Enjoy the rest of your evening. She went into Kgabi's room then grabbed her car keys and left.

At Sebaga's

Fela rubbed his wife's feet as she worked on her laptop. Starting a new law firm from the ground wouldn't be easy as she had thought.

Sebaga: I don't know about going solo. This thing is gonna require a lot of work and depending on where my clients are, I might be required to travel and put in more hours.

Fela: And I will be here to support you all the way. I know that there's nothing easy about starting a new business but the truth is that once you start, you will regret why you never started it. I see no point in you building a legacy for another person's family when you can do that for our son.

Sebaga: Thank you love.

He looked at his wife and smiled with so much gratitude. This woman had given so much of herself to the family and it was time for them to return the favor.

Fela: We will be here to hold you down babes.

At Arefa's

Aunty smiled and rejoiced as Arefa broke the news about her new job to her. Sebaga and her family were good people and she knew that her niece would be happy there.

Aunty: I have worked for Sebaga for over ten years and in all of those years, I've never heard her raise her voice at me. She is very respectful and knows how to communicate. When she doesn't like something, she respectfully sits you down. Please ngwanaka, ke kopa gore le wena o mo tlotle hela jalo. (Please respect her in the same manner.) I know you to be a very grounded child. Do not go into that home and start stirring trouble like many of your agemates. That family was put together by God

and he defends it. If you go on to fight it then just know that you will be fighting God. You are not Sebaga and you will never be her. Don't get too comfortable in her house and start forgetting that. Your business is cleaning the house and performing household duties. Her husband is not your business. I would have never recommended someone your age under normal circumstances but because I trust you and I know how much you need a job, I have taken a risk. Don't disappoint Sebaga because if you do then you would have disappointed me.

She looked at her aunt then held her hand.

Arefa: Mme mogolo, you know just how much I need this job. I won't let any of you down. I'm there to work and nothing else.

Aunty: Thank you my child.

A day later...

At Sebaga's

Arefa and Sebaga exchanged pleasantries...

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#151

A day later...

At Sebaga's

Arefa and Sebaga exchanged pleasantries as Fela packed up his work backpack. He briefly spoke to the two then grabbed his backpack and kissed his wife before leaving.

Fela: I'll see you later babe.

Sebaga: Later.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too.

Arefa stole glances at the two. They had truly been brought together by God as her aunt had said. Everything about the two left you longing for love. Once Fela had left, Sebaga lead Arefa to the dinning room then presented her with a contract.

Sebaga: I know that we have already agreed on the terms of our relationship but I believe in putting everything down in a contract. This way we are both protected.

Arefa: Ee mma. I also don't mind.

Sebaga: You can read through the contract while I make us something to drink. If you have any questions or queries then let me know and we will go through them together.

Arefa: Ee mma. Can I ask when you would like me to move in? I haven't found the money to buy toiletries and a few things I need yet.

Sebaga: Oh I see. I was hoping that it could be tomorrow so I show you around and help you settle in before I leave but it's not a problem at all. You can write me a list of the toiletries you need so that I can buy them.

Arefa: Thank you so much. I don't know how to

thank you.

Sebaga: Don't thank me. Just don't disappoint me or your aunt.

Arefa: Ee mma.

Later that day

At Fela's office

Laone walked into Fela's office and fist bumped with him then placed the take-aways he had brought with him on the table.

Fela: I hope Mma Dineo dished a generous portion today. Nna mona I'm hungry. This morning we had fruit salad for breakfast.

Laone: Ele gore ga le na dijo? (Don't you have

food at home?)

Fela: You know how women are. She is on a diet and now we're all expected to join in just for some moral support.

Laone: Waitsi basadi bone! (women!) Tell her you're a man and you're fashioned to eat some meat in the morning not some vegetables or fruits.

Fela: (laughed) And have her give me the side eye all week.

Laone: Eish! Aunty o kae a sa go thuse? (Where's aunty and why is she not helping you?) kana that one can make oxtail for breakfast and Mmagwe Sefela wouldn't dare to say anything.

Fela: Eish our old lady... Kana she left akere she is now old. Waitsi gore I don't know if we will ever get over the fact that she left. Our house is not the same. She was truly our mother.

Laone: Mme kana once you get a replacement

for her, you will forget all about the loss.

Fela: We already did.

He said with so much disinterest...

Laone: You don't like the new old lady already?

He said grabbing a plastic spoon and digging in.

Fela: Not even. She is nowhere close to being old infact she is very young. I'm not so sure about her.

Laone: How old is she?

Fela: Twenty six.

Laone: And what does she look like?

Fela: Like a supermodel that got lost in

Botswana.

Laone: So why are you complaining? I thought that you would be happy to have someone around to feed your eyes on.

Fela: Laone, I'm not you. There is nothing funny or cool about what you've just said.

Laone: The fact that you just said that she looks like a supermodel that got lost in Botswana tells me that you find her attractive and given the chance, you would tap on some of that.

Fela: I don't cheat.

Laone: Bullshit! Every man does. If you haven't yet cheated then it means that you haven't found the right girl yet or should I say someone you would risk it all for. Mme hela from that attitude, I can tell that she's that girl.

Fela: Can you ever be serious? I'm trying hard to tell you my concerns here.

Laone: Sorry mate. What's up? Talk to me.

Fela: I'm not comfortable with having her in my household. She's attractive and...

He swallowed feeling very guilty...

Laone: I understand. You can't have someone more attractive than your wife in your household.

Fela: I never said that she is more attractive than my wife.

Laone: You didn't have to say it.

He sighed then grabbed his take-away...

At Sebaga's

Arefa stood behind Sebaga as she opened the door to the cottage at the back.

Sebaga: So this will be your house. When you knock off, you can come to your own space and relax.

Arefa: Ee mma.

Sebaga: You eat with us and you're allowed to do your laundry with the machine in the main house.

Sebqga: So what size are you?

Arefa: Mma?

Sebaga: I want to know what size to use for your uniform.

Arefa: Oh ok. I'm a size thirty two.

Sebaga: Ok. Since we've concluded everything, you can go home and get ready. I will pick you up tomorrow morning after my husband and

son leave. Don't forget to write me that list ya
your toiletries.

She gave her the house keys...

Sebaga: Feel free to go inside. I'll be in the main
house.

She left her as she went around her new house.
This cottage was bigger than her two rooms.
From the looks of things, it had just been
renovated . How much money did these people
have? This cottage looked like a hotel.

She threw herself on the comfortable bed and
giggled then got up and went into the shower. It
was also a piece of heaven. It looked like the
ones she had seen in the movies with a glass

door.

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Morning insert...

Up next is your bonus for the complete sponsor.

The Devil I Never Knew

#152

Later that day

At Sebaga's

Fela wrapped his arms around his wife and kissed her forehead then dropped his bag on

floor.

Sebaga: How was your day?

Fela: Wasn't too bad. How was yours?

Sebaga: Went really well. Arefa signed her contract so she starts tomorrow.

Fela: Oh I see.

He sat down with his mood at his feet.

Sebaga: Are you okay?

Fela: Yeah. I am. I just don't know if I'm really comfortable with her working here.

Sebaga: Ao rra! But we talked about this yesterday before I even offered her a position o bo o re if I'm happy with her then I should give her an offer.

Fela: I know what I said but I have second thoughts about it. I'm not comfortable.

Sebaga: So what would you like me to do? Kana we agreed that she is starting tomorrow. I'm pretty sure that she's made plans to start working. Koore budgets and all.

Fela: Gone mme what are your reasons?

He thoughtfully swallowed... How did you tell your wife that you found another woman attractive? But what was the point of lying?

Fela: She is over qualified and from the way that she dresses, I'm not sure I wanna have her around my household.

Sebaga: Meaning? Akere she has a uniform?

Fela: She's also too young.

Sebaga: And you think it's easy to find someone

a bit older and experienced? Babe the older helpers are now smart. They no longer want to work full time. They now have clients of their own who they attend to for piece jobs because apparently that makes more money.

Fela: I hear you but we haven't really started looking.

Sebaga: Ke a go utlwa rra. (I hear you) I suggest that she comes through and she works for the month then we let her go. There is nothing as painful as knowing that you will be getting a salary while others are being paid. There's nothing as painful as knowing that you will be getting a salary and also telling people) only to be told that the job is no longer yours.

Fela: Ee mma. I'm going to take a shower.

At Laone's

Laone threw himself on the bed and sighed heavily as his wife took off her clothes. They hadn't been intimate for a couple of days and at this point, his body was raising signals at him.

Laone: Babe.

Pelo: Hmm?

Laone: Tlhe mma get over here. Ao mma, when does your period end? It's been over three days.

Pelo: (laughed) Stop being selfish and allow my body to heal.

Laone: Ijoo. This is why men end up having silly thoughts about their helpers.

Pelo: Excuse me?

Laone: I have a friend that finds his helper attractive and I bet if the wife starts abandoning her bedroom duties then the nanny will start

doing them for her.

Pelo: Are you fine? Like I mean o sharp mogatsaka?

Laone: I'm fine. I'm just telling it like it is. I mean the wife had a choice to hire an older person who's less attractive but what did she do?

Pelo: (laughed) If that's how you think then I should be worried about your sanity. Why do men constantly put women at fault for their actions? Kana you're telling me that should that friend of yours cheat on his wife with the helper then it's her fault for hiring this helper. I think that we've enabled and praised men for cheating for far too long that nothing they do is their fault. As a married man, you have the responsibility of being faithful to your wife.

What happened to things like self control kante? Should women be worried about the younger slay girls you work with in the office? The ones you go on trips with? What do we then do? Ask

you to quit your jobs? Should we stop hiring younger people all together just because you guys can't control yourself. Cheating is a choice!

Laone: Peba ga e bapisiwi le dithotse. (You can't easily tempt someone and expect them not to react)

Pelo: So from what you're saying, this guy finds the helper attractive akere?

1.3K votes is our tarts but should we reach 700votes today then we get a bonus

<https://africavotes.com/n/alepeo.tema.tinah>

She opened her drawers and pulled out a full panty.

Laone: Kante yaanong o apara blumara? (So you're now wearing a full panty?)

She laughed as she got dressed.

Pelo: Wareng kante? Did the husband communicate or not?

Laone: He claims he's not attracted to her.

Peo: There's nothing wrong with finding another person attractive. After all we're all human beings. You would be lying to me if you tell me that you've never seen another woman attractive. Le rona hela women there are men we find attractive and maybe even more attractive than you. Akere le rona we have eyes and we can see. What's important it's what you do about that feeling.

Laone: Are you saying that you find other men

attractive than me?

Pelo: Yes it happens. I'm human and I was made to have feelings like any other human being. Wena o akediwa ke batho ka bo I only find my man attractive. Heela there are men out there that can have you question your principles. Everything is all about choices.

Laone: Turn off the lights when you come to bed.

Pelo: Uhu! Yaanong you're getting upset?

He quietly turned away from her and closed his eyes as his heart pumped blood backwards. His mind was suddenly filled with images of super attractive men. Had his woman ever cheated on him as he did to her?

He sat up and took deep breaths then got out of

bed.

Pelo: And now?

Laone: I'm going to drink water.

Pelo shook her head and laughed... So it was true. Men were weak!

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso dried her hair then sat by the dressing table and attempted to call Megan for the fourth time but she wasn't taking her calls. Was she mad at her for something she didn't know about? This silence was driving her insane so she got dressed then grabbed her car keys.

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#153

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso dried her hair then sat by the dressing table and attempted to call Megan for the fourth time but she wasn't taking her calls. Was she mad at her for something she didn't know about? This silence was driving her insane so she got dressed then grabbed her car keys.

At Sebaga's

Fela laid on the bed and sighed heavily as he thought of the new helper that was starting work the next day. He gently rubbed his wife's back.

Fela: Are you asleep?

Sebaga: No. You're good?

Fela: Yeah. Can I ask you something?

Sebaga: Yeah sure.

Fela: Have you ever found someone else apart from me attractive?

Sebaga: Where's that coming from?

Fela: Out of curiosity.

She sat up and turned to him...

Sebaga: Yes. It's a natural feeling but that

doesn't mean that I'm interested in having any kind of relationship with that person.

Fela: So where was this person?

She looked at him and forced a smile. This conversation was getting uncomfortable.

Sebaga: Do you really wanna discuss this now?

Fela: Yes, I would appreciate it if we did.

Sebaga: Ok. Someone I used to work with a long time ago but I didn't act on it and nothing happened if that's what you wanna know.

Fela: How did you avoid him seeing that he was forever in your space?

Sebaga: My mind. I knew that it was just a silly crush so I went on with my life as if they didn't exist. When you know what you want and what you're building, it's easy to refrain yourself from

things that don't align with you. Do you have a crush on someone?

He sat up and looked into her eyes... He knew his wife too well and if he told her the whole truth then she would escalate the issue.

Fela: Someone I work with. Someone I recently went into business with.

Sebaga: Well you know what's important to you and what comes first so I trust you to make the right decisions.

Fela: So you don't mind me working with her?

Sebaga: Even if I did and you stopped working with her, if you want to pursue her then you can still go out of your way to find her outside the working environment. Like I said, it all comes down to what you want and what's important to

you. I can't keep tabs on you or select who you should work with or shouldn't work with.

Fela: I hear you and I appreciate the trust. I won't let you down.

Sebaga: I know baby.

He kissed her and ran his hand in her undies then chuckled as she slowly got ontop of him.

At Megan's

Kgabiso stood by the living room door and held her waist as Paul greeted her and continued playing video games. She could tell that Megan was not bothered by her presence so she walked in and sat next to Paul.

Kgabiso: So now you two are having meet ups without me?

Paul: I've been trying to reach you for days and you weren't taking any of my calls.

She turned to Megan.

Megan: What? You chased me out of your house the other day so what were you expecting?

Kgabiso: What's he doing he?

Megan: I invited him.

Kgabiso: So you're now hanging out with him?

Megan: What exactly do you want from me? Didn't I give you what you want which is some space?

Kgabiso: No. I don't want some space. Ask him

to leave.

She said moving closer to Megan and wrapping her arms around her.

Paul: (laughed) You're kidding right?

Kgabiso: No. Leave, we don't need you.

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Megan smiled from ear to ear looking at Kgabi take control.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#154

At Fela's house

Sebaga opened the boot and helped Arefa with her luggage then lead her to the cottage at the back. She unlocked the door and Arefa walked in with her luggage. She looked around and smiled admiring how clean the room was. The room smelt really fresh and everything had been put in place.

Sebaga picked up the plastic that had her

toiletries on the bed and handed it to her.

Sebaga: That's the toiletries I promised to buy for you. Please check to see if I bought the right things.

Arefa shyly peeped into the plastic briefly and nodded...

Arefa: Emma. You've bought the right things. Thank you so much. I don't know how to thank you for this opportunity.

Sebaga: You're welcome. So you can freshen up and get changed into your uniform. Once you're done, come to the main house so I can show you around.

Arefa: Emma.

She looked at the ugly uniform on the bed and forced a smile. It looked long and hideous but that wasn't important. It was just a uniform after all. What mattered was the fact that she had a job. Sebaga walked out then closed the door behind her.

At the main house

Serge sipped on his iced coffee then picked up a bottle of amarula and poured in a generous amount.

Sebaga: Goodmorning to you too. I didn't know that you're up.

She looked at his iced coffee and cleared her throat as he closed the amarula bottle and put it

away.

Serge: Don't you dare judge me. I heard you panting the entire night. I need a shot of alcohol to give me the energy you got from your late night activities.

Sebaga: (laughed) Maybe you should stop spending the night at my house and find yourself a man to sneak around with so you get the same energy.

Serge: I'm on a hunt. But I'm glad to see that you two kids are having fun. It also helps that Sefela's room has been sound proofed otherwise the poor kid wouldn't have slept a wink like i didn't last night.

Sebaga: I'll never hear the end of it hey.

Serge: So is the new girl here yet?

Sebaga: You were really out hey? I went to pick

her up after those two left. Didn't you hear me leave or come through?

Serge: No babes. I hope that you made her job description very clear. She needs to know what she is here for. Gatwe these young girls give themselves some extra duties that are out of their scope then in return steal their bosses husbands.

Sebaga: (laughed) You and I agree on a lot of things but I'm afraid that this time I disagree. No man can be stolen, if he ends up with another woman then that's because that's what he wanted in the first place.

Serge: I hear you girl but look around you. Look at where you are. This is the kind of life girls envy.

There was a knock on the door...

Sebaga: It must be Arefa. I will be right back.

Serge followed her to the living room as she got the door.

Sebaga: All done?

Arefa: Ee mma.

Sebaga: You look greet.

She said looking at her uniform which fitted in the exact manner that she wanted.

Arefa: Dumela rra.

She greeted Serge with so much respect bowing her head.

Serge: Arefa?

Arefa: Ee rra.

Serge: I hope that you didn't come here to stir up some trouble like most girls with your name because we will take you out like a whirlwind.

Sebaga: Serge!

Serge: What? I'm just telling her the obvious. Something you won't be able to tell her because you're too kind on the outside.

Sebaga: (forced smile) Can I take you around and show you the main bathroom, kitchen and the laundry room. You won't be doing my bedroom.

Serge: Yeah. Stay away from that room including the husband too.

Sebaga quickly lead her out to the other rooms.

Sebaga: Sorry about that.

Arefa: Ee mma.

Sebaga: So this is the kitchen. As we've discussed, when I'm home, I take care of the cooking. You will only step in when I'm not around. Feel free to open the cabinets to familiarize yourself with where everything is.

Later that day...

Fela parked his car in the carport then sat in for a while as he caught up on his LinkedIn account. Meanwhile Arefa came out of the house in her uniform with a bucket and broom. He gathered his things and stepped out of the car then greeted her.

Fela: Dumela mma.

He greeted briefly then walked past her before she could even respond back. He was going to do everything in his power to stay away from this little girl.

Arefa: I don't think he likes me.

She sighed then went to her cottage.

An hour later she got back to help Seba prepare for dinner.

Arefa: Can I get you anything sir?

She said walking into the living room and

standing behind Fela.

Fela: My wife is in the kitchen.

He turned around and they locked eyes briefly.

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Bonus3

The Devil I Never Knew

#155

At Fela's

Fela stood up and grabbed his backpack then

walked past Arefa as if she didn't exist. From her eyes he could already see trouble and he swore not to entertain her.

Arefa: Sir?

Fela: Yes!

Arefa: I can tell that you have your reservations about me. Infact I saw it from day one but I promise you that I'm not going to let you down.

Fela: What I think about you doesn't matter. You shouldn't be concerned about my reservations but rather focus on impressing my wife and doing your job which is why you're here.

She shamefully bowed as Sebaga walked in.

Sebaga: Hie. You can come with me to the kitchen. Babe, do you need anything?

Fela: No. I'm gonna take a nap. Come join me when you're done.

Sebaga: (blushed) Ee rra.

Arefa looked away as they kissed. These two were not afraid to express their love for each other even in front of other people.

Fela: Don't take too long.

Sebaga: Yeah.

He winked at her then left.

Sebqga: Ok. So I'm just gonna be showing you how things work in the kitchen. Sefela is in his room doing his assignment. After dinner he does the dishes.

Arefa: Ee mma. Can I ask you something?

Sebaga: Yes. Go ahead.

She sighed then gathered the confidence to speak her mind.

Arefa: Your husband doesn't seem to like me very much. Is he ok with me working here?

Sebaga turned to her and flashed a smile.

Sebaga: I know that starting a new job can be frustrating but more than anything, you need to focus on your job and leave anything concerning my husband to me. His likes and dislikes are my business. I hired you because I think you can handle the job so let's focus on that akere?

Arefa shamefully forced a smile as Seba lead her to the kitchen. Clearly this woman was a tough nut to crack.

At Kgabiso's

Paul leaned against his car and chuckled as Kgabiso moved further away from him.

Paul: So you're choosing to date a woman over me?

Kgabiso: You keep asking me the same thing over and over again.

Paul: That's because I'm still confused. I mean, I know that a lot happened between us all those many years ago and I lied to you about being single but I just thought that you would give

love a second chance. What about the family we wanted to build together? Babe girl, you're not into women and you know it. I understand that it's exciting to try something new but that's all it is. Give us a second chance and let's do this life thing together.

Kgabiso: I'm not meant to settle and have a family and you know it. Akere that's what you told me all those many years ago when you broke off our marriage. I no longer want to hurt or find myself hurting anyone especially my son.

Paul: And you don't think that he deserves to have a proper family?

Kgabiso: No. That boy understands life and maybe even more than I do. My son is doing well and he's accepted that this is the kind of family he comes from.

Paul: So you're giving up on us?

Kgabiso: Paul there's no us. There was never an

us.

She went into the yard and closed the gate then bid him farewell.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga took off her clothes then stood by the mirror and grabbed some cotton wool and make up remover to clean her skin. Her husband turned on the shower and stood behind her.

Fela: The food was really good tonight.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Fela: Are you okay? You've been quiet ever since we had dinner.

Sebaga: I'm ok.

Fela: Talk to me. I can tell that something is bothering you.

Sebqga: Are you attracted to Arefa?

Fela: Mma?

Sebaga: Answer the question.

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Bonus4

The Devil I Never Knew

#156

At Sebaga's

Fela wrapped his arms around his wife and held onto her tightly for a while without saying a word. She could tell that he was nervous so she also kept quiet. How on earth did you explain to your wife that you found someone attractive? Especially a house helper that had just started? As much as she had tried to ease his mind about it when they last spoke, it wasn't any easy for him.

Fela: I don't know how to answer this question. I've tried to find the right way to put it but I'm just failing.

Sebqga: There's no right way to put it. Just tell me the truth. That's all that should matter at this point.

He let go of her and took a deep breath.

Fela: Yes. I think she's attractive.

Sebaga: Is that why you didn't want us to hire her?

Fela: Yes but I didn't want to sound disrespectful.

Sebaga: By now you should know that the only thing I find disrespectful is being told lies. I wish that you could have trusted me enough to tell me the truth because had you done that then I would have never put you in such a difficult position.

Fela: I thought you would read between the lines or somehow pick it up.

Sebaga: That's the one thing a partner should never do. Babe I should never assume or read between the lines when I have you to tell me the truth. Marriage is all about communication. Once you lose that plot, a lot can go wrong.

He desperately licked his lips as she turned around to face him.

Fela: So you're not mad?

Sebaga: I'm not mad. I understand that you're a human being. I'm not saying that I'm not hurt or jealous. I truly am and mostly disappointed that you didn't come out when we last had this discussion.

Fela: Ee mma. I'm really sorry.

She washed her face then grabbed a face towel and dried herself.

Sebaga: I'm gonna lay down for a bit.

Fela: Are you not joining me for a shower.

Sebaga: (forced smile) No. Go ahead, I will bath

later.

He turned off the water in the shower then joined her in the bathroom.

Fela: Babe, o sharp ne mma? (Are you okay?)

Sebaga: Yeah. I'm just wondering how to go on about this situation. What would you like me to do?

Fela: I don't know what you wanna do but I'm not comfortable with having her around.

Sebaga: I hear you. I understand completely where you're coming from but is it ok for someone to lose their job simply because their boss finds them attractive?

Fela: If you want to keep her then you can.

Sebaga: At the same time I know that it won't work. You can't live in the same yard with

someone you're not comfortable around. This is your home, you shouldn't be stepping on eggshells. I'll talk to her tomorrow.

Fela: What exactly are you gonna say?

Sebaga: I don't know. I'll think of something mme hela I'll have to pay her because she is not at fault. Maybe two months salary while she finds another job.

Fela: I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

Sebaga: Ee rra.

In the cottage

Arefa stood before the mirror and pulled up her uniform to see what it would look like if she did any alterations. She couldn't understand why she had to walk around with a long uniform that made her look older than her aunt. Clearly her

boss was jealous of her!

She picked up her phone and checked her messages then responded to her friend's voice note.

Arefa: Mma kana ke ha a buwa ka makgakga mosadi wa teng are (She answered me with so much attitude and said that) what her husband likes and dislikes is her business not mine.

Five minutes later her friend sent a text.

Friend: She is clearly intimidated by you. Gone mme who told her that you're there for her man ka wena you're there to work. Kana o montle monna wa teng? (is the husband even handsome?)

Arefa: He's not too bad mme hela I'm not interested in him. Akere I told you that I don't have any plans to break my virginity. Gape hela they are like family. My aunt has worked for them for over ten years.

She would step on my throat.

The following day...

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Morning insert. The rest are earned with the posted sponsors.

The Devil I Never Knew

#157

The following day

At Sebaga's

Sebaga fixed her husband's tie then picked up his backpack and gave it to him. His heart rate increased as he watched the woman he had told about his crush the previous night take care of him. Was this some kind of trap? How was she this understanding and calm?

Fela: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Yeah. Why do you keep asking?

Fela: Because the Sebaga I know doesn't take such matters lightly.

Sebaga: I've grown. Fela for the past ten years, we've been by each other's side and there's nothing you've done to make me doubt your

love for me. I know that you're human and you're bound to find other women attractive because it happens to me at times. You didn't act on it but instead tried to avoid temptation so there's no need for me to hold onto it. I'll pay Arefa her two months salary and ask her to leave.

Fela: Thank you. And about aunty? What will you say to her?

Sebaga: Let me worry about all that.

Fela: Thank you.

Sebaga: You can relax. I'm not planning to kill you or anything especially for a silly crush.

He finally laughed after tensing up the entire night.

At Kgabiso's

Megan slowly got up and sat on the bed as Kgabiso got ready for work. They had spent almost the entire night chatting and apart from not being a morning person, she was tired.

Kgabiso: Hey.

Megan: Hey. How did you sleep?

Kgabiso: (laughed) You want me to answer that when you know that we barely slept?

Megan: (Smiled) Sorry. You know what they say about good company.

Kgabiso: Yeah. So would you like me to run the bath for you?

Megan: No. I'll shower at my house.

Kgabiso: You can still shower here you know.

Megan: Yeah but I don't want to overstep. I

respect your space.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry about what I said the other day. It's just that as a mother I have so many fears when it comes to my teenage son.

Megan: I'm not here for your son. I'm here because I care about you and I wanna build something with you. But when you care about someone, you find yourself automatically caring about everything that's important to them.

Kgabiso, Cody is just a child. I mean the boy is younger than all my siblings and I could never cross such a line.

Kgabiso: I understand that now and I'm sorry.

Megan: Thank you. I'll be happy to keep a safe distance from him if you're not happy with us interacting.

Kgabiso: Forget about the other day. You're probably going to be spending a lot of time here so you two need to get used to being around

each other. Can you pick him up after school?

Megan: Are you sure?

Kgabiso: That's if you don't mind.

Megan: Yeah sure. You know that I'm happy to help.

Sebaga: Thank you love.

Megan: You don't have to thank me. It's nothing really.

At Sebaga's

After Fela and his son had left, Sebaga began to tidy up in the living room. With everything that was going on, she needed something to do to keep her mind off things.

Arefa: Goodmorning.

She said as she walked in.

Sebaga: Goodmorning.

Arefa: I hope I'm not late. I'm really sorry if I am.

Sebaga: Don't worry about it. You're only meant to come after my son and husband leave so you're not late at all.

Arefa: Emma. Thank you. Can I take over?

Sebaga: Can I have a few minutes of your time? I would like to discuss something with you.

Arefa: Emma.

She said standing to attention like a soldier.

Sebqga: Please have a sit.

She did as she was told...

Arefa: Did I do something wrong?

Sebaga: No. Not at all.

She said sitting down.

Sebaga: We've just received news that my husband's business in Maun is not doing well and there are crises we need to attend to immediately therefore we will be temporarily relocating there to sort things out. With my son moving in with the grandmother there won't be much to do around here. I'm really sorry for the inconvenience. I'll pay you a two months salary because we've inconvenienced you.

She looked down and her mood instantly dropped to her heels. Having to look for a job from scratch was depressing.

Sebaga: If I hear of anyone hiring then I will recommend you.

Arefa: Ee mma. So when do you leave?

Sebaga: It's an emergency so tota we might fly there later if we manage to get flight tickets today.

Arefa: Okay. Is there anything that you would like me to do in the meantime?

Sebaga: No. You can pack your stuff so I drop you off. I'll sort out everything. Can I ewallet you?

Arefa: Ee mma.

There was so much frustration in her voice which left Sebaga heartbroken but what could

she do? It was either Arefa or her family. She swallowed then reached for her phone and made a four point five transfer.

Sebaga: I have sent you an ewallet ya four point five. Five hundred is for your toiletries for the next two months. I'm really sorry for the inconvenience. You can go pack up then let me know when you're done so I can drop you off.

Arefa: Ee mma.

Later that day...

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#158

Later that day...

At Aunty's house

Aunty and Seaga walked out to the car hand in hand while Arefa unpacked her things in the house.

Aunty: Thank you so much my child for giving her an opportunity. I understand that the circumstances are beyond your control.

Seaga: Emma. Thank you so much for understanding. I know that the two months salary won't make much of a difference but I'm hopeful that something will come up.

Aunty: You're not really relocating, are you?

Sebaga: Mma?

Aunty: Sebaga you're my child. I know that when you're not being honest about something you tend to overcompensate. If what you're saying is true then you could have just paid her salary not anything extra. You and I have lived together for all these years and ga o kake wa siya ka tlhaloganyo yame. (you can't fool me.) Talk to me. What's the real reason behind you sending her away? Is she causing any trouble?

Sebaga guiltily looked away. She was already feeling bad about letting Arefa go and having to face the reality of why by explaining to her aunt ate her up.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say to you but I want you to trust me. You know that I would

never do anything like this without a valid reason. As a mother and wife, my intentions are always pure. I would do anything to protect my home.

Aunty: Did she try and pursue your husband?

Sebaga: Aunty can we just let it go?

Aunty: If there's anything you suspect then you did well. She will find another job. Thank you for your kindness my child.

She hugged Sebaga then moved back as she got into the car and started the engine. Seba rolled the windows and waved.

Sebaga: Re tla buwa aunty. I need to get home.

Aunty: Ok my baby. Take care of yourself.

At Kgabiso's

Cody stood by his mother's bedroom door and watched Megan as she got dressed. Damm! He had never seen such big tits in real life.

Everything about this woman was angelic. The way her skin was so flawless he could literally just lick her.

He had been with a couple of girls, some older than him but he had never seen one this perfect. He held his head and breathed heavily.

Cody: Fu...!

He said out loud startling Megan.

Megan: Jesus!

She jumped and grabbed a towel to cover up.

Megan: What the hell man!

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At Fela's Office

Laone breathed heavily as his wife's phone just rang. After trying to get hold of her for the past couple of hours, he finally gave up.

Fela: Are you okay man? You've been on your phone ever since you got here.

Laone: What would you say if I told you that I think that Pelo is cheating on me?

Fela shook his head and laughed.

Fela: I wouldn't believe you but then maybe the poor woman could have reached her breaking point. You've been cheating on that woman for ages now.

Laone: But that doesn't mean that she should cheat back. Men and women are different. She can't act like a man.

Fela: That's where the problem is. You think that she can't cheat back akere.

Laone: You're acting like you're a saint yourself.

How's it going with the new hot helper? Have you sneaked to the cottage yet?

Fela: Some of us worked hard to get here and build our families. One wrong move then my wife leaves me forever. Kana Sebaga ene is not the forgiving type.

Laone: Owaii when they age they become soft because they can't start over.

Fela: You haven't met my wife in that case.

Laone: Listen man, i have to go. I need to know where this woman is and what she's doing.

Fela: Stop cheating and you won't have to do all this work. Don't you get tired?

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#159

At Kgabiso's

Cody walked into his mother's room and sat by the bed then calmly watched Megan as she got dressed.

Megan: Cody I'm going to tell your mother.

Cody: Tell her what exactly?

Megan: What you're doing is disrespectful. I'm older than you and you should respect me.

Cody: What exactly are we measuring this growth with? Age? Because apart from age, I can assure you that I'm your mate and maybe

I'm even older.

He said chuckling...

Megan: I don't know what you think this is but I'm not your mate in anything.

Cody: (Smiled) Are you sure about that? I mean have you thought about all the things that I could do to you?

Megan: Get out!

Cody: Well your choice but you're still missing out. That little thing you think you have going on with my mum won't go anywhere. She's just keeping you as her little toy. My mum doesn't do relationships neh.

He stood up then left the room.

Megan: What the hell just happened?

She took a deep breath then rushed to lock the door.

At Sebqga's

Fela picked up his apron and slipped it on then opened the fridge to get some vegetables while his wife mixed some dough.

Fela: I can't believe that we haven't had dumplings in so long.

Sebaga: Akere when I buy flour, no one in this house ever uses it. Le ene aunty hela she didn't like making bread.

Fela: (laughed) Ao babe what do we know about bread nna le Sefela?

Sebaga: Well now that we don't have a helper, you're gonna have to learn.

Fela: (sighed) So how did it go?

She kept quiet to compose herself before she could speak.

Sebqga: I told her that we would be temporarily relocating so we didn't need a helper as Sefela would be staying with his grandmother.

Fela: I'm really sorry that I had to put you in that position.

Sebaga: It's ok. Let's not obsess over it. I paid her two months salary so hopefully that makes up for the inconvenience.

Fela: Ee mma. I'll pay you back since I'm

responsible.

Sebaga: There's no need. We only did what was best for our family. I know that you would do the same for me.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too.

At Aunty's

Arefa quietly packed her small backpack as her aunt read the Bible. Each time she thought of having to job hunt again, her heart broke into pieces but what could she do?

Arefa: Aunty?

Aunty: Mma?

Arefa: Did Sebaga tell you the real reason she

terminated my contract?

Aunty: What are you talking about? Kante didn't you two speak? I thought that you told me that they are moving.

Arefa: That's what she said but I don't believe her.

Aunty: Uhu! Wa bo oreng?

Arefa: When we went to bed, everything was fine and there was nothing about relocating. We wake up and they are suddenly relocating? No. That woman is definitely hiding something. She probably thinks that I was there to steal her husband. Kana ever since I got there the husband was acting like someone who was told to stay away from me. Le kere ke a dumedisa a tenega hela. (Even when o greeted him, i could tell that he was angry.)

Aunty: I don't know what happened but Sebaga is not that kind of a person.

Arefa: Wena aunty you're only saying this because you've never experienced that side to her. I was fired like a dog. It's only that she's given me a two months salary le gone that was to ease up her conscience. Kana she didn't even want me to help her with the cleaning. Mme kana if her husband is the unfaithful type, he is yet to keep cheating on her. She didn't solve the problem by firing me. Gape le gone if she's that worried then she must make an effort in how she dresses.

Aunty: Heela Arefa! Ware go rileng? (What's wrong?)

Arefa: I'm going to spend the night at my friend's house. I will see you tomorrow.

She stood up and left before her aunt could say anything.

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Bonus 3

Goodnight.

The Devil I Never Knew

#160

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga sat by the bed and sipped on her wine while Serge excitedly packed his bags. After postponing this trip a couple of days ago, they were finally going.

Serge: Thank you so much for doing this with me. You have no idea how much it means to me.

Sebaga: Babe you don't have to thank me. You've done way more for me in the past and this is the least that I can do.

Serge: I keep rehearsing what I'm gonna say to them in my head and making out their responses.

Sebaga: I can only imagine how stressful it feels.

Serge: Yeah. It's been years. Maybe they have finally repented.

She looked at him and sighed heavily.

Sebaga: Yeah maybe but you need to be prepared for anything.

Serge: I feel you on that. So how do you feel

about letting miss Ari go?

Sebaga: I don't know man. I have mixed emotions about it. I really feel bad about it because the poor girl was excited to finally have a job. I for one understands what it's like to be unemployed. I'm here thinking about all the stress she now has to deal with. I can't imagine losing my job only because my boss is attracted to me. From where I stand, she didn't do anything wrong mme hela le nna I want to protect my peace at all costs. I'm not oblivious to the fact that Fela can cheat on me if he wants to. I just don't want it happening in my space and in a house I'm raising my child. At the same time this is also his house. His safe space, it's one thing having a crush on someone at work but having a crush on someone you live with? Koore you're forever uncomfortable. If she worked in my office or his then it wouldn't have been a problem.

Serge: Well I still believe that she would have been trouble even though I know that you won't agree with me.

Sebaga: It is what it is.

At Kgabiso's

Megan uncomfortably sipped on her juice as Cody kept his eyes on her. After what had happened, she was starting to feel uncomfortable around him. The fact that he also knew what was going on between her and his mother made it worse.

Kgabiso: Ok young man, finish up so we can leave.

Cody: I'll leave with Megan if that's fine with you.

Kgabiso: Why?

Cody: Mum, have you seen how you act when you drop me off at school? Other kids are starting to tease me because you treat me like a baby

Kgabiso: Well you're still my baby so there's nothing wrong with it.

Cody: That's why we're gonna have a problem. I'm a man now and you need to accept it.

Kgabiso: Then start doing things like buying food and contributing towards bills. Ahh o bona hoo? You will be a real man. Anyways I have to run. Megs, are you okay with dropping him off?

Megan: Yeah sure.

Kgabiso: O sharp? (Are you okay?)

Megan: Yeah. I'm just tired. See you later.

She grabbed her lunch box and car keys then bid them farewell before leaving. Once

Kgabiso's car had left, Megan stood up to clear the table.

Cody: You look amazing by the way.

Megan: If I was you then I would stay in my lane. If you keep harassing me then I'm gonna tell your mother.

Cody: Yet you didn't say a word about what happened yesterday. Could it be that you're considering it too? I mean coming to think of it, your music is wild and freaky. Could it be that all those songs express your fantasies?

Megan: Stay in your lane.

Cody: You and my mother? That's brave of you. The woman is practically old enough to be your mother..

Megan: How old are you again?

She said feeling annoyed...

Cody: Let me show you.

She clicked her tongue and left the room.

At Pelo's house

Laone impatiently stood behind his wife as she did her make up.

Pelo: You need anything?

Laone: Why are you applying all that make up?
Ele gore who are you meeting up with?

Pelo: Are you now keeping tabs on me? Since when do we report to each other about our movements when we're going to work? Aren't

you the one that said that it was childish?

Laone: Well I'm more open to doing it now.

Pelo: Ijoo. Bona don't forget to invite Fela and Sebaga over for dinner. Akere you know that we should have hosted a month ago.

She stood up revealing her outfit. The body hugging dress she was wearing revealed her perfect curves

Laone: And you're going to the office dressed like that?

Pelo: Have a good day. I'll see you later.

Laone: Tlhe mma wena don't do what you're thinking of doing. It will end badly.

She ignored him and left.

The Devil I Never Knew

#161

Later that day...

At Sebaga's house

Fela sat by the dinning area with his tool box and wife's milk frother. He had been trying to fix it for a few days now with no luck.

Sebaga: Are you winning ne rra?

Fela: No. I think it's time you accept that you need to get a new one. We can't keep fixing this thing. Gape le gone apart from making froth, what else does it do?

Sebaga: Ao rra! Kana I bought that for one point

five.

Fela: One point what? I saw a hand one going for less than P100 ele gore what's special about this one?

Sebaga: That's a Nespresso babe.

Fela: Doesn't it do the same thing with the rest of the other milk frothers?

Sebaga: No.

Fela: Mme kana nna I don't know what to do.
Maybe you should get a new one.

Sebaga: Do what you always do when it doesn't work.

Fela: Even that's not working this time around.

Sebaga: Ok.

Felq: Where can I get one?

Sebaga: In Spar.

Fela: Ok.

He stood up and looked around for his car keys till he found them.

Fela: I'll see you in a bit. I'm going to buy you a new one.

Sebaga: Serious?

She asked smiling from ear to ear.

Fela: Yeah.

Sebaga: Thank you babe.

She jumped then wrapped her arms around him.

Fela: If I don't buy one then I will keep fixing till I

don't know.

Sebaga: And here I was thinking that you were being romantic.

Fela: (laughed) Same difference babes.

At Kgabiso's

Megan walked in with a box of pizza then greeted Cody as he played video games.

Megan: Here's some pizza. You can make yourself some tea or grab a soda in the fridge. Your mum is working till late. The kids are writing exams tomorrow so they are doing revisions.

Cody: Ok. Thanks.

Megan: I'll be in the bedroom.

Cody stood up and grabbed the box of pizza
then took out a slice.

Cody: So how was your day?

Megan: It was fine thanks.

Cody: You know that you don't have to run from
me right?

She kept quiet...

Cody: I'm sorry I crossed a line. I was
disrespectful.

Megan: I'm glad you know that because what
you did is very wrong. You basically harassed
me.

Cody: Ee mma. I'm really sorry. Can we start

over?

Megan: Sure.

Cody: Sit down. I'll go get you a plate and some soda. Would you like to watch a movie with me? Any movie of your choice.

Megan: Maybe start getting that plate then we will take it from there.

Cody: (Smiled) Ok.

He stood up and went into the kitchen.

At the Mall...

Arefa and her friend parked their trolley by the dairy fridge then got closer to pick a few things.

Rowena: Looks like there's no cream.

Arefa: Mme kana we can make our own sauce using flour and milk.

Rowena: Ahh friend mme it's not the same.

Meanwhile Fela walked to the dairy section with the phone on his ear.

Fela: Babe what cream I'm I getting again?

Sebaga: Whipped cream for my lattes. Make sure it's vanilla. You can use the spar brand.

Fela: Ok. Akere ware I can find it by the dairy section.

Sebaga: Emma.

Fela: Ok. Sharp.

He put his phone down then greeted the two ladies that had their backs against him. Arefa

immediately turned around as she recognized his voice.

Can we have the last 300 votes that are left.
That sponsors has been there for the whole weekend.

<https://africavotes.com/n/alepeo.tema.tinah>

Arefa: Dumelang.

He shamefully smiled then quickly picked the cream.

Fela: Hie.

Arefa: Ao, kante you're still in town? I thought that you and your wife were relocating.

Fela: We are. We just have a few things to sort out.

Arefa: Oh ok.

Fela: It was nice to see you. Go siame.

He walked away leaving the ladies standing by.

Rowena: So that's him?

Arefa: Yes.

Rowena: Wena go riana o raya snack yaana?
(you mean such an attractive man.) I honestly don't blame the wife. I would also get rid of my helper. Tsala kana you're young and beautiful. Now imagine that lady losing such a handsome husband to such a pretty girl like you.

Arefa: That old lady is crazy. You can't play with people's emotions like she played with mine.

Rowena: But try and understand where she's coming from. No one wants to lose such a handsome rich man.

She closed her eyes with her nose in the air.

Rowena: He even smells so expensive. Maybe you should take what happened as a blessing in disguise.

Arefa: What?

Rowena: I mean think about it. If you work for her then you're gonna have to respect her boundaries and play far from the husband because he's married to your boss lady.

Arefa: I'm not following.

Rowena: Now you're free. You don't owe her anything. Koore ke reela gore you're not obligated to ignore him. If he was to pursue you

then you're free to say yes to him.

Arefa: Pursue me how? That man is probably controlled by a remote control that I doubt that he would look my way because the wife seems mean and controlling.

Rowena: Such men are always easy to catch. Wena just throw him some cheese and you will see. That's how rats behave. That woman probably fired you because her husband can't hold himself. If you two were to meet somewhere without her then it would go down.

Arefa: I don't know.

Rowena: I saw the way that you looked at him. You like him.

Arefa: Are we done here?

Rowena: We will be if you just accept that you like him. No infact you want him.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga put her phone on loudspeaker and laughed as Pelo spoke on the other side of the line.

Pelo: And he's been following me around ever since mme kana nna I'm not doing anything ebile I don't have any plans to sleep around.

Sebaga: The problem is that when you step on the wrong side, you start suspecting everyone.

Pelo: Yeah. Let him sweat. This year I'm gonna fry him tthe mma. Laone is too old to be running around especially because we have adult kids. He needs to respect them and himself since nna I'm nothing in his eyes.

Sebaga: I don't know if he knows this but he's very lucky to have you. Nna kana I would have

long left him. I'm not strong enough to handle all this.

Pelo: Is it being strong or it's just fear of being alone and not valuing ourselves?

Sebaga: Whatever it is, you're strong.

Pelo: Yeah but gone are those days. One wrong move and I'm out. I don't know how I'll do it but I'm willing to start over even though I'm old as he says.

Sebaga: Ijaa, I think that's Fela's car. We will talk about the rest when we meet tomorrow.

Pelo: Sharp babes.

Sebaga: Sure.

She hung up...

At Kgabiso's

Megan downed her last glass of wine then laid back on the couch as she and Cody concentrated on the movie. Cody picked up the remote and went on Pornhu* then played one of his favorite videos.

Megan: And now?

He turned to her and kissed her. At that very moment everything in her soaked up and she was left helpless. For such a young, his kissing skills were exceptional...

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*Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#162

At Kgabiso's

Megan closed her eyes and sunk her teeth into her lower lip as Cody penetrated. For such a young man, he was handsomely blessed down there. He held both her legs up as she struggled to breath. With each stroke came through a different wave of pleasure that she had never experienced. She closed her eyes as tears rolled down and met by the cheek.

Meanwhile Kgabiso drove through the gate and parked her car infront of the house. She took out some take aways and reclined her car sit getting comfortable. She wasn't sure what kind

of therapy this was but sitting in her car after she got home always brought her some kind of peace. The smell of Nandos chicken gave her some kind of fulfillment no matter what was going wrong in her life.

Inside the house

Cody wiped his sweat with the back of his hand and continued thrusting from the behind as everything began to go in circles. He felt his heart stop for a minute from all the pleasure and every part of his became numb as Megan's moans got louder. Oh fuc! Watching her bounce off her butt like that made him weaker and weaker till he couldn't hold back anymore. They both moaned louder as they collectively rode on a wave of pleasure.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga sipped on her ice coffee and turned to her husband smiling as he shook his head.

Fela: I don't understand how one has coffee with ice. I mean isn't coffee meant to be a hot beverage?

Sebaga: It depends on how you look at it.

She licked off the extra whipped cream on her lips.

Fela: You will never guess who I bumped into at Spar.

Sebaga: Who?

Fela: Arefa.

Sebaga: Eish... And what did she say? Kana I told her that we were leaving the city.

Fela: Owaii, I could tell that she never believed that story but then again it is what it is.

Sebaga: Yeah. I feel bad about the whole thing but we did what we did for our own peace mo lapeng.

Fela: I know and I feel so bad for putting you in that position.

Sebaga: Re tla reng. (what can we say?) Let's let it go.

Fela: Anyways, don't forget dinner at Laone's tomorrow.

Sebaga: Ee rra. I'm going over there earlier to help Pelo prepare.

Fela: Nice. Do you need me to get you anything?

Sebaga: No. Since we're both gonna be out tomorrow, why don't we check with Kgabiso if

Cody would like to spend some time with his little brother, if not then we can drop him off at his grandma's.

Fela: Great idea.

He looked at the time then sighed...

Fela: It's already late. Let me call her tomorrow. Akere wa itsi hela gore if I can call her now, she will call whenever she wants then justify herself using this one time call.

At Kgabiso's

After enjoying her meal and such a peaceful time in her car. Kgabiso stepped out then stood by the door and knocked a couple of times.

After knocking a couple of times, she tried the

door which was not locked. She went into the living room then took off her shoes. Everything suddenly became numb as she heard weird sounds coming from her room.

Kgabiso: Uhu!

She slowly approached the room as her feet became heavy. There was no way that what she was thinking was true. Upon opening the door, her teenager son was ontop of her lover!

She moved back and shut her eyes then opened them again. This time her palpitations increased as she tried to open her mouth.

Kgabiso: Cody! Ke masepa a eng? (What kind of shit is this?)

Her airways blocked and everything became blur as she fell on the floor. Both Cody and Megan jumped out of fear breaking off their play time.

Cody: Mum!

He knelt on the ground screaming as Megan ran to the kitchen butt naked...

A few hours later...

Kgabiso sat up on the bed with reddish eyes as a memory of what she had seen a couple of hours back came. She burned with rage as the door opened and her son walked in.

Kgabiso: What do you want?

Cody: I came to check on you. Do you need anything?

Kgabiso: No.

Her throat closed up from all the pain she had been swallowing.

Cody: You didn't have to chase Megan like that.

Kgabiso: What? Are you in your right senses? That woman slept with you and you're telling me that I didn't have to chase her. Legone she basically raped you. I'm going to report her and make sure that she rots in jail.

This time she felt her heart beating in all the

wrong places.

Cody: Who sent you to jail when you raped dad?

Kgabiso: What?

Cody: You heard me mum.

A tear rolled down her cheeks and her feet suddenly became ice cold.

Cody: Megan and I did what we did because there was consent. That's something you clearly know nothing about. Our only crime here is that we went behind your back. And we all know that you're not worried about me, you're just mad that I had what you have every night.

Was this the devil coming after her after all

these years? This boy's words left her heart aching.

Bonus 2

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Once you finish reading, react so that the following insert follows. All inserts will be posted individually to avoid those on Facebook lite struggling

The Devil I Never Knew

#163

The following day...

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso sat up on her bed and sniffled as tears rolled down her cheeks. Her eyes were swollen and red from all the crying that she had done all night. Was Cody her karma? She had tried everything in her power to raise this boy right and be a good mother but nothing she did in his eyes was enough. She reached for some tissue on the bed pedestal then blew her nose before calling in sick at work. Each time she thought of the boy's words, her heart broke into little pieces that could never be mended.

At Paul's

Paul put his tea on the table and stood up to answer the knock on the door. Who could it be so early in the morning.

Paul: Who is it?

He asked while standing by the door...

Megan: Megs!

He unlocked then opened up.

Paul: Hey. Is everything ok? You're never this early.

She burst into tears and walked past him going inside the house.

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

He closed the door and followed her in.

Megan: I messed up big time. I don't know what the hell I'm gonna do if she reports me to the police.

Paul: Ok, slow down. Ware what's going on?

Megan: Kgabiso found me and Cody in bed and...

He clapped his hands feeling his head spin.

Paul: O sharp? I mean are you perfectly sane? How do you end up in bed with a sixteen year old? What the fuc! I hope that she reports you and you go to jail. Get the fuc out of my house.

He took her by the hand and dragged her out with so much rage. He became numb when he thought of the number of times that he had left

her with his daughter.

At Sebaga's

Fela stood behind his wife and admired her as she fixed her dress. The woman knew how to put a good outfit together yet still maintained some modesty.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too. O batla eng? (what do you want?)

Fela: Nothing.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: Waaka kana. (You're lying.)

Fela: I know that you have a trip coming up with Serge but I was hoping that you could keep it short so that we can go for a vacation.

Sebaga: Sefela doesn't close schools till next month mme kana.

Fela: It's not a family vacation. Gatwe what do youngsters call them? Baecation.

His wife laughed...

Sebqga: You're not even that old

Fela: I'm approaching fifty. If that's not old then tell me what is.

Sebaga: Your life is just starting and if you ask me, you're aging like fine wine.

He looked at her from head to toe and instantly

became horn*. He loved this woman and even after all these many years, she still made his blood boil.

Fela: Why don't you forget about that errand and come help me with a little itch I have done here.

He said taking off his pants.

Sebaga: (Chuckled) Say no more.

He unzipped her dress then helped her take it off.

At Kgabiso's

Cody stood by his mother's bedroom door and knocked a couple of times before letting himself in.

Kgabiso: I didn't ask you to come in.

Cody: I need transport money.

Kgabiso: Why don't you ask your sugar mummy seeing that she is the only person you respect. Don't tell me that you expect me to give you transport money after insulting me last night.

Cody: I didn't insult you. I merely told you the truth.

Kgabiso: Cody waitsi gore I'm going to tell your father everything.

Cody: Make sure that you also tell him that the same woman is your lover and you were screaming every night.

Kgabiso felt her heart stop for a minute and everything felt cold. Was her son a human being?

Cody: Mpha madi a palamang Kgabiso ke batla go ya skolong tlhe mma. (Kgabiso, give me transport money, I want to go to school.)

You could tell that Kgabiso regretted all her life decisions by just the way she looked at her son. What kind of child had she given birth to? Or was it the circumstances surrounding his birth that shaped him into this human being?

Kgabiso: Cody get out!

She said screaming and crying... This boy had hurt her so much and she didn't know if she would ever heal from such pain.

At Laone's

Laone watched his wife humming and dancing as she cleared the breakfast table. Whatever strategy his wife used to cheat was clearly good because she never failed to perform her wifely duties and neither did she change the way that she did them.

Laone: Can we talk?

Pelo: About what? Laone I need to get to the office.

Was this how broken his marriage was?

Laone: So I'm now Laone? Ne mma are you

that over this marriage?

Pelo: I don't know what you're talking about. Is it a crime to call you by your birth name? Isn't that the name your mother gave you?

Laone: I know that I've made some mistakes in the past. That's why kere can we talk.

Bonus 3

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React quickly to insert so we move on to the next one.

The Devil I Never Knew

#164

At Laone's

Pelo looked at her husband then chuckled. She could see and smell fear from everywhere as he spoke.

Pelo: Talk about what exactly? Nna tota I want someone that's specific about what they want to address. Don't just say let's talk without a clear direction of what we are going to talk about.

Laone: I can tell that you've given up on this marriage but I'm ready to fight for it.

Pelo: Gone mme if I may ask, where was that fighting spirit all these years when I asked you to fight for our marriage?

She put the plates down then pulled a chair to sit.

Pelo: You wanna know something?

Laone: Yeah.

Pelo: I'm over everything. I mean I woke up one day and decided that I was going to teach you a lesson that you would never forget. I mean one that would have you regretting everything and giving this marriage your all but you wanna know what I discovered along the way?

He quietly listened as she spoke. In their entire marriage life, Pelo barely spoke much and it was this sudden spirit of being vocal that left him shaking in his boots.

Pelo: I discovered that I didn't love myself enough so I ended up with you. Laone the red flags of how you would make such an awful husband were always there but I ignored them because I wanted marriage so bad. It was the

lack of love for myself that had me accepting your marriage proposal because I knew yet hoped that you would change.

He swallowed a lump and tears built up in his eyes. From just looking at her, he could tell that this woman was done.

Pelo: I thought that acting like this would get you to wake up and we would be stronger as a couple afterwards but this morning when I woke up, I realized that I was tired of this marriage and all the nonsense I've had to take. I don't wanna work on it nor fix it. I've just reached a point of no return. Yes, I'm old and maybe no other man will want me out there but does it matter? I've lived in this marriage for the past fourteen years as a single person so it's nothing new. I thought that I was afraid of being

alone till now. I've been alone all this entire time. You didn't realize it but you were teaching me to survive without you and now that I know how, I don't want this marriage anymore.

She stood up then took off her wedding ring and placed it on the table. Her husband remained mute as she left.

Later that day...

At Sebaga's house

Cody and Kgabiso stepped out of the car then stood by the gate as they waited for Sebaga to open. None of them had said anything to the other the whole way from home. A few minutes later, Sefela opened the gate and they both went

in.

Sefela: Hey bro.

Cody: Hey.

Sefela: Dumelang. (greetings)

Kgabiso: Hello boy.

He greeted his aunt.

Sefela: Wanna see my art project?

Cody: Sure man.

He turned to his mother.

Cody: Go sharp akere Kgabiso. (Bye Kgabiso)

He looked at his little brother and smiled.

Cody: Why don't you go inside and get that project all ready so I can come see it?

Sefela: (Smiled) Ok. Bye aunty.

He waved at Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: Sharp my boy.

Once he had left,Cody turned to his mother.

Cody: I hope you don't open your mouth about my private life because if you do that then I'll also sing like a canary about your dirty laundry and don't you for a second think that dad will let it go. We all know how he hates your guts so he

might take me away forever.

He kissed her cheek and smiled as he noticed Sebaga coming out of the house.

Cody: Bye mum.

Kgabiso: (forced smile) Bye.

Out of all the devils she had seen and been told about her entire life, this one was the only one that left her shaking in her boots. What kind of a child had she given birth to? A tear rolled down her eye each time she remembered that this was her son for life.

Sebaga: Are you okay?

Kgabiso: Yeah.

She forced a smile and wiped her tears.

Kgabiso: I think something got into my eye.

Seeing her sister and imagining how perfect her life must have been especially after everything she had put her through left her broken that she found herself crying out loud with her hands on-top of her head.

Kgabiso: Mme wee!

Her tears met by the cheeks with her mucus.

Sebaga: Come in and let me get you something to drink.

She ran off without saying a word.

Sebaga: What just happened?

Fela opened the door to check on his wife who had been outside for a while.

Fela: Is everything ok?

He watched as Kgabiso got into her car and sped off.

Sebaga: I have no idea rra. She just burst into tears ga ke santse kere I'll ask what the real problem is, she just ran.

Fela: Life is dealing with that one. Ga se mjolo

the pandemic?

Sebqga: (laughed) Babe that's mean.

Fela: (laughed) Then why are you laughing.

Sebqga: A reye rra. (let's go) We need to get ready for dinner.

Fela: That's canceled. Pelo took off and Laone doesn't know where she is.

Sebaga: What do you mean she took off?

Fela: She packed up her things and left him.

Sebaga: Wa bo oreng tota? I spoke to Pelo and she didn't say anything yesterday.

Felq: I also don't know where this is coming from but maybe she just snapped. I mean the poor woman has been going through a lot for years.

Sebaga: I don't know what to say. I'll give her a call and find out.

At Megan's

Kgabiso stood by the door and banged a couple of times before Megan opened up for her.

Megan: Hie. I..

A hot slap landed on her cheeks leaving them pinkish.

Megan: I'm really sorry that things went this far.
I know that I...

Another hot slap landed on her other cheek.

Kgabiso: Who the hell do you think you are? O tlo go nyela gompieno ngwanyana ke wena wa lekurukuru. (You're going to shit on your pants.) That is my teenage son you abused. I'm going to kill you.

Megan: I'm really sorry.

This time she felt her head spin as Kgabiso's fist landed on her nose. If she didn't run for her dear life, this woman was going to finish her off.

Bonus 4

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The Devil I Never Knew

#165

At the Police station

Megan held on tightly to her friend as Kgabiso walked into the room with a police officer. The woman had beat the hell out of her that just seeing her made her head spin.

Kgabiso: Dumelang... (Greetings)

She pulled a chair and sat down.

Officer: Dumela mme. (Greetings.) Can you tell us who you are.

Kgabiso: Rra? Aren't you the ones that called me here?

Officer: Re kopa maina ka botlalo. (We want

your names in full.)

She looked at Megan and laughed...

Kgabiso: Ke bitswa Kgabiso Gabanne.

Officer: Ee mma re go bileditse ka kwano ka mabaka a titeo ya mme fa. (We called you here for assaulting this lady.)

The police officer spoke maintaining eye contact with her.

Kgabiso: Ok. So before we move on, I want to know where one can report defilement and what the law says about people that do such.

Megan began to shake in her boots as Kgabiso

giggled.

Megan: Roy can I talk to you?

She stood up and signaled the officer outside.

Officer: Kindly excuse us. We will be back.

Kgabiso: Officer?

Officer: Mma?

Kgabiso: Make it quick. Looks like you will be very busy today.

Kgabiso laid back and relaxed on her chair as Megan and the officer went outside.

Officer: What is it? Don't tell me that you're

having second thoughts. All you have to do is give your statement and we will lock her up. This is very simple eбile all of these bruises you have are proof.

He took a good look at his friend and sighed.

Officer: Eish! She beat you up real good my friend. You would swear that you were fighting for more than just a man.

She swallowed then took his hand. She hadn't told him the whole truth but it was now or never.

Megan: Friend when I said that you should call her to the station, I didn't mean that I want to open a case against her or anything. I just wanted you to scare her and give her a warning

so she stays away from me.

Officer: Nare ware warning motho a ratile go go bolaya. (A warning? When she almost killed you.) Gape le gone what do you take my job for? My job is to protect the nation. I'm not here to play hide and seek.

Megan: I had a thing with her son. If I open a case against her, she won't be the only one getting locked up. Ene ebole it won't be that serious. Nna my whole life will be ruined.

Officer: How old is this son that you keep mentioning?

Megan: Sixteen.

Officer: Sixteen?

He said gripping tightly to her wrist.

Officer: Nare wa tsenwa? (Are you crazy?)

He took deep breaths digesting what his friend had just told him. This would surely ruin her life.

Officer: Ele gore nne go sena banna ne mma?
People like you make me sick! What the fuc
were you thinking? Do you have any idea what
you have done to that sixteen year old? I hope
that the mother reports you and we lock you up.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she trembled.

Megqn: Roy, how long have you known me for?
Do you think that I can sleep with a sixteen year
old in my sane mind? I don't know what
happened that night. It's like I was a totally
different person.

Roy: And what can a sixteen year old possibly

do to you that can make you act different? Watshameka. Re a go tlthatlhela. We are arresting you.

Megan: I don't know but something happened that night. I was having wine and...

Kgabiso approached them.

Kgabiso: I don't have all day officer.

Megan: Can we please talk. I know that you're still angry and I'm really sorry.

Kgabiso clapped her hands and laughed...

Kgabiso: Are you really sorry? Will your sorry return my son's innocence and his virginity. The mma I'm going to make sure that you rot in

prison.

She went on her knees and begged.

Kgabiso: You suddenly have the strength to beg me?

Megan: I don't know what happened that night but Cody did something to me.

Kgabiso clapped her hands and laughed...

Kgabiso: A sixteen year old?

Megan: Well it wouldn't be different from what you did to his father. Maybe that's where he drew inspiration from.

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Bonus5

The Devil I Never Knew

#166

Kgabiso looked at Megan and shook her heard. For a woman that had molested a teenager, she had too much pride and she wasn't about to let this go.

Kgabiso: Officer, can we go back inside and sort out our matters, I would like to also report my case. Up until now, I was willing to talk about this at home but I can tell that Megan is not ready to do that gape le gone she is prideful which leads me to believe that she did this on purpose.

Roy looked at his friend and all he could do was pity her. If only she knew what they did to pretty girls in jail then she wouldn't have said what she just did.

Officer: Ladies, let's go back inside so that we can finish with this matter. There are thousands of Batswana out there that genuinely need our help. This is why the police service is always accused of doing the bare minimum. It's because of people like you that waste the time of officers. A re yeng bo mma. I also think it's best you call a family member or friend to inform them about both your cases because I don't see any of you going home after this.

Megan tried to pull him to the side but he pulled back.

Officer: I'm sorry Mews. I have children and as a parent, I can never take your side. If she's reporting you then we're locking you up. Part of our job is protecting children at all costs.

He went back inside and left the two.

Megan: Please forgive me for what I just said. It was very wrong of me.

Kgabiso: Good because you're going to prison.

Megan: I understand that you're angry and as a parent, you're also hurting. The truth is that Cody started making moves on me right after you cited your suspicions but because I thought he was just being a kid, I let it go.

Kgabiso: (laughed) And you're conveniently telling me now when I'm about to send you to

prison? I mean if there was some truth in it then why didn't you tell me then? Ke raya gore if you were at all concerned about it?

Kgabiso: I didn't want to disappoint you. He's just a kid. I thought that he would see that he was wrong and we would move on.

Kgabiso: Yet you ended up in bed with him at my house, in my bed.

A tear rolled down her cheeks as she spoke.

Kgabiso: You know Megqn, I've done a lot of bad things in my past including everything that you've just accused me of. I hurt a lot of people but you wanna know something? I know that I'm a good mother. I've done everything that I can so that my child doesn't turn out like me even if it seems I've failed and he's rotten. That boy is my life no matter how he came about, I

will protect him with my last breath even if he doesn't regard me as his mother.

Megan wiped her tears and took a deep breath.

Megqn: I know that you think that I'm making fun of you and doing everything to get away with this but the truth is that I think Cody might have drugged me. I came home that night with take aways and asked him to have some if he was hungry as I was going to sleep. As I was to leave, he apologized and offered me a drink as some peace offering. I eventually agreed and we ended up watching a movie together which I was having wine the entire time. The same wine he had opened and brought.

Kgabiso: Yet you never said any of this.

She swallowed trying to wonder if her son was capable of such. She felt the mother of all chest pains as she thought of her little boy. Their conversation replayed over and over again in his mind. That boy had turned out exactly like her even though she had done everything in her power to prevent it.

Megan: I seriously think that Cody needs some help. If you're found guilty of assault and you go to prison, you will lose your job and that means that your boy will be lost without you. He might turn out to be even worse in the next year or even a couple of months. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to fix this and overlook being drugged if he did, please let's talk about this at home.

Kgabiso looked at her and clicked her tongue.

Kgabiso: For someone that's just spit nonsense and is afraid of prison. O makgakga mme o le boi. Tell your officer friend that we've resolved this. I'm going home to my son. He needs me.

She walked away then took out her phone calling Fela.

Fela: Hello.

Kgabiso: Hie. I was wondering if I could fetch Cody?

Fela: Is there a problem?

Kgabiso: I've been working quite a lot and we haven't been spending some time together so something tells me that he needs me.

Fela: Ummm ok. You can come through. Did you call to tell him? The last thing that I want is

to have me or my wife accused of throwing him out.

Kgabiso: I'll talk to him.

Fela: Emma.

Kgabiso: And by the way, thank you.

Fela: Mmq?

Kgabiso: For what? For not sending me to prison after what I did to you. There's a lot that I could have done to fix this but I didn't mme hela what I promise you is that our son won't turn into what I was. I will walk to hell and back before I let the devil take him away from us.

Fela: O sharp?

Kgabiso: Yeah. I just realized that I've been a bad mother of lately and the boy has had to mother himself while I ran with work.

Fela: Oh I see. Nnya you will be fine. Sharp.

He hung up and chuckled as his wife settled into bed.

Sebaga: And now?

Felq: Ahhh this one is going through midlife crises. Are she is on her way to pick up Cody. Kana ke one menopause? Maybe she's started out late.

Sebaga: (laughed) Don't joke like that. She looked really hurt. It's only that I don't wanna get involved and complicate my life mme hela I was really hurt seeing her like that. Be kind to her for once. She could be going through something deep.

Fela: You talk as if you don't know your sister. You give her some kindness and she will be measuring your mum's yard to see where the tent can go for our wedding celebration.

They both laughed...

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Bonus5

No bonus inserts owed. Kindly attend to sponsors of the day before we have our morning insert so we have plenty to read today 

The Devil I Never Knew

#167

A few days later...

Kgabiso walked into the living room with two plates of food. She gave one to her son then sat down with hers as he stared at it for a while.

Kgabiso: You can eat. It's safe. It's not like I'll poison you or anything.

Cody: Well I don't know that.

Kgabiso: You're my son and I love you. Believe it or not but it's been that way from the day I found out about you.

Cody: Because I was your meal ticket.

Kgabiso: Not just for that reason. You became a lot of things in my life and the reason why I wanted to turn my life around. I know that I have a past that follows me everywhere but son, that's not the life I want for you. I want you to be better. Please tell me how we can get to that. I'm not saying I have everything figured out as a parent. That's why I need you to help me navigate through this. Babe you're a child and you're at a stage where you should be enjoying that. You shouldn't be sleeping with older

women and allowing them to take a precious part of you that can never be returned. Help me help you son. Where I'm I going wrong as a mother?

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she spoke. This boy was all she had and she wasn't about to let him ruin his life.

Kgabiso: Babe we can't be going in circles like this forever. Something has to give.

Cody looked at his mother and for the first time, he saw a woman that loved him dearly.

Cody: Ee mma.

The two ate in silence as they both digested what was going on in their worlds.

At Fela's Office

Fela pushed back his files and concentrated on what his field manager was updating him about. With the two new tenders that they had just won, the work load had increased.

Fela: How far with hiring an assistant? Akere wa itsi gore yaanong di simolla go bowa. (It's about to get busier.)

Puso: I managed to find someone that has all the qualities that I'm looking for. She doesn't have any experience in the construction industry but she possesses all the kills we're looking for.

Fela: Oh ok. What did she study?

Puso: Tourism.

Fela: Nice. When does she start?

Puso: I asked her to start today. She's in my office sorting out our files as I speak.

Fela: Great.

Puso: I was hoping that you could meet her.

Fela: I only have twenty minutes before my next meeting. Where is she? Gape akere wa itsi gore Saturdays are for family.

Puso: (laughed) I know. Let me get her.

Fela: Ok.

Meanwhile in Puso's office Arefa pulled a chair by the side and climbed it to reach the files that had been put at the top cabinet.

Puso: The mma don't fall. Kana I would be in trouble.

He said as he walked in and closed the door behind him.

Arefa: (laughed) I won't.

Puso: Get down. The big boss wants to meet you. We can continue afterwards. I will help you with those. Don't worry.

Arefa: Ee rra.

She got down then fixed her uniform dress that seemed to hold all the curves in place. She had taken her time to get ready in the morning. Her scent was one that left another wanting to sit a little closer to her.

Puso: This way.

He said as she followed him to Fela's office.

At Serowe

Sebaga drove through the rusty gate of the Semme family as Serge took deep breaths. It had been over fifteen years since he had last seen his family and being here stirred up so many emotions in him. How would they receive him and what would be the outcome of this visit.

Sebaga: I'm right here with you babe. You're gonna be okay.

Serge: Do you think we made the right decision by coming.

She parked under the Pepere tree and held his hand.

Sebaga: Yes. You need answers.

He looked around the home that seemed deserted then sighed heavily. To think that this was where he had grown up.

Serge: It doesn't look like there's anyone here. Let's just leave.

An old man came out of the house and they both froze.

Sebaga: Do you know him?

He took a closer look then sighed.

Serge: Let's go and talk to him.

They both stepped out of the car.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#168

At Fela's Office

Fela stood up and to greet Arefa as Puso introduced them. Although he was shocked to

see her, he remained composed and collected.

Puso: So this is Arefa and she is going to be our assistant. Arefa this is Mr Molefe. Our Managing director.

Arefa: Nice to meet you sir.

She extended her hand to his and maintained a straight face as they shook hands.

Fela: Likewise Arefa. Feel free to let Puso know if you need anything or if there is anything that can be done to make your stay here easier.

Arefa: Ee rra.

Puso: Can she grab a few files from here so that we can consolidate everything.

Fela: Yeah sure. From what year?

Puso: Just this year's.

Fela: No problem.

He pointed at his file cabinet.

Fela: It's that way.

Arefa: Ee rra.

She headed there and opened up the drawers to get the files that had been labeled twenty twenty four.

Puso: Ok. I'm gonna head back to my office and continue with the rest of the other pending matters. Arefa, you can join me when you have everything.

Arefa: Ee rra.

He left the office as the duo ignored each other and went on about doing their work.

Arefa: I didn't know that you owned this company.

Fela: Small world hey.

Arefa: Indeed. So you guys came back?

Fela: Mma?

Arefa: Listen, I don't know what I did to your wife and why she fired me with no proper reasons but I need this job.

Fela: I don't know what you're talking about.

Arefa: It's clear to me that she lied about the reason why she had to let me go.

Fela: Listen, I understand that it must have been hard to have to start from scratch to find

another job but let's not get carried away here. I don't like what you're insinuating about my wife. I believe that she gave you reasons as to why we had to terminate our contract with you and ontop of that, she gave you a two months salary. You were not fired nor were you treated unfairly. Now is there anything else that you need?

Arefa: No.

Fela: Ok. Then I suggest that you get back to work. I have a meeting and I would like to lock up my office before I leave.

Arefa: Ee rra.

It was clearly going to take a while for this man to warm up to her. She quietly picked the files she needed then left when she was done.

At Laone's

Laone shamefully bowed his head as his father spoke. For a man that he deeply respected, it was hard to know that his dirty laundry was aired before him.

Rra Laone: I don't know what to say about my son. I'm deeply ashamed and embarrassed by his actions. It's also such a pity that I'm hearing this for the first time. I'm aware that our kids go through things privately these days as times have changed but I really wish that my daughter could have told me about all the trouble that she was facing because we would have never let her go through it alone. This boy has truly disappointed both me and his mother because as parents we have done our best to teach him how to be a responsible husband and father. I'm deeply sorry for all the pain you have had to go through my daughter.

He said turning to Pelo.

Rra Laone: At this point, I have nothing more to say and I want to say that I can't stop you from leaving this marriage. Tota botsadi setlhako se fisa morwadi. (The only person that feels pain more is the one that goes through it.) If Pelo says that she is divorcing her husband because of the pain that she's been through then who are we to dispute that.

Laone got up then went on his knees.

Laone: I know that I messed up and I haven't been loving you right but please give me a chance. I love you and I will do my best to be the man that you deserve. God and both our

families are my witness.

Pelo looked the other way with a straight face.

Pelo: Like I've already told you, I want nothing to do with this marriage. I'm truly done. The only reason why I called our parents here today was so they know my reasons for leaving. The time to mend what's broken is long past.

At Serowe

Tears rolled down Serge's cheeks as his father spat on him. Even after all these years, the old man was still bitter and angry.

Rra Serge: I told you that you're not my son. I

don't know what else you want from me. Do you think that I Khutsafalo could have fathered such a waste? You are a disgrace to God. What kind of a man turns himself into a woman?

Serge: I didn't ask to be this way. This is how God created me. Why can't you just accept me the way I am.

Rra Serge: Over my dead body.

He looked at Sebaga and shook his head.

Rra Serge: I wonder what your husband says to you about being around such dirty wicked people. You're lost young lady.

Sebaga: With all due respect sir, you're the one that's lost. You don't know what a good person you are missing out on. If you ask me, you're a bad father because you can't even take two

minutes of your time to talk to your son and find out what's happening in his life. It's actually sad that we drove all this way to see a person like you and it's sad that my friend was willing to fix things and take care of you.

Later that day

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The Devil I Never Knew

#169

Later that day...

At Serowe Hotel

Sebaga hugged her friend tightly then let go as he sniffed and wiped his tears. The pain of being rejected by his own flesh and blood hit harder this time. Knowing that his success and the amount of money he had changed nothing broke him.

Serge: I don't know why we came here. I've always known that these people don't want me. Why couldn't I just let it go?

Sebaga: You're only human and just like any other person, you just wanted closure. There's nothing wrong with that. They are the ones that should be beating themselves up not you. Go take a bath and let's go out.

At Fela's Office

Fela looked at the time then quickly walked to the parking lot. He was running late for his soccer date with Sefela. He unlocked his car and threw his backpack on the passenger sit. Just as he was about to get into his car, Arefa called him out.

Arefa: Boss, can I have a ride?

He turned around to face her.

Fela: Which direction are you headed?

Arefa: I'm going to the mall.

Fela: Oh ok. Unfortunately I'm not headed that way. Sorry about that. Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

He got into his car and drove off not giving her the opportunity to respond to him.

At Laone's

Laone watched his father and wife from inside the house through the curtains as they spoke by the drive way. His marriage was over and there was nothing that he could do about it.

Mma Laone: I don't know what to say to you. Waitsi gore Laone, you have really put us to shame. How do you let things get here? Didn't you say that you loved that poor girl?

He shamefully moved back and let go of the curtains feeling like the whole world was

against him.

Laone: I can understand your anger. I'm also very disappointed at myself and most of all I'm angry. Every night I pray and hope that she will come back.

His mother sighed and sat down.

Mma Laone: No son. Today I didn't see a woman that's willing to forgive. I saw a woman that's very angry and fed up. When a woman gets to that point of no return, there's nothing anyone can do or say to convince her. Accept that you lost her and find a way to co-parent with her in the most peaceful way possible.

Laone: Ee mma.

He turned around to hide his tears as they rolled down his cheeks.

Outside...

Rra Laone extended his hand to his daughter inlaw and squeezed it tightly before letting go.

Rra Laone: You tried my child. Being patient for that long is not a joke. We are behind you all the way.

Pelo: Thank you so much. I really wish that I had known this earlier on because then maybe I would have had the strength to share my marital problems with you and mama.

Rra Laone: It's okay my child. These things happen..

Pelo: Thank you so much. I will be leaving.

Rra Laone: Thank you my child.

He hugged her then went back inside the house as she got inside the car where her mother was waiting and drove off.

Mma Pelo: So you are telling me that it's over just like that? You're leaving all this? She said pointing behind at the compound as they drove out.

Pelo: My peace of mind and happiness comes before this compound. I can't stay where I don't have peace and I'm not respected.

Mma Pelo: Such things can easily be solved. My child, what man will want you at this age? Hare o tsohetse. (You have aged.)

Pelo: I'm not looking for a man. I'm looking for peace of mind. I will be fine, with or without a

man. Le gone like I've already said, I'm willing to start over should Laone decide to keep everything we have put together for the past years. Nna I'm not afraid of walking away with nothing but my clothes.

Mma Pelo: Heela ngwanyana ke wena! Are you listening to yourself? I'm against that one. You must get what's rightfully yours. Come rain or sunshine.

At Sebaga's

Fela put his phone on loudspeaker then sat by the bedside as he took off his shoes. He smiled from ear to ear as his wife teased him.

Fela: TIhe mma bowa wena..

Sebaga: Looks like we will be coming home

sooner than we planned.

Fela: It's not going well?

Sebaga: Yeah. Eishh. We will talk about it some other time. It just drains me.

Fela: I'm sorry babe. There's something that I need to tell you.

Sebaga: Is Sefela ok?

Fela: Yeah. This is not about him. It's about Arefa.

Sebaga: Don't tell me that she came past.

Fela: No. Puso hired her.

Sebaga: As what? His helper?

Fela: Our assistant at the office.

There was an awkward moment of silence as Fela waited on his wife to respond back.

Fela: Babe?

Sebaga: Yeah. I'm still here. I'm just shocked. I mean how?

Fela: I have no idea how she found out that we were hiring.

Sebaga: Maybe it's just a coincidence. Akere you posted that job a month ago.

Fela: Well I hope it's a coincidence because I somehow don't trust her.

Sebaga: So what are you gonna do about it?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#170

Fela picked up his phone and put it off loudspeaker then put it on his ear. From his wife's calm tone, it was almost impossible to pick out her mood towards what he had just told her.

Fela: I haven't thought of anything yet that's why I'm telling you this so that we can decide together.

Sebaga: Ok. Well I don't think that you should fire her. Like I've always said, having someone work for you in your home which is your personal space is quite different from having to work with them in a professional set up. Having her work for us was never gonna work out because what you told me would have somehow changed how I look at her and somehow stolen my peace because after all I'm only human. Yes at the time I got rid of her, I felt bad but it makes sense every single day on why

I had to. I don't have any expectation of you to terminate her contract. As your wife, I trust that you won't do anything to jeopardize what we've built.

Fela: Emma. I hear you and I appreciate the trust you have in me.

Sebaga: Let's talk tomorrow babe. I'm just exhausted emotionally. Seeing how Serge's father treated him triggered the anger I still have towards my mother. I mean I've lived all these years ignoring it but somehow it still hurts.

Fela: I'm sorry love.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso picked up the bible that her mother had gifted her with years ago then sighed as she

opened the first page. She didn't know where she had to start reading from. The pages were so many and whatever story they must have written in there must have been really long. She put it back on her bedside table and swallowed hard as she thought of her son. What did she have to do as a mother to make all this go away. Each time she closed her eyes, a picture of her sixteen year old boy ontop of a woman way older than him clouded her mind. Did she do right by letting it go? She got up and picked her gown then wore it as she slipped on her slippers.

Meanwhile in the other room Cody laid on his bed and fiddled with his phone as he struggled to sleep. It had been two days since he last took his dose and from the way things were going, he wouldn't be able to contain in this edge. He got up from his bed and opened his drawers

then pulled out a small pack of coke. A knock on his door brought everything to a standstill.

Kgabiso: Cody? Are you sleeping?

He kept quiet...

Kgabiso: We need to talk my boy.

Put the coke pack away then ran to his bed and laid down.

Cody: You can come in.

The door opened and he sat up running his eyes.

Kgabiso: I'm sorry. Did I wake you up?

Cody: Not really. I was just about to fall asleep.
Do you need anything?

Kgabiso: Yes. Can we talk?

Cody: About?

Kgabiso: About what happened between you and Megan. Son just because I haven't said anything about it of lately doesn't mean that it's all gone and forgotten.

Cody: Mum!

Kgabiso: Did you put something into her drink?

Cody: Something like what?

Kgabiso: Go to sleep and think about your answers carefully. Tomorrow morning I want proper answers. If we can't sort this out then we might have to involve your dad because nna you don't respect me. Goodnight.

She left the room.

The following day...

At Serowe

Serge looked at himself in the mirror and sighed heavily as Sebaga packed up his luggage.

Serge: So will I die alone. I mean with no family and no partner?

Sebaga: You're not alone. You have us as your family.

Serge: You know what I mean.

Sebaga: You tried your best. If they can not see that then that's on them. I know what it feels like to be rejected. Having your own flesh and

blood discard and disregard your feelings like they are not important. Go botlhoko mme hela botshelo bo a tswelela babe. (It's painful but life goes on babe.) Your next phase will be better. Even if it doesn't feel like it now. You need to believe it.

Serge: (forced smile) Yeah. And maybe I should go past before we go back home one last time just to tell them what I also think of them.

Sebaga: If that gives you closure then I support you a hundred percent.

At Fela's

Fela sighed heavily as he walked into the living room with a cup of coffee and handed it to his friend who seemed intoxicated.

Fela: Tsaya monna. I don't understand how you're drunk at this time of the day.

Laone: You will understand when your wife leaves you.

He burst into tears as he looked at his wedding band.

Fela: Do you see what I've been trying to tell you. What were you expecting when you decided to cheat on your wife year in and year out.

Laone: I didn't think that she would ever leave me.

Fela: Apart from her leaving you, you've destroyed everything that you've worked hard for all these years. And for what? Nwa kofi rra.
(Drink your coffee.)

Laone: Well I should have listened to you. I hope

you never find yourself in this position because it hurts so bad.

He said as tears rolled down his cheeks. This time he wasn't concerned about hiding them.

Laone: That woman took her time to leave but it feels like she did it at one go. All of a sudden, she goes out and dresses differently. Fela koore every time I think of another man touching and loving what I thought was mine for years, I just want to die. The monna don't cheat on your woman. That shit doesn't end well.

He stood up then picked up the remote and went in YouTube to search for music.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#171

(Repost, Facebook had deleted the insert)

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso kicked and gasped for air as Cody pinned her to the floor with his knees on her neck. It was after she had gone through his stuff and found a couple of suspicious pills when their fight erupted...

Cody: I told you to stay away from my stuff.

He said pressing hard till she had no strength to fight back. In his head, she was a little devil bothering him and she had to be dealt with.

Kgabiso: Iyooo!

Kgabiso jumped out of bed wiping off her sweat as she realized that it was just a dream. With everything that was happening around them, it was hard not to have such dreams. She sat down on the bed breathing heavily as her heart palpitated. What did such a dream mean? She stood up and went into her son's room then stood by the bedside and laid her hand on him as she prayed.

Kgabiso: Lord, thank you for preserving the life

of this young man. Thank you that he's my son and you watch over him.

She swallowed as tears built up in her eyes... If she didn't fight for the life of this boy then she would lose him. It was clear that he was on the wrong path and if she didn't make tough decisions then such dreams would come true. She walked out of the room with a sore heart.

At Fela's Office

Fela greeted the other staff members who were busy moving furniture around as he walked into the building in his shorts and muscle top. He quickly walked to his office with his backpack. With the newly awarded tenders, they had to put in some extra work and lucky for him, he had a team that was always willing to go an extra mile.

He unlocked his office and went in then began to go through his drawers. Sunday for him meant decluttering and boy was he good.

There was a knock on the door.

Fela: Yes. Come in.

Arefa walked in with some take-aways.

Arefa: Goodmorning.

Fela: Goodmorning Arefa. How can i help you this morning?

She put the take-aways on the table.

Arefa: Can I sit?

Fela: Ok.

He sat down to hear her out.

Arefa: I brought some breakfast as some peace offering. We started off on the wrong foot and I feel like since we're gonna work together I'm gone closely, we need to make peace.

He quietly listened to her as she spoke.

Naturally he was a good listener. Before responding back, he always took his time to comprehend so when he responded back, you knew that he was giving you answers coming from a place of understanding and not just responding.

Fela: Ok. I hear you but I have a question.

Arefa: Go for it.

He cleared his throat and sat up then maintained eye contact with her.

Fela: What makes you think that we started off the wrong foot and we need to make peace?

Arefa: I don't know but ever since we met, you've given me the cold shoulder that lead me to believe that you don't like me somehow or you were told not to like me.

He chuckled then shook his head.

Fela: Arefa?

Arefa: Rra...

Fela: When you say I might have been told not to like you, who are you referring to? I mean who would have told me not to like you?

She shied away from answering the question.

Fela: Ok first thing is first. Since there seems to be a bit of confusion here, let me clear a few things so that we can move with an understanding. Yeah?

Arefa: Ee rra.

He knew better than anyone that if he didn't put her in her place right away then he would end up fighting a losing battle.

Fela: First of all, you and I are not friends. We don't have to be cosy or too friendly with each

other. When my wife hired you, I was still your boss. Second of all, yes, we now work together but closely is where you got it all wrong because you're not my assistant, you're Puso's. That's why he hired you and not me. Once you understand those things then we should sail smoothly. We hired you and your contract was terminated fairly, don't make a habit of opening your mouth to talk about my wife as if she's some kind of devil especially when she did right by you. Are we clear?

She shamefully looked away.

Arefa: Crystal.

Fela: Good. And thank you so much for breakfast but I'm fasting today so you can give them to Puso. Enjoy the rest of your day.

She stood up and picked up her take-aways
from the table then left with her tail inbetween
her legs.

At Kgabiso's

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Bonus1

The Devil I Never Knew

#172

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso folded her arms and impatiently waited

for an answer from her son who didn't seem bothered by her question.

Kgabiso: I asked you if you put anything in Megan's drink. I need an answer.

Cody: Does that even matter now? Akere you said that it's all water under the bridge.

Kgabiso: This is your life we're talking about here so of-course it matters.

He yawned to show her that the conversation was boring him.

Cody: Yes I did.

Kgabiso: Ok. What was it?

Cody: Mum, does it matter? Shouldn't you know there's things as you've been here before?

Kgabiso: Heii! Watch your mouth. I will panel beat that face of yours. You think that you're now old and you can say whatever you want to disrespect me? I might have a past but I'm still your mother so you better count your words. I want the name of that pill you put in Megan's drink. You're lucky that I'm your mother and I have made mistakes so I understand otherwise I would have thrown your ass out of this house.

Cody: You can't do that because you're afraid of dad.

Kgabiso clicked her tongue as she looked at her son.

Kgabiso: Ke kile ka itlhasela ka go tshola ngwana o senang maitseo. (I made a grave mistake by having such a mannerless child.)
You keep talking about your father as if he's

some kind of god. Who told you that I'm afraid of him? Go and tell him and see if I care. You want to act untouchable in my house. Boy I will break all your front teeth so you have soup for the rest of your life. Get me that damm name.

This time she spoke with so much authority.

Cody: I don't know what it's called. I will ask my friend.

Kgabiso: Name of that friend?

Cody: Mma?

Kgabiso: Ware nywaa! I said what's the name of that friend?

Cody: Junior.

He said with so much fear. His mother's tone

had completely changed and there was no telling what she would do next.

At Serowe

Serge stepped out of the car and fixed his shirt then looked around the yard facing the morula tree which his family was seated under.

Sebaga: Are you sure that you wanna do this?

Serge: Yeah. I already know that they don't want me and I've accepted it so I have nothing to lose after all.

Sebaga: Okay.

She stayed by the car as he approached them with so much confidence. It was in the stride of

his walk that one saw bravery. His younger sister suddenly jumped in excitement as he approached but one sharp look from the father had her sitting down faster than lightning.

Rra Serge: What did I say to you about coming here?

He looked at his siblings and laughed...

Serge: Dumelang bathong. (greetings)

They all kept quiet. What could they possibly say? They all knew what defying their father meant.

Serge: It's sad to see that you're all still living

under your father's thumb but then who can blame you? The man is a lion.

No one said anything as his father stood up.

Rra Serge: Young man, don't test me. I will injure you and make you come back to your senses.

Serge: You know why you will remain poor till Jesus comes?

The old man swallowed.

Serge: You have closed your brain and you don't wanna think outside the box. Your desire for power has had all your children crowding here. None of them can succeed and build a better life because you've imprisoned them.

He looked at his siblings who seemed shocked that he was speaking to their father in that manner.

Serge: I came to thank you. For setting me free and never claiming me as yours because had you done that then I would just be another village boy who doesn't know the doors to a lecture room. Who knows maybe I would not even know what getting into a plane to travel is.

Rra Serge: Weak boy! Leave my yard!

He got angry and went into his mud house. Who knew what it was for! But for whatever reason Serge seemed unbothered.

Serge: Goodluck.

His little sister ran to him.

Kagiso: Help me. I don't want to stay here.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she held onto him. Not only could he see fear in her eyes but he could also smell it.

He took out his business card and secretly gave it to her as he pretended to embrace her.

Rra Serge: What did I tell you?

He came out with a machete.

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Bonus2

The Devil I Never Knew

#173

Later that day...

At Fela's office

Fela pushed back his files and laid back on his chair as he took a deep breath. It has been such a long day and he was exhausted. The thought of going back home to an empty house drove him insane as his son had gone to spend some time with his grandmother. There was a knock on the door that had him quickly sitting up straight.

Sebaga: Surprise!

She said as she walked in wearing a maxi dress that he so much loved.

Fela: Ahh ahhh. You're back?

He said getting up to embrace his wife

Sebaga. And I'm back. I didn't call to say we were leaving because I wanted to surprise you. How's it going? You look tired.

Fela: You can say that again. It's been a mad day from hell. My back hurts so bad.

She placed her bag on the chair and went

around the table then stood behind him. She began to give him a rub on his shoulders.

Fela: Uhhh. That feels so good.

Sebaga: Let's go home. I'll give you a proper massage.

Fela: Where's Serge?

Sebaga: He dropped me off and went out for drinks with a friend.

Fela: How's he doing?

Sebaga: He's hurting but you know Serge. He's handling it like a big boy.

Fela: Yeah. I can only imagine. So when's he back?

Sebaga: He's not back until tomorrow.

Fela: And Sefela as well.

He said grinning...

Sebaga: You sound like a man with a plan.

Fela: Oh yes.

She let go of him then went back to the other side.

Sebaga: I hope those plans don't include anything that's gonna mess up with my energy. I'm exhausted. I drove the entire way from Serowe.

Fela: Not at all. If anything, what I'm about to do should give you energy.

He stood up then followed her around the table.

Sebqga: (laughed) Nnyaa rra ke a gana.

He wrapped his arms around her then kissed her deeply. If there was one thing his wife loved was how he would kiss her like the world was coming to an end. She broke the kiss breathing heavily.

Sebaga: Let's go home.

Fela: Not just yet.

He picked her up then carried her to the couch where he gently laid her then lifted up her dress leaving her exposed.

Fela: You should have taken off that panty in the car because I'm gonna rip it apart.

She bit her lower lip instantly becoming horn*
as she looked into his eyes. To this man,
making love was an art he took seriously.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: Me too.

He dropped his shorts then went on his knees.

Sebaga: You don't wanna go home?

Fela: Ng ng. And you're gonna comply. Akere?

Sebaga: Ee rra.

Fela: Good. I like the sound of that.

He slowly pulled down her panty then quietly looked at her cookie jar as he sinked his teeth in his lower lip. If there was one thing that always turned him on, was how his wife always kept his garden clean.

Fela: I don't wanna make love to you.

She kept quiet as his face changed... He had a look that told a deep dark story of what he was about to do to her. She knew she wouldn't be able to walk properly the next day so she closed her eyes and braced herself. Before she knew it, he had managed to bury his head between her legs eating h.. out like he would not live to see the next day.

Sebaga: Uhh...

She opened her legs wider and bit her lower lip enjoying every moment. Even after all these years it didn't get old. He was always ontop of his game. It's like he introduced something new everytime he went down on her.

She swallowed as tears rolled down her eyes. She loved this man so deep and she didn't want whatever they had to ever end. She gasped for air as he helped her stand then made her sit on the floor facing the chair. His time his hands gripped to her waist as he slowly penetrated then pulled out.

Sebaga: Mmm....

He teased her a couple of times before

penetrating again and taking it slow... Oh God! Oh God! It felt so good. She began to bounce off her round behind against him as he hit all the right spots.

At Megan's

Kgabiso parked her car in front of the house and stepped out. She took deep breaths and swallowed. The last time she saw Megan, things didn't end well but she was a mother after all. If Megan's side of the story would help in her son's road to redemption then she would do this over and over.

At Fela's office

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Bonus 3

Goodmorning

The Devil I Never Knew

#174

At Fela's Office

Sebaga blocked her mouth with her hand as her husband lifted her up and carried her to the table. The man never cooked his meal on a one burner. If there was one thing he would do so perfectly and effortlessly was change the burners.

In Puso's Office

Arefa looked at the time and sighed desperately wondering if they would be done in time.

Puso: It's not even been a week yet and you're already looking at the time.

They both laughed...

Puso: But at-least I did warn you that we would be busy even on weekends.

Arefa: That's true. It's just that I had a date and...

Puso: Oh sorry man. If he is serious about you then he'll wait trust me.

Arefa: She.

Puso: Ohh so you play for the other team.

Arefa: (laughed) No. It's a date with a friend. We're going out to celebrate me getting a job kana legale it's still too early to celebrate?

Puso: No. Absolutely not. Go ahead and celebrate. You're doing really well so yeah.

She pushed back the file she had been working on and frustratedly rubbed her head looking at Puso. She knew his type. The type that didn't hold back on anything and spoke anyhow with anyone. She had taken her time to study him even though it had been just a few days.

Arefa: I'm not so sure about that. The truth is that I fear for my job. I fear that I might get fired anytime from now.

Puso: Is there something I'm missing. Get fired why? And by who because I'm telling you that I'm happy with your work.

Arefa: I don't know where to start and how to put it but this is not my first encounter with the big boss.

Puso narrowed his eyes patiently waiting for the tea. He always had doubts about Fela. No man could be that clean.

Puso: You had a thing with him?

He chuckled waiting for more tea.

Arefa: No. His wife hired me as the family helper but she fired me a few days later.

Puso: What was the reason?

Arefa: I also don't know but I have reason to believe that she thought I wanted her man or

her man wanted me.

Puso: Mma Molefe? Nah. That woman is not scared by anybody. We've had slay queens work for us through the years and she seemed unbothered.

Arefa: Maybe then but now things seem to have changed because even the husband wasn't comfortable with just greeting me. Who knows, she might ask him to fire me.

Puso: No, I doubt it. You have the wrong lady. That woman has never gotten involved in the running of her husband's business or even shown that she has an interest. Some say that the two are married out of community of property but whatever it is. The woman minds her business.

Arefa: You sound like a fan.

Puso: I'm not. I just truly respect her and their marriage. Nna ebile I thought that you would

say that you had a thing with the big boss. I personally feel like you're just worried for nothing. Maybe you were not what they were looking for at home. I doubt we will have any problem here.

At Megan's

Megan quietly listened to Kgabiso as she spoke even though deep down she was fuming. Finally hearing that Kgabiso's son had admitted to spiking her drink brought her some kind of relief.

Megan: So how would you like me to help you?

Kgabiso: I know that this is too much to ask but that boy needs to be taught a lesson because if he doesn't learn one then will do this to the next person. I've honestly tried everything in my

power to help him to be a better person but nothing I do works so I'm willing to listen to suggestions.

Megan: Ok. Then let's send him to prison.

Kgabiso: What?

Megan: Yeah. It's the only way he will learn. Just one night in a jail cell and he might start respecting the law. What your son did is very wrong and if he had done this to someone hell bent on getting justice then that's where he would be. Kids like Cody don't learn through listening. You need to shake their worlds a bit to get them to listen.

Kgabiso: I understand your anger but what good will sending him there do? Won't it just harden him? I've seen people that have gone in and out of prisons so many times commit crime like it's nothing more over like it's a sport. Won't we just be teaching him that being in a cell means

nothing?

At Serowe

At Rra Serge's

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The Devil I Never Knew

#175

Serowe, Botswana

At Rra Serge's

Kagiso sat on a rock outside the mud house as

she washed the dishes. The old man had been out the entire day and for once, they didn't have anyone breathing down their necks with commands.

Tlhompho: Finish doing those so that we can get started on the pots. If Hittler gets here before the food is ready then we are all gonna be in trouble.

Kagiso: Kante why can't we just leave. Nna I'm tired of all the abuse. I mean why are we still here still here?

Tlhompho: Where will we go?

Kagiso: I don't know. To our brother's house.

Tlhompho: All six of us? You're surely day dreaming if you think that Serge can take all of us in.

Kagiso: Well he can afford to.

Tlhompho: Can he? Or he is just claiming just to prove a point. Nna I heard that most of these gay guys that live in Gaborone are struggling. They only fake their lifestyles.

Kagiso: Then you haven't taken your time to read about your brother. Serge is one of the best lawyers in the country. I bet if we were to report this man for all that he's done to us then Serge could help us out.

Tlhompho: Finish washing the dishes. I don't think I like what you're saying because it might get all of us into trouble.

Kagiso waited till her elder sister had left then took out Serge's business card and looked through the numbers to memorize them incase anything happened to the card.

At Fela's Office

Sebaga and Fela walked out of the office hand in hand giggling like teenagers. Theirs was a love story that had to be written in the book of books.

Fela: What would you like to eat tonight?

Sebaga: You're cooking?

Fela: Of course. You're gonna need all the energy you can get. I ain't done with you ma'am.

He said winking at her...

Sebaga: Well I am here for all of it.

Puso and Arefa walked from their office together as they made small talk. The sight of

Sebaga and her husband walking as if they owned the entire planet somehow rubbed some the wrong way.

Puso: Big Boss.

They all slowed down to greet each other.

Puso: First lady.

Sebaga extended her hand to his.

Sebaga: Mr P. Long time.

Puso: Indeed. It's always a pleasure to see you.

Arefa: Dumelang. (greetings)

She greeted with her head bowed.

Sebaga: Hie Arefa. Congratulations on your new job.

Arefa: Thank you.

She said smiling.

Fela: All done?

Puso: For the day. Tomorrow is another day.

Fela: Great stuff. We are off.

Sebaga: Enjoy the rest of your evening.

They walked off to the parking lot as if they were walking on the sun.

Puso: Do you see what I mean? That woman can never get you fired. She didn't even seem bothered by the fact that you work here.

Arefa: Ahh... We will have to wait and see. It's too early.

At Megan's

Megan put the phone down then rolled her eyes as Kgabiso impatiently waited for answers.

Megan: I don't even understand why I'm helping you when you and your kid almost ruined my life.

Kgabiso: I've already apologized for that. I understand that you're...

Megqn: Save that speech for someone that cares to listen to you. I've spoken to my friend and he will do it.

Kgabiso: How? Do we take him down to the station and hand him over?

Megqn: Ofcourse not. They will come home and arrest him to make it seem more real.

Kgabiso: When? Are you gonna be there?

Megan: No. I prefer to stay out of your shenanigans with your son. I almost lost my entire life over this so please leave me out of it. I've sent you the guy's number so that you can talk to him directly. Please don't call or come to my place. I want nothing to do with you.

Kgabiso: Can I ask you a question?

Megan: What?

Kgabiso: Did you really care about me or all of this was just a game to you?

Megqn: Please leave.

Paul was right, whatever Kgabiso touched or

came into contact with was left deformed.

A few days later...

At Sebaga's

Serge stood by the coffee station and repacked Sebaga's coffees as she made breakfast.

Serge: Thank you so much for letting me stay here while I looked for a place of my own. I'm so sad that we won't get to do this every morning.

Sebaga: It's been a pleasure babes. We loved having you here. I'm glad that you've decided to settle here. I was a bit worried that you would be off jet setting again.

Serge: Not when you need my help to set up this law firm babes.

She turned off the stove then took his hand and lead him to the living room.

Serge: Is everything in place?

Sebaga: Yeah. Let's sit.

Serge: You're scaring me by sounding all serious.

Sebaga: (laughed) Well it is serious.

Serge: Okay.

He held his breath hoping that it wasn't any more bad news.

Sebaga: I would like us to become partners in

the new firm.

Serge: Partners as in?

Sebaga: Co-own the firm together. Go fifty fifty.

His eyes widened as Seba smiled waiting for an answer.

Serge: I don't know what to say.

Sebaga: Say yes. I mean what do you have to lose?

Serge: Yes!

They both laughed and hugged each other.

Serge's phone rang cutting short their moment. He looked at the caller identity then immediately took the call.

Serge: Hello.

Kagiso: Hie.

Serge: Hey. Who's this?

Kagiso: It's Kagiso. Please help me. Get me out of here. Papa is a...

The call was suddenly cut...

At Serowe

Kagiso quickly erased her brother's numbers from the dialed numbers then put down her father's phone as she heard him approaching

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The Devil I Never Knew

#176

At Sereowe

Kagiso quickly erased her brother's number from the dialed numbers then put down her father's phone as she heard him approaching. She stood up and began to pick the dirty laundry from the floor. The door opened and she suddenly froze.

Rra Serge: And now? What's going on here? What's taking you so long? What exactly is difficult about getting dirty laundry?

Kagiso: I was folding the clean laundry.

Rra Serge: That's the problem with you kids. When someone sends you, you choose to do what your heart desires instead of what you were sent to do. How long has that clean laundry been there? Why didn't you fold it on your spare time. Get that dirty laundry and wash it. I'm going to the farm tomorrow and I need those clothes.

She bent down to grab the laundry exposing her butt as her dress lifted. The old man looked at her and salivated. She was still fresh and everything about her reminded him of his late wife.

Rra Serge: Kagiso?

Kagiso: Rra?

Rra Serge: I hope that you're not letting small boys into my territory out there.

Tears built up in her eyes and she prayed hard deep within hoping that he wouldn't have his way with her.

Rra Serge: Make sure that you come and sleep here tonight.

She kept quiet pretending not to have heard a thing.

Rra Serge: Do you hear me?

He moved closer and held her by the neck as she bent making it very difficult for her to breath.

Kagiso: Ee rra.

A tear rolled down her cheeks but she wiped it off quickly as she knew how he felt about her crying.

Rra Serge: Good.

His phone rang and Kagiso's heart suddenly became stuck in her throat. This is one thing the old man would not forgive. She was going to pay through her nose and maybe even end up as a prisoner that never got to see the outside world.

Rra Serge: Hello.

At Sebaga's

Serge kept quiet then hung up as he heard his father's voice. One could tell that he was scared as he began to shake.

Sebaga: Babes? O sharp?

Serge: I need to get my little sister out of that place. There is something going on there.

Sebaga: Was that her again?

Serge: No. It was my dad. She must have stolen his phone because when I called back, he's the one that answered.

Sebaga: Don't you have his number?

Serge: I think he changed numbers because I kept pestering him. She must have stolen his phone to call him.

Sebaga: Eish! How do we now help her if he's always around.

Serge: I don't know but I need to find a way. Everything about that man screams abuse and all I saw in my sister's eyes was fear. Everyone is clearly scared of him. I mean if adults can stay with a man as rotten as that one then it means that there's a problem in that yard.

Sebaga: What do you have in mind?

Serge: I'll reach out to one of my contacts in Serowe and if they can't help out then I'll have to go down there myself. I don't know what she's going through but I have to help her.

He said taking deep breaths. That old man was the devil himself and he knew it.

At Aunty's house

Arefa took off her uniform and laid on the bed to relax as her aunt walked in with a plate of food for her.

Aunty: You must be hungry. I made some samp and beans.

Arefa: Thank you aunty. Heish golo kwa goa berekwa. (We work so hard there.)

Aunty: Keep putting in the work my girl. That's how you win over the bosses and secure your place in a company. Hard work and nothing else.

Arefa: Well that's if Sebaga doesn't ask her husband to get rid of me.

Her aunt put the plate on the plastic chair besides her niece's bed then sat on the other bed.

Aunty: I thought that we had this conversation yesterday and you agreed to let it go.

Arefa: It's not easy to let go when you were fired without any real reason. Wena aunty you defend that woman only because she built you a house and buys you groceries. Deep down you know that she was wrong.

Aunty: If Sebaga had fired you in the middle of the night without any pay or even failed to compensate you somehow then I would have turned everything upside down to defend you but she didn't. Yaanong you're busy attacking someone that gave you money you didn't even deserve. As sad as this sounds, people have the right to decide who they want in their households.

Arefa kept quiet...

Aunty: And if you think that you want to go after her husband then let me warn you my child, you're going to be embarrassed. That one knows what he has to lose so he's not about to gamble with his family.

Arefa: Who said anything about me wanting him?

Aunty: Everything about your behavior says you do.

Arefa: I don't know what you're talking about. That man is old enough to be my father. I'm not interested in him.

Aunty: Good. Keep it that way because I'm not going to be here to comfort you when everything goes wrong. A married man is a no go area. You've got a job. Stop hating on his wife and campaigning against her. At the rate at which you're going, one would swear that the man promised to marry you. If anything goes

wrong on this road you're on then just know
that I won't be coming to your rescue because
you're the one that choose to do this. Kante
what exactly do you learn from these churches
of yours? Did you remain a virgin to ruin other
people's homes?

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As soon as you have read this insert, react
quickly. The next one follows, let's go!

The Devil I Never Knew

#177

Two days later

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood up and went into her room as her phone rang. She had been waiting for this call all day and now that it had finally come through , she began to question if she was doing the right thing as a mother.

Kgabiso: Hello.

Officer: We're on our way to your house. Is the boy home?

Kgabiso: Yes.

Officer: Ok. See you in five minutes.

She hung up then went back into the living room where her son was busy with his PlayStation controller.

Kgabiso: Have you cleaned your room yet?

Cody: No. I'm still busy with this.

She ignored him and sat down.

At Pelo's house

Laone stood behind Pelo as she packed the last bit of her clothes in the suitcase. The two had not seen each other in quite a while and just being around each other felt a bit uncomfortable.

Laone: Can we talk?

Pelo: There's nothing to talk about Laone. I already told you that nothing you say can

convince me to stay with you. We're done and that's that.

Laone: So you're gonna give up on our marriage just like that and throw away everything we've worked so hard for?

Pelo: I didn't do any of that. You did all that on your own.

Laone: And I wanna fix things.

Pelo: Well you're twelve years too late. I mean how exactly do you wanna fix things now after all the mess you've made? Why couldn't you just listen to me all those many years ago?

Laone you had some support from family including from friends like Fela. Why couldn't you just be like him and put your family first? You would think that you would somehow copy him and be faithful.

Being compared to another man like that

crushed his ego.

Laone: So you think that Fela is perfect or his marriage is? No marriage is perfect. It's only that people never talk about their problems.

Pelo: Well his marriage may not be perfect but at-least he respects his wife and doesn't cheat on her with every skirt that passes by including the house helpers.

Laone sat on the bed and chuckled...

Laone: Are we talking about the same guy that found his helper more attractive than his wife? The same guy that hired the same helper after his wife fired him? If you're gonna insult me then rather use a better example.

Pelo kept quiet till she finished packing the rest of her stuff.

Pelo: Well goodluck with everything. Now you can sleep around as much as you want. You've got nothing stopping you after all.

She got up from the floor and pulled up her suitcase then left.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso stood back as tears built up in her eyes watching two police officers dragging her son out of the house after handcuffing him. She followed them out as they threw him like a sack of potatoes in the back of a police van.

Cody: Mama!

He shouted crying out to his mother for help.

Cody: Please help me.

Tears rolled down her eyes but she wiped them then went back into the house. If she wanted to save this boy from himself then she had to make some tough decisions.

At Serowe, Botswana

Kagiso walked in through the gate of her neighbor barefoot while they sat under the Morula tree.

Lady: Waitsi gore that little girl breaks my heart. I have no idea why God gives children to those that don't deserve them. Kana their father is an animal.

Man: You don't know that. I told you that you should never judge a book by its cover. What if those kids did something to him to turn him into the man that he is?

Lady: Typical of a man to shift blame. That man is wrong and that's that. I'm going to help that little girl and there's nothing anyone can do about it.

Man: If you still want me to send my uncles to your house then you need to start behaving like a wife and stay away from matters that don't concern you.

Lady: If your marriage proposal comes with me being cruel then you can tell your uncle to donate those cows or sell them. I'm a mother

so this one I'm going to get involved in whether you like it or not. If you start behaving...

She kept quiet as Kagiso walked in and greeted.

Lady: Hello my child. Are you well? Come in and let's go and have something to drink.

Man: Don't you have a home? Why are you roaming around people's yards?

Lady: Heiii! Don't even think about it.

She took Kagiso's hand and lead her to the other one room she used as a kitchen.

Lady: I'm so glad that you're here. Your brother called. He's on his way to Serowe. He should be here in the next hour or so.

Kagiso pressed her lips together fighting back her tears. Knowing that a total stranger had come through for her while the rest of her family had failed her warmed up her heart.

Kagiso: Thank you so much.

She said as she broke down and cried.

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The next insert follows at 13:00hrs. Once you finish reading attend sponsors from yesterday.

The Devil I Never Knew

#178

At the Police Station

Kgabiso sat by the plastic chairs outside waiting for the officer that had just taken her son in. She looked at the time and breathed heavily getting nervous. This was taking way too long. She licked her lips then took out her phone to call Megan.

Megan: Hello.

Kgabiso: Tlhe mma can you call your friend. I've been waiting outside the police station for close to an hour now.

Megan: Why would you be waiting for a criminal?

Kgabiso: What?

Megan: He raped me! And now he will pay.

She hung up leaving Kgabiso breathing through the straws. How had she not seen this coming?

Had she willingly sacrificed her son?

At Sebaga's

Sebaga and Pelo hugged then walked to the house as they made small talk.

Sebaga: I'm so glad to see that you're okay. I've been so worried about you.

Pelo: I'm sorry that I wasn't taking your calls. I honestly just wanted to be alone in order to process all this hell I'm going through.

Sebaga: And how do you feel?

Pelo: I don't know my friend. At first it felt and sounded easy but now that I'm actually doing something about it, it's so hard. I'm walking away from my home, my marriage and a man I've loved all these years. It hurts.

Sebaga: I know and understand you very well babes. Coffee? Tea?

Pelo: What's with you and hot beverages these days? Do you have anything cold?

Sebaga: (laughed) I don't know. It must be old age. Let me get you a glass of juice.

Pelo: You don't have anything stronger? I was at the house earlier on and that bastard made sure to push all my buttons.

Sebaga: Let me get us some wine.

Pelo: Now that sounds better.

They both laughed as Sebaga went into the kitchen. Pelo looked around the house and forced a smile as her eyes fell on the wedding portraits by the wall. If only her friend knew what her husband was up to. What exactly was wrong with men? This one felt a bit too

personal for her. She had admired and respected Sebaga and Fela's marriage. Knowing that Fela wasn't any different left her swallowing lumps a couple of times.

Serowe, Botswana

Serge stepped out of his car and went into the yard that his sister was waiting for him at. With each step he took came some sort of relief and a feeling of victory. Although he couldn't rescue all his siblings at once, he knew that this was a step closer to rescuing the others. He knocked on the door and the lady that he had been communicating with immediately got the door.

Lady: Hie.

Serge: Hello. I'm Serge. We've been speaking

over the phone.

Lady: (Smiled) I know you. You used to steal my oranges when you were just a little boy.

They both laughed...

Serge: Is my little sister here?

Lady: Yes. She is inside sleeping.

Serge: I don't know how to thank you.

Last: You don't have to thank me son. Just take care of her. She's been through a lot. I'll go inside and wake her up.

At Sebaga's

Pelo sipped on her wine then laid back comfortably as she observed her friend and

looked out for anything that indicated that she was not happy.

Pelo: Are you happy?

Sebaga: Hmm?

Pelo: I mean are you happy in this marriage?

Sebaga: (Smiled) Ofcourse I am. You know that if I wasn't then you would know.

Pelo: Yeah. I don't mean to overstep but I heard something that left me feeling a bit worried.

Sebqga: What is it?

Pelo: Please don't take this the wrong way. I'm only telling you this out of concern, if it's sorted then there's no problem.

Sebaga: Ok friend. What is it?

Pelo: Apparently Fela found your helper attractive who you later got rid of yet he still

hired her at his company.

Sebaga looked at her friend and smiled...

Sebaga: You have nothing to worry about. Fela and I spoke about all that. I'm aware of everything that's happening because he was honest with me from the very beginning. That helper does not scare me and neither do I feel threatened by her being employed at Fela's office because if at all my husband loves me then he will do right by me. Let me guess, Laone told you all that?

Pelo: Yeah. Under normal circumstances I would have kept quiet but I honestly don't want you to go through the hell I'm going through. If you two are fine then I'm glad things are good.

Sebaga: Thank you for making an effort to check if I'm happy and I'm well.

Pelo: Anytime babes.

At the Police station

After making several answered calls to Fela without any answer, Kgabiso finally gave up and went inside the station. It was now getting dark and she needed to know how her son was doing.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#179

At the Police Station

Megan walked through the station and took off her shades as she approached Kgabiso. Finally seeing this woman at her mercy brought her some kind of pleasure even though it didn't erase the pain and embarrassment she had put her through when she beat her up.

Megan: You're still here?

Kgabiso: So you decided to lock up my son?

Megan: Your son is a rapist that spikes other people's drinks so that he can have his way with them.

Kgabiso: We had an agreement.

Megan: You had an expectation that would only benefit your son.

People stared at them as they argued...

Officer: Can you ladies go and argue outside.
We're trying to work here.

They followed each other outside as all eyes
were on them.

Kgabiso: I've already apologized on behalf of
my son and I truly want him to take
responsibility for his actions but you and I both
know that this is not the way and it won't work. I
thought you understood me when I reached out
for help from you.

Megan: Do you really understand how serious
this is?

Kgabiso: Yes.

She said desperately.

Megan: I didn't press any charges but they are keeping him overnight.

Kgabiso: Can't you ask your friend to release him? He has learnt his lesson.

Megan: Just a few hours later and you're already complaining?

Kgabiso: They were so rough with him. I'm sure that he will never repeat it again.

Megan: Are you? What if he spikes a teenager this time around? Can you erase that trauma and give back that child her innocence if he does? You were right to want to do this. Let it run its course and stop being a cry baby. The boy needs the lesson. I hope you've learnt yours.

At Serowe

Serge wrapped his arms around his sister and held on tightly to her as she cried. The poor thing was shaken and he could tell that she wasn't comfortable.

Serge: Are you okay?

Kagiso: If he finds me then he is going to chop off my head with a knife.

Serge: He won't get to you. I'll make sure of that.

He turned to the lady that had just rescued his sister then extended his hand to hers.

Serge: Thank you so much for all your help. I truly appreciate it.

Gladys: I'm aunty Gladys, do you still remember me? You used to come around my house with your mum.

He held in his tears and smiled gratefully at the woman. Although he didn't remember much about her, he remembered the bits and pieces from his childhood.

Serge: Thank you so much. I don't know how to thank you. I'm taking her with me to Gaborone but we will be back.

Gladys: Ok. Take care of each other.

She and Kagiso hugged before they left.

Gladys: Take good care of yourself my baby. Don't forget to call and let me know that you've arrived.

Kagiso: Ee mma. Thank you so much for everything

Gladys: Don't thank me. You're like a daughter to me and it's my respectability to take care of you.

At Sebaga's

After dinner, Fela stood up to help his wife clear the table while his son went into his bedroom to study.

Sebaga: Thanks for helping him out love.

Fela: No worries. Let the boy study. Speaking of which I missed a couple of calls from Kgabiso but when I finally returned them, she said that it was a mistake.

Sebaga: Well maybe it was.

Fela: All twenty of them?

Sebaga: Maybe it was Cody. It's been a while since you've spent some time with him. Why don't you set up a date and go out. Just the two of you without Sefela.

Fela: Maybe I should do that.

Sebaga: Yeah. So babe tell me...

They followed each other into the kitchen.

Fela: Emma.

Sebaga: Did you happen to share with Laone about your crush on Arefa.

He shamefully bowed. It wasn't exactly a comfortable topic to talk about.

Fela: Ee mma.

Sebaga: Ok. I understand why. We all need someone to talk to but I would just say be careful about what you share with him. He narrated your story to Pelo in a different way.

He kept quiet trying to digest what he had just been told.

Sebaga: You don't have to say anything. Just be careful on what you share with such people because they can make you out to be someone you're not. If neither of us was open with each other then we would be fighting right now.

He sighed scratching his head...

Fela: The reason why I haven't said anything is because I'm still shocked. I'm aware that

married people share a lot of things but I didn't think that this would be one of them. Not that I'm hiding anything but yeah.

Sebaga: I totally get you. I don't expect Pelo to share everything I tell her with Laone especially if I'm expressing my inner thoughts and feelings.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#180

The following day

At the Police Station

Kgabiso held her son's hand tightly as they stood outside with the police officer that had apprehended him the day before.

Officer: Young man, this matter is very serious. We've spoken to Megan and she's agreed to let it go however you need to promise us that you will behave from here moving because if you don't, things will not end well. The cell that you were locked up in is considered a hotel room as compared to the ones in the bigger prisons.

Cody rubbed his reddish eyes and sniffed holding back his tears.

Officer: Whatever you have heard about bigger prisons is true. It's much worse and brutal there.

Kgabiso: I promise that moving forward, he will

behave. Akere?

She said turning to make eye contact with her son.

Cody: Ee mma.

Officer: Well then, stay out of trouble and be a kid. If you can be just that then you won't have any trouble.

He waved at them then went back into the station as they got into the car.

Kgabiso: Are you hungry?

Cody: No. I just want to sleep mum. I haven't slept all night.

A part of her wanted to hold and comfort him. Poor baby! She could only imagine what he must have been going through and the fear that was running inside of him all night.

Kgabiso: This is not the life I want for you son but if you don't turn things around then you might lose your freedom and never get the chance to fix things.

He kept quiet the entire way till they got home.

At Serge's house

Kagiso walked around the house admiring the interior. How could one person live in such a huge house on their own? The living room was

almost the size of their three mud houses combined.

Serge: Hey.

He walked into the living room still dressed in his pjs.

Serge: Sleep well?

She nodded in agreement with a smile. For the very first time in her life, she slept on a proper bed with clean bedding and no fear of her father sneaking in.

Kagiso: Yes. Thank you.

Serge: Can we talk?

He sat down and showed her a couch to sit on with a smile. This little girl was broken and it would take a whole lot more than just being nice to get her to speak up and lay down everything. He extended his hand to hers as she sat but she instantly moved back cringing.

Serge: I'm not gonna hurt you. I don't know what you've been through in that house but I want to do everything in my power to help you. Can you let me do that?

She reluctantly nodded her head in agreement.

Serge: Ok. So tell me everything that goes on in that house. If there is anything that our father did to you or the others then I will make sure

that he pays before the law.

Kagiso kept quiet and silently thought of what her siblings had always warned her against. She didn't know Serge that well and even though he had just saved her, she needed to make sure that she could trust him.

Kagiso: Can I please have something to eat? I'm really hungry.

Serge: Ofcourse. We can talk later. Take your time. Let me show you to the kitchen.

She stood up and followed him.

Serge: So what do you like?

Kagiso: I eat everything.

She said as she looked at all the goodies in the fridge. So it was possible for one to buy all this food at once?

Kagiso: Do you live alone? I mean in this big house.

Serge: Yes.

Kagiso: You have a lot of food.

He looked at her and smiled... Having her here was a blessing and although she didn't know it, he also needed her to heal.

Serge: We have a lot of food. This is now your home. You can eat whatever you want. Even if you eat everything in this fridge, no one will say anything.

He sat by the breakfast table while she fixed herself something to eat. There was a whole lot that they needed to talk about including her future and her dreams.

At Sebaga's

Seba sat on her bed and sighed thoughtfully as she thought of her husband's son. So much had gone wrong in the life of that boy and not being able to do much about it broke her. She knew that getting involved would mess with her peace but Cody was just a teenager after all. He needed to be loved and more than anything, he was at a stage where he needed his father.

Fela: You're good baby girl?

Sebaga: Yeah. I just can't stop thinking about Cody. I feel like we might have been too hard on him and distanced ourselves when he really needed us. The boy is at a stage of his life where he needs you more than anything. Reach out and set that date. Who knows, he might just be feeling a bit deserted.

Fela: (Smiled) I don't know how you still find a bit of goodness for even the ones that hurt you but I'm happy you're this person. You're truly the glue that holds my life together. I'm glad I didn't stop fighting to win you back all those many years ago.

He sat down and held her hand.

Fela: I know that what's happening with Arefa may bring you a lot of questions even though you have trusted me till now but I want to

assure you that I can never mess around with what we have. I'm only human and I get tempted at times but what's out there can never force me to stop acting right. You're the only woman I wanna be with and I'm here to do anything to protect what we have built together.

Sebaga: I love you and I trust you.

At Serowe

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The Devil I Never Knew

#181

At Serowe

At Gladys house

Rra Serge stood by the door and banged a couple of times before Gladys opened up. This was the very first time that the two came face to face with each other since the death of Mma Serge. The old man was fuming and nothing could calm him down.

Rra Serge: I want my daughter! Where is my daughter?

Gladys: Heela monnamogolo ke wena o nkgang mokuru, o ntlwaetswa ke eng? (Hey you old man that smells traditional beer. Why do you think so little of me?)

The old man moved back as if there was some

force pushing him back.

Gladys: Did you leave your child with me for you to be asking me about her whereabouts?

Rra Serge: Your husband told me that you were hiding her here.

Gladys: Since when do I have a husband? Did you marry me off? Why don't you ask the person that told you that I have your daughter to give her to you. Don't get me angry because there's a lot that I've wanted to say to you for years yet I've contained it in out of human decency but I see that you want to push my buttons.

He clicked his tongue and waved around his walking stick.

Rra Serge: How can you get married when you're forever in the affairs of other people? Do you think that Simon will marry you when you keep behaving like this?

She tightened her wrapper then bent down to pick up her Setswana broom.

Gladys: Sebone sa ga Simon wa gago le wena. You think that I don't know that you've turned all those children into wives. You're a sick man and I hope that they lock you up.

Simon came out of the house.

Simon: Did I hear you insulting me? Mosadi! (Woman!)

He tried to raise his hand against her but it was already too late. She had already started hitting him with a traditional broom.

Gladys: Do you also want to take a turn?

The old man ran as she shouted...

Gladys: Rapist!

At Kgabiso's

Fela put the plastics he had brought with him on the table then sat on the couch as Kgabiso closed the living room door.

Fela: Sorry for rocking up here at such short

notice but when you told me that he's not well, I just had to come see him.

Kgabiso: It's okay. Thank you for coming. I'm sure that he will really appreciate it. He's still taking a bath.

Fela: So how's everything? How's he doing? I'm sorry that of lately I've not given him some attention and played my role as a father.

Kgabiso: It's okay. I'm just glad that you're here. The boy needs us. He's just going through so much as a teenager especially after finding out how he was conceived. I try my best as a mother but even that's not enough.

Fela: I understand. From now on, I promise to play my part.

She looked at him then swallowed painfully. Even after everything that she had done to him, he still showed up.

Kgabiso: Sometimes I wonder how our lives would have turned out had we been a proper family. Like raised our son together and tried to build something.

Fela: Please don't.

Kgabiso: I mean if we had met like normal couples meet and this child was conceived out of love. Waitsi gore when they say that children pay for their parents's signs, we take it lightly but it's true. Look at our poor child busy paying for my sins.

Fela: Well as much as we consider him a child, Cody is now old enough to choose a life without all this drama.

Kgabiso: I hear you.

At Fela's office

Puso silently sat by his table and worked on his report while Arefa packed away their files. After putting in so much work over the weekend, there was very little to do.

Puso: After I finish with this report, I'm taking the rest of the day off. Please attend that meeting for the suppliers with the big boss. I've already sent him a message to alert him.

Arefa: I don't know if I can. I barely know anything about construction.

Puso: Which is why you need to attend such meetings so you learn and catch up. If you don't attend then how else will you learn?

Arefa: Can't I just attend these meetings with you? I honestly still don't feel comfortable around the big boss.

Puso: It doesn't work that way Arefa. Put your feelings aside and do your job. It's what you're paid to do after all.

Arefa: Ee rra.

She said with her mood at her feet.

Puso: If you wanna make it and stay here for longer then just do your job and pretend not to see the rest.

Arefa: Ee rra.

Later that day...

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Quickly finish off sponsors from last night so

we move

The Devil I Never Knew

#182

Later that day...

At Serowe, Botswana...

Rra Serge kicked his eldest daughter till she collapsed as the others sat by the corner and watched him awaiting their fate.

Rra Serge: I asked you where your sister is. You're all going to tell me the truth or else I will kill all of you with my bare hands. Do you still remember what happened to your mother? I hate people that disobey me.

He began to cough as breathing became difficult for him. His son stood up and laughed from the sidelines. The poison he had put into his food had started working and he knew that it was just a matter of time till the old man met his maker. He tried to take another kick and punch at his daughter but this time he felt too weak to do anything.

At Serge's

Serge closed the door behind him then answered his phone as the gate opened and he went out.

Serge: Hello.

Gladys: Hello my boy. How far are you with

coming back here and getting that old pig arrested? He was here looking for Kagiso. You need to act quickly so that we can rescue the rest. If we don't get him arrested then they are going to pay for Kagiso's disappearance every single day.

Serge: Can't you just report him while I try and get Kagiso to open up?

Gladys: Oh my boy, I wish that it was that simple but it's not. The old man has been reported a couple of times by the other neighbors but your siblings always stand up for him by denying everything. I honestly don't know what the old man has against these kids. The ones that are here will protect him. The only good chance that we have to get him locked up is if we can persuade Kagiso.

Serge: I don't know how to do that. I can tell that she doesn't trust me as well. It's like she's scared that I will do something to her. If she

was a minor then it would be easier but seeing that she's an adult, we need her.

Gladys: Keep trying my boy. Try hard. It shouldn't be hard to get her to speak up.

Serge: Ee mma. I will do my best today so that we can come to Serowe tomorrow.

Gladys: Thank you. I will be very glad my boy.

At Fela's Office

Arefa stood behind Fela's door and swallowed before knocking. This man had embarrassed her at every chance he got so working with him began to feel like such a mission. She remembered Puso's words then knocked gently.

Fela: Come through.

She walked in and greeted then remained standing.

Arefa: Good afternoon sir

Fela: Good afternoon Arefa. You may take a sit.
We're only leaving in the next fifteen minutes.

Arefa: Ee rra.

He continued working on his laptop as she sat idle waiting for him.

Arefa: I can wait outside.

Fela: I'm almost done.

Arefa: Ee rra.

She bit her nails and nervously looked around hoping that he would get up and they would leave to attend the meeting.

Arefa: Can I say something?

Fela: Emma. What is it?

Arefa: I would like to apologize for my behavior. I was out of line and you were right to call me out. I respect you as my boss and that extends to your wife. Please don't fire me. I really need this job.

Fela: Emma.

He ignored her and continued with what he was doing.

Arefa: I honestly don't want things to be awkward between because of what I did

or said.

Fela: I don't know what you're talking about.

Arefa: I shouldn't have let the little crush I have on you control me or my emotions.

His heart skipped a bit... The fact that a twenty six year old considered him attractive was such an ego booster but he still knew what was at stake.

Fela: Shall we get to that meeting?

She stood up feeling even more ashamed and secretly praying for the earth to swallow her up. What kind of a man was Fela? The fact that he never for a second entertained her made it very clear where he stood.

Arefa: Yes sir.

At Serowe

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The Devil I Never Knew

#183

At Serowe

Everyone stood up and ran in different directions as the old man fell to the ground and began to scream for his dear life. He placed his right hand on his chest and wailed as it burned up.

Rra Serge: Water.... wat...

His son stood in front of him and watched him as he suffered. This was the kind of revenge and healing he had waited for. It had taken him a long time to plan this. None of his siblings were aware of what he had done and he planned to keep it that way.

Ben: Are you okay old man? What's the problem.

Rra Serge: Ge...Get me water you idiot.

He wrapped his arms around tightly as he began to feel cold. A few moments later he fought to take off his shirt. The temperature kept changing as if it was being adjusted by a

human being.

Meanwhile outside, the siblings stood in one corner and whispered to each other on what to do next. Would they get the old man some help or let him meet his maker? How did you help a man that constantly made your life a living hell and even flashed your life before your eyes? It was in this moment that each one of them reflected on all the wicked things the old man had done to them. A sweet memory of their mother became another thing that left them in a dilemma.

Inside

Ben held a cup of water and sighed in relief as his father struggled.

Ben: Isn't it just a relief that we have water here.

He bent down to spill the water on the floor.

Ben: Opps! Ben what have you done? No one goes against your father.

He chuckled as the old man's face became pale.

Ben: See you in hell old man. I hope satan welcomes you with open arms.

At Born Restaurant

Arefa picked up the files that they had been

using on the table then packed them up in her backpack while Fela settled the bill.

Fela: You're free to go home. I'm meeting up with a friend here.

He took out his wallet gave her a hundred pula note.

Fela: Thank you so much for coming with me and helping out. Here's some cab money.

Arefa: Thank you.

Laone walked into the restaurant and looked around then called out his friend from a distance as he headed his way.

Laone: My main man.

He greeted then turned to Arefa.

Laone: Are you going to introduce me to the beautiful lady?

Fela shook his head...

Fela: This is Arefa, our assistant. Arefa this is my friend Laone.

Laone: The famous Arefa. So we finally get to meet. I've heard pleasant things about you from my good friend here.

Arefa blushed as she grabbed her things.

Arefa: It was nice meeting you.

Laone: Oh likewise beautiful.

He extended his hand to hers and kissed it.

Fela: Laone!

Arefa pulled back her hand then bid them farewell before leaving.

Fela: And what the hell was that?

Laone: Damm. She's fire! Don't tell me that you're not thinking of hitting that.

Fela: Do you wanna know why your marriage is ending?

Laone: So we're getting personal now?

Fela: We clearly have to. I don't know how many times I've told you what my take is on this particular topic yet you keep trying to push your agenda. Laone, I respect you as a friend and quite honestly, I value our friendship but if it has to somehow devalue my family and marriage then we're gonna have a problem. I don't eat from the trash cans. I value what's cooked at home for me by my wife. Secondly if my confessions to you are going to be twisted and shared with other people with the intention to tarnish my name and harm my marriage then we're gonna have a problem pal.

Laone: Uhu! Where's that coming from? I was merely passing jokes. I understand all that.

Fela: You know what I'm talking about and I'm not happy about it.

There was silence as the waiter approached

them.

Waiter: Can I bring you anything else?

Fela: I'll have a bottle of Corona. Laone?

Laone: I'll have the same.

Waiter: Ok. Coming right up.

He left the table as two both went on their phones as a way to ignore each other and avoid saying things they would regret the following day.

At Serowe

Gladys and a couple of neighbors stood outside watching as an ambulance drove away from Rra Serge's.

Neighbor: Do you think he's dead?

Gladys: Such a pity that he's alive because an ambulance is for the living.

Everyone turned to her... How could one say such a cruel thing at such a critical time.

Gladys: Don't pretend to be holy. I know that we're all wishing for the same thing. You all want him dead and it's no secret.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#184

Serowe, Botswana

At the hospital

Gladys and Ben paced around the corridors of the hospital waiting for answers as the doctors attended the old man.

Gladys: That old fool! I hope he finally dies so you can rest my children.

Ben: With all due respect, that is my father in there. He might have made mistakes but we still love him and want him to live.

Gladys clapped her hands and furiously shook

her head. After everything that the man had put the children through?

Gladys: Even after killing your mother with his bare hands?

Ben: There is no proof that he did it.

Gladys: Well he did it and no one can convince me otherwise. My friend would have still been alive if it wasn't for that old fool.

Ben: Then why isn't he in prison?

There was silence as Gladys thought of reasons to give but even she didn't know why the old man was never arrested.

Ben: With all due respect Ma, please leave. I thought that you were here to support me instead you came out here to make fun of our

pain.

Gladys: It's okay to admit your true feelings my boy. Keep well and all the best.

The doctor came out of the room and they both jumped to meet him halfway.

Ben: Doctor, how's my father? You said you would let us know. It's been a couple of hours now.

From the paleness of his face and low mood, one could already predict the condition of the patient.

Ben: Doctor?

Doctor: I'm sorry but we lost him. We tried

everything in our power to save him but...

Ben looked up as tears rolled down his cheeks.

Doctor: I'm sorry young man.

He bowed his head to pay his respects then left.

Gladys: Son.

Ben: Ma, please. I know that you're celebrating so it's best not to say anything.

Later that day...

At Kgabiso's house

Fela parked his car then reclined his car sit to lay back as he waited for his son. This would be their very first outing in months and a part of him was nervous. It wasn't always easy to connect with Cody but his wife was right after all. He needed to make an effort. His phone rang bringing him back to reality.

Fela: Hey man.

Laone: How's it going?

Fela: All good and you?

Laone: Same here.

Fela: Great.

Laone: Tlhe monna can I ask for a favor.

Fela: Sure, what is it?

Laone: Can I have Arefa's number?

There was a bit of silence as both of them digested the matter.

Fela: Listen man, I don't know what your plans or intentions are but I don't wanna get involved. If you want her number then maybe you should make a plan to get it yourself.

Laone: Are you refusing with it just to spite me? Kana you're jealous? Is this a situation where if you don't have her then no one will?

Fela: You think very little of me akere?

Laone: Listen man, I just need her number.

Fela: Like I said, I won't get involved in your drama. You know where she works so if you want it then just get it from her. I don't want to be accused of sponsoring bad behavior. I mean it's really sad how your marriage is on the rocks yet you want to continue to cause more damage.

Laone: Pelo said she's done. So what do you expect me to do? Cry till my eyeballs pop? Sit around and mop like someone who doesn't have anything to live for?

Fela: For someone that claims to love her, you haven't put up a fight.

Laone. Sadly I'm not you. I won't force a woman to want me then settle with her because she's now tired of me chasing after her.

Fela: Ok man. Well Goodluck with everything.

Laone: She's not your girl so you don't decide who she gets to fuc... Get over that stupid crush of yours.

Fela: Fuc you man!

He hung up then clicked his tongue...

At Rra Serge's

The old man's children gathered in one of the mud houses as their brother broke down the news of their father's passing. Everything became cold and although most of them were numb, anger could be seen on their faces. Death itself was not enough.

Ben: I know that even though our father had his mistakes, we're all hurting. There is nothing as painful like losing both parents because it sets you alone.

He sighed heavily and kept his head down.

Ben: I don't know how to feel. I'm so angry at him for the many things that he did to us but at the same time, it breaks my heart that he left

before we could mend things.

Lolo: What was the cause of his death?

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I'm back ❤️ Let's move

The Devil I Never Knew

#185

At Serowe

Ben swallowed then looked away almost immediately avoiding eye contact with his sister as she demanded for answers.

Ben: Let's wait for the postmortem to get the

right answers. I honestly don't remember what the doctor said. I was too overwhelmed.

Lolo maintained eye contact with him then sighed.

Lolo: When you get the time, try and remember. You were the one person that remained with him till he took his last breath after all.

Ben: And had you cared enough then you would have also been there.

There was silence as each person kept their thoughts to themselves.

At Serge's

Kagiso looked at her brother then chuckled as he broke the news of their father's death to her.

Serge: Are you okay? Can I get you some water?

Kagiso: It would have been better if he died with me so that I can kill him every single day in hell. That man stole my innocence and everything I was to ever be.

She quickly wiped away her tear as it rolled down her cheek.

Serge: Do you wanna talk about it?

Kagiso: What good will it do? I'm already damaged goods anyways.

Her brother swallowed as he moved closer to

give her a hug. Clearly that man had caused so much damage which could not be fixed overnight.

At the Mall

Fela narrowed his eyes taking a closer look at his son as he walked over to the till with a couple of clothes he had picked. The young man had lost so much weight and there was a lot that left him unsettled. He walked over then took out his card to pay.

Cody: Thanks dad.

He said as they walked to the car.

Fela: So how have you been?

Cody: Okay I guess.

Fela: Really?

Cody: Yeah.

Fela: Anything new that I need to know?

He shamefully bowed then looked up at his father.

Cody: Can we talk about it in the car?

Fela: Ok son.

He patted him on the shoulder then proceeded to walk with him to the car.

Fela: You know that I love you right?

Cody: Yeah. I guess so.

Fela: Well you don't have to guess. I love you son and you mean so much to me. I know that I haven't been there for you as much as I should be but you're my son and you will always remain one.

He unlocked the car then went over to the driver's side as Cody threw the plastics he was holding on the passenger sit at the back.

Fela: Are you okay?

Cody: I'm scared that I'm gonna go to prison.

Fela: Why would you go to prison.

Cody: They locked me up in a cell.

Felq: What? What do you mean they locked you up? When did all this happen?

He said taking out his phone to call Kgabiso.
His heart palpitated as the phone rang.

Kgabiso: Hello.

Fela: My son got arrested and you didn't tell me?

Kgabiso: Can we talk about this in person? It's a whole lot more complex than you think.

Fela: No! We're gonna talk about it right now.

He stepped out of the car and walked a few meters away so his son couldn't hear the conversation.

Fela: Who do you think you are keeping such information away from me?

Kgabiso: And where have you been all this time?

When was I supposed to tell you when you've distanced yourself from your son? With everything that he's going through, you would think that you would have been there more but instead you dumped him here and went on living your perfect life while he suffered. I didn't tell you because I didn't have time to chase after you. Our son needed to have a parent there with him.

Fela: I don't care what you think but you and both know that you're wrong for this.

Kgabiso: Bye Fela.

Fela: This conversation is not over. You're going to explain to me how my son gets arrested and you keep quiet about it as if it's nothing.

Kgabiso rolled her eyes then hung up.

Kgabiso: Father of the year my foot!

She put her phone down then continued folding her laundry.

The following day...

At Serowe

Gladys sat by the corner and marveled as Ben spoke so well about his father. This boy hated his father with a passion and it was no secret. This sudden change of heart might have fooled everyone but not her. She stood up as soon as he finished talking then pulled him to the side.

Gladys: How are you holding up son?

Ben: It's really difficult but what can we do? Life has to go on.

Gladys: Indeed. Good job son. I just hope that you covered your tracks very well because the police will come sniffing.

Ben: Mma?

Gladys: By just that answer, you gave me the exact answer I was looking for.

Meanwhile Serge's car pulled up in front of the yard...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#186

Serowe, Botswana

At Rra Serge's

Serge took off his shades and turned to his sister who still seemed a bit shocked by everything that was going on around her.

Serge: Will you be okay? Akere you know that you don't have to do this? You don't owe that man shit.

Kagiso: I'm not doing it for him. I'm doing it for myself.

Serge: And the siblings? Do you think that they will accept your presence?

Kagiso: It's not for them to decide. This was

and is still my mother's yard. No one can order me to leave.

Serge: Okay. I hear you but I just need you to know that you have options.

Kagiso: Thank you.

She looked at him then smiled.

Kagiso: I'm not used to having anyone look out for me except Gladys so I know that I may not be the best person to look out for mme hela I'm still grateful for everything that you've done for me in the past few days.

Serge: I would do it over and over again if I had to. I just regret not doing it anytime soon. Who knows, maybe had I acted sooner then you wouldn't have had to go through all the crap you went through.

Kagiso: What's important is that you came.

Serge: Yeah. So I'll be at the guest house.
Please let me know when to pick you up.

Kagiso: Akere you also know that you're welcome to stay here.

Serge: No, thank you little sis. I'm not as patient and human as you. I'll probably get myself arrested for attacking the corpse should it get here. I feel like that old man got the easy ride out to hell. God should have kept him for a bit so that he gets to atone for his sins.

Kagiso: I understand your anger.

Serge: Sharp akere.

She nodded her head and smiled as she stepped out of the car. Once his sister had left, Serge took out his phone to call Gladys.

Gladys: My boy, I see you. Wait for me by that tuck shop right after my house. I want to talk to your sister first.

She hung up then approached Kagiso as she entered the gate. The little girl had been gone for a couple of days but she could already see a bit of hope and life on her face. She smiled admiring the beautiful dress and shoes she had on. Finally the poor child dressed decently.

Gladys: My baby!

She embraced her...

Kagiso: Mamzo.

They hugged briefly before letting go of each other.

Gladys: I'm so happy to see that you're doing well. I need to sort out a few things at home. I'll see you later. Take care of yourself nana.

They waved at each other as Gladys hurried back home.

Gaborone, Botswana

At Kgabiso's house

Kgabiso held her waist and rolled her eyes as Fela shouted at her. He pointed his car keys into her face feeling furious.

Kgabiso: You have absolutely no right to blame or get angry at me. I'm the parent that has been here through out while you looked out for your son and wife. Akere wena nne o lebetse gore o na le ngwana o gotweng Cody. (You had forgotten that you have a son named Cody.)

Fela: Don't bring my son and wife into this. Ga o buwe sepe. (What you are saying does not hold water.) Whether you think of me highly as a parent or not, Cody is still my son and I need to know what's going on in his life especially if it's as deep as this.

Kgabiso: Our son had a problem and I sorted it out as best as I could. I don't know what else you want me to do.

Fela: I disagree with you. That boy's problem could be much deeper than you think.

Kgabiso: Cody is just a teenager. He probably

just wanted to explore.

Fela: No. Something is seriously wrong with that boy. He could be into drugs or something. Have you seen how he's lost weight?

Kgabiso: I live with the boy. What you're telling me is old news. Just because he lost weight and got viagra from another kid, you want to label him as a drug addict?

Fela: And you want to dismiss that?

Kgabiso: I live with him so I would know.

Fela: I'll be back tomorrow.

Kgabiso: Go sharp Fela.

Fela: This is not the end of our discussion. I also want to meet the woman he says he spiked.

Kgabiso: For what?

Fela: Like I said, Cody is also my son so I have every right.

Serowe, Botswana

Gladys stepped into Serge's car and greeted him as he drove off.

Gladys: I'm glad to see you here.

Serge: So what's the trouble all about? You said there was trouble.

She pressed her lips together then sighed heavily.

Gladys: I think that your brother killed your father.

Serge: (laughed) You give him too much credit. What makes you think that?

Gladys: That boy was way too calm at the hospital when he was told that the old man is no more and he's suddenly started singing him praises. If you ask me, that sounds like a person that's guilty to me.

Serge: Maybe he's just shocked.

Gladys: No, that's not it. Something happened and you need to protect him.

Serge: It doesn't work like that. Protect him how? I can't get my hands dirty especially when it comes to murder. I reached out to those kids with the effort to help them legally. With all due respect, being a lawyer doesn't mean that I can just make everything go away.

Gladys: What that young man did was brave and commendable. Help him out.

Serge: So we're gonna call murder commendable now? What happened to letting the law take its course?

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Was a bit too tired yesterday, fell asleep before serving you. Let's go!

The Devil I Never Knew

#187

At Fela's Office

Laone stepped out of his car then fixed his suit before proceeding inside. This was his life and he was going to do whatever he wanted. Not even Fela could stop him with his advices. He looked around as he went into the building to see if his friend was anywhere around then

headed straight to Puso's office where he knocked. A few minutes later, Arefa got the door.

Arefa: Good morning sir. How can I assist you today?

Laone: Arefa right?

Arefa: Ee rra.

Laone: Can I at-least come through?

Arefa: Oh yes. Sorry about that. Are you here to see Puso or Mr Molefe?

He smiled admiring her dimples then chuckled as she struggled to maintain a straight face.

Laone: You don't have to be so serious you know.

Arefa: (Smiled) I'm a bit nervous this week. I don't wanna mess up my chances of remaining employed. How can I help you?

Laone: I'm actually here to see you. We met briefly at the restaurant and I developed an interest to get to know you more.

She looked at his wedding band then fixed her eyes on it as she cleared her throat.

Laone: Mma?

Arefa: The last thing I want is to have your wife coming after me.

Laone: I don't know why she would do that when we're getting a divorce gape hela there's nothing wrong with getting to know each other. Kana we won't be breaking any law.

Arefa: (Smiled) Ok. What would you like to know?

Laone: Can I take a sit?

Arefa: Sure.

She said standing as she grabbed some files from Puso's table.

Laone: Aren't you going to take a sit?

Arefa: I have some work to attend to.

Laone: Ok.

Fela wasn't exaggerating. The girl was truly beautiful and everything about her including her hourglass shaped body made a man forget his problems.

Laone: Yaanong wareng ne mma? (So what do you say?)

Arefa: I dont know. I don't wanna get into trouble with your wife and Mr Molefe. The last thing I want is to lose my job again.

Laone: And what if I told you that you won't have to worry about those two?

She kept quiet...

Laone: Go siame ee, how about you give me your number and we meet up for a drink? If you're still uncomfortable after that then I'll leave you alone.

She looked at his phone and car keys. He had the latest iPhone and he drove a Mercedes Benz. Well a drink wouldn't hurt after all.

Arefa: Okay. One drink. One drink and you leave

me alone. And for the record, you can't share this with Mr Molefe. I don't want any trouble.

Laone: Your wish is my command.

He looked at her cheap phone on the table and instantly knew how he would win her over.

Serowe, Botswana

At Gladys's

Serge calmly sipped on his water then maintained eye contact with his brother as he spoke. Who knew, maybe Gladys was just exaggerating after all.

Serge: Are you sure that nothing happened

while you waited with him in that hut?

Ben: Is this some kind of interrogation?

Serge: It's not. I'm just trying to help you. If anything happened in there then we all know that it's just a matter of time till the law catches up with you. Ben our police force is very quick when it comes to solving such cases.

Ben: Like I said, I have nothing to hide and quite honestly I don't need your help. I needed it years ago but you left and never looked back so why do you think you can just come and save us all? Don't you have anything better going on with your life to do kana your gay career is not taking off?

Serge: Ok. I get it. You're angry that I left but what did you expect me to do? Stay and take the abuse day in and day out? The reason why I left was so I could build a better life and rescue all of us. When I finally got my breakthrough, I

reached out but you all rejected me. What would you have done if you were me?

Ben: We've been fine without you and we will be fine moving forward. Take your help where it's needed because we don't need it. Mum died with a broken heart because she wanted you here day in and day out.

Serge: Don't tell me about mum. We all know what happened to mum. You're all concealing it even though it's a truth you know. None of you are better than me. We've all made mistakes. The best we can do is fix things and that's together.

Ben: Tell that old lady that I don't need any help. I'm not a murderer.

Ben: I hope so because if you are then they will lock you up.

He stood up and left his brother at Gladys...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#188

Later that day...

At the Mall

Arefa stepped off the taxi then paid before walking to the mall parking lot. She looked around then took out her phone to call Laone.

Laone: Hey beautiful.

Arefa: I just got here.

Laone: I'm almost there. Why don't you go ahead and pick a restaurant of your choice. You can start by ordering some drinks. I'll be there in a bit.

At Sebaga's

Pelo stood up and wrapped her arms around as she admired Sebaga's wedding portraits.

Pelo: I think I wanna give my marriage one last chance. Now that I've had time to think, I realize that I can't just give up without a fight.

Sebaga: And does Laone know this?

Pelo: No. I haven't said anything to him yet.

Sebaga: Ok. I hear you.

Pelo: What do you think?

Sebaga: It shouldn't matter what I think friend. At the end of the day it's about what you want. What I think will not change anything.

Pelo: I hear you but do you think that I'm stupid for taking him back?

Sebaga keot quiet for a while...

Pelo: You can say it if you think that I'm an idiot.

Sebaga: I didn't say that. Tota tsala it all comes down to what you want. At the end of the day you're the one that knows your man better. You know if it's worth giving it another try or not. You already have the answers you want from me deep down in your heart.

Pelo: I just feel like I've invested way too much into this marriage to just walk away.

Sebaga: But is your heart in it? Kana it's just about what you've invested into it? Can you love and mend your relationship? Can you move on and love each other like you're supposed to kana you're just gonna bleed on each other?

Pelo kept quiet...

At Mo-Town Restaurant

Arefa sipped on her drink while Laone went through the menu.

Laone: Ahh.. I know what I'll have.

Arefa: That quick?

Laone: Yeah. This is my favorite spot. Their prawn pasta is to die for.

Arefa: What do prawns taste like?

Laone: You've never had them?

Arefa: No. I'm afraid that if I start to have them at my age, I might have an allergic reaction and die.

Laone: You eat fish? As in bream?

Arefa: Yes.

Laone: Are you allergic to any sea food?

Arefa: I don't know. I've never really had sea food before so it's difficult to tell.

Laone: Come on, have some prawn pasta with me. Life's too short not to take some risks.

Arefa: (giggled) Ok. Let's have some prawn pasta but if I die then just know that it's on you.

Laone: You're not gonna die on me.

He smiled revealing his white nicely shaped

teeth. The man had a wonderful scent and his soft tender voice left her wondering about a lot of things.

Laone: I'm glad you came. Thank you. I honestly didn't think that you would come after our conversation earlier on.

Arefa: I don't lie. I'm very upfront so I would have told you had I decided not to come.

Laone: (Smiled) I like that. So before we put in our order, I would like to give you something. Just a small gift to appreciate your beauty.

Arefa: You don't have to.

He grabbed the paper bag on the side then passed it to her.

Arefa: What is it?

Laone: Open it.

She smiled from ear to ear as she opened it and found an iPhone fourteen pro. Everything came to a standstill. Not even her two months salary could buy this phone.

Arefa: I don't know what to say.

Laone: Don't say anything. Just open it and see if you like it..

Arefa: If I like it? Are you kidding me?

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Bonus 1

The Devil I Never Knew

#189

That same afternoon

Arefa stood up and grabbed her bag then waited by the side as Laone took out some cash from his wallet to tip the waiter. She stole glances at him and found herself thoroughly impressed. This man was clearly generous. If he could tip a waiter with more than a two hundred pula note then it meant that there was more to him. She smiled inwardly as she thought of the gift he had gotten her.

Laone: Shall we head out?

Arefa: Yes. We can.

Laone: Great.

They walked out quietly as each one of them digested their thoughts. Had he impressed her and if not, what would he do? Would he ask her on a second date?

Arefa: Thank you for today. I had an amazing time.

Laone: Thank you for coming. Tota I wasn't sure if you would turn up.

Arefa: Like I said, I'm straight as an arrow. If I wasn't gonna come then you would have known. I guess I'll see you around. I need to catch a taxi before it gets too late.

Laone: Ao mma! So you honestly think that I would let a pretty woman like you walk home?

He took her hand and lead her to the parking lot.

At Laone's

Pelo turned on the lights and went into her bedroom then walked around reminiscing about the good old days when they had just tied the knot. It was in this very room that both their children had been conceived in. She sighed heavily as memories of his affairs also flooded her head. Not only had he brought one girl but there were many more that she remembered. She walked out of the room and walked into the bathroom to wash her face as tears rolled down her cheeks. She still loved this man deeply and walking away as she had planned was so hard. She couldn't really let go.

At Kgabiso's

Kgabiso walked into her son's room without

knocking then sat next to him on the bed.

Cody: Hie to you too mum.

Kgabiso: So what did you want to achieve by telling your dad everything that happened? Are you trying to make me look bad? What haven't I done for you in the last couple of months? Ke raya hela gore I've protected you in the best way I know how yet you still went and made me look bad.

He looked at her then turned away.

Kgabiso: I'm talking to you young man.

Cody: With all due respect mum, why does everything have to be about you?

Kgabiso: Excuse me?

Cody: Why are you making this about you? Have you bothered to check on how I'm really doing after I spent the night in a police cell?

She kept quiet then swallowed...

Kgabiso: Every action has a consequence.

Cody: The only reason why I spoke to dad is that I'm not okay and I find it easy to talk to him because he is not harsh. It had nothing to do with you being a bad mum.

She tried to stretch her hand to reach out to his but he stood up.

Cody: Can I spend a few days at Dad's

Kgabiso: Can't you stick around for a bit? I

understand that you think that I'm harsh but I'm only trying to protect you son. I wanna be your bestfriend, mum and everything you can imagine but you need to know that above anything, I'm a mother and I have your best interest at heart. I don't shout or become harsh because I hate you. Let's do this thing together. Hold my hand and teach me to be the mother that you want and I'll teach you to be the son that I want.

Arefa's house

Aunty peeped through the window and shook her head as she watched her niece standing with a man by the gate. She could tell that he was more than a friend and there was more to the meeting she had said she would be attending at work.

Outside

Laone pulled Arefa closer to him and wrapped his arms around her. She closed her eyes and smiled as his scent left her wanting to know more about him.

Laone: Have an incredible night gorgeous.

Arefa: Goodnight.

He let go off her then got inside his car as she opened the gate and went into the yard.

Meanwhile inside, aunty wrapped herself with her shawl then sat by the chair closer to the door. She anxiously waited as the door opened.

Arefa: Dumelang. (greetings)

Aunty: What kind of a job did you say you got again?

Arefa: Mma?

Aunty: What kind of job requires one to work at night and hug men after knocking off?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#190

That same evening

At Laone's

Laone's mood instantly changed as soon as he could smell the aroma of his wife's food in the kitchen. She must have been home, no one could cook as good as she did. He smiled from ear then walked into the kitchen which was neatly arranged. After the mess he had made while trying to make some breakfast in the morning, she must have had a lot of work. He shook his head and chuckled as his eyes fell on a tray that had a plate of food and a small note.

"If you're willing to fight for our marriage then I could meet you halfway. Enjoy your dinner." For the past years, he had never went to bed on an empty stomach. This woman had always made sure that he was fed even when they had a helper. What he ate and what he wore was her

business.

He thoughtfully took out his phone from the pocket then called her. His heart palpitated as the phone rang.

Pelo: Hello.

Laone: Thank you for dinner. I don't know what to say. I wasn't expecting this. Coming back home to your food...

He sighed heavily recalling their good times...

Pelo: You're welcome.

Laone: I want to try again. I want to fight for our marriage. Our family means everything to me.

Pelo: Ok akere mme you know that you're

gonna have to do most of the work.

Laone: I swear to you, I'm willing to do everything and anything just to make our marriage work.

He opened the plate and it was his favorite.

Laone: Oxtail...

He went mute as so much went through his head.

Pelo: If you have any intentions to cheat on me then don't bother trying to fix things with me. I've had enough of your street behavior and I won't be tolerating it anymore.

Laone: Ee mma.

There was silence as he took a bite from his oxtail.

Pelo: Are you chewing?

He finished chewing.

Laone: I know that you know this because I've told you a million times but you make the best oxtail.

Pelo: If only it could help you keep your pants zipped then it would be a bonus.

He pushed his plate back...

Laone: No more games. I swear that I've learnt

my lesson. If there was anyone I had planned to be with or anything that I had planned to do which doesn't align with our relationship then just know that I'm gonna work on myself.

Pelo: Good because I'm done playing games with you this time. If you cheat on me, I swear, what I'll do next will send you right to ICU.

At Aunty's

Arefa took out her new phone from the paper bag then connected it on the charger. Her aunt took a closer look at it and it reminded her of the one Sebaga used to use.

Aunty: Very soon that expensive phone will bring a baby.

Arefa: Mma?

Aunty: You understand me.

Arefa: So according to you, I should remain single?

Aunty: I'm not saying that.

Arefa: Then what are you saying aunty?

Aunty: I'm just saying that you should be very careful when it comes to these rich city boys. They will eat you up and leave you with a baby.

Arefa: Are you not going to sleep today?

She said standing up and going into the room.

At Serowe...

Ben walked around his father's mud hut and sighed as guilt consumed him. He had killed the man for very good reasons or at-least he

thought yet a part of him was guilty. With everyone starting to question what had happened to the old man, it became more apparent to him that he had committed a crime and there were chances that he was going to pay a hefty fine.

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Still feeling a bit unwell but we will pick up pace tomorrow 

The Devil I Never Knew

#191

At Serowe...

Ben walked around his father's mud hut and

sighed as guilt consumed him. He had killed the man for very good reasons or at-least he thought yet a part of him was guilty. With everyone starting to question what had happened to the old man, it became more apparent to him that he had committed a crime and there were chances that he was going to pay a hefty fine.

He walked out of the yard then took out his phone to call his brother. Would he even listen to him after the way he had treated him? He held his breath with so much desperation as the phone rang.

Serge: Hello.

Ben: Where are you?

Serge: Since when do we owe each other explanations about our whereabouts?

Ben: I'm sorry about that. I need to talk to you. Where can we meet? I would like to see you please.

Ben: I'm at the guest house where I'm currently staying. Can I pick you up so that we can come back and talk here?

Ben: I would really appreciate that.

Serge: Great. I'll see you in a bit.

He hung up then sighed in relief. If there was anyone that he trusted to get him out of this mess was his brother. As much as he didn't agree with his choices and his lifestyle, he believed in him as a lawyer after all so many good things had been said about him.

The following day...

At Sebaga's

Sebaga sipped on her juice then cleared her throat as she silently watched her husband suffering from the untold.

Sebaga: Are you okay?

Fela: Mma?

Sebaga: Are you okay? You've been a bit off.

He looked up breathing heavily.

Fela: I don't know what to say or where to start. Waitsi gore I've kept this to myself because I thought that at some point, I would be told that it's some kind of sick joke. I don't know what to do or how to feel. Everything in me feels cold.

Sebaga pushed her hand towards his then held onto it tightly.

Sebaga: Talk to me.

Fela: Cody spiked someone's drink and ended up in bed with her.

Sebaga: Huh? Wareng ne rra? So where's this little girl?

She asked with her mood at her feet. History seemed to be repeating itself after all.

Fela: It wasn't a little girl. It was someone older.

Sebaga: What do you mean?

Fela: A rockstar or celebrity of some sort.

Sebaga: And how do you know all this? Did he

voluntarily tell you?

Fela: Yes. After spending the night in a jail cell.

Sebaga: Please tell me that you're lying. Ele gore when did all this happen? Fela waitsi gore go raya gore re latlhile ngwana. (Fela, this means that we've abandoned that child.)

Fela: I don't know what to say to you. Like I said, I kept hoping that I would be told that this is some kind of sick joke but now that I realize it's not. I can see that this is some kind of curse.

Sebaga: Babe. Don't say that. I still don't know what to say myself.

At Arefa's house

Arefa stepped out of the house and fixed her uniform dress then took out her iPhone to snap a few pictures. She pouted and stucked out her

tongue feeling herself. Her phone rang disturbing her.

Arefa: Hello.

Laone: Good morning.

Arefa: Hey. How did you sleep?

Laone: Well and you?

Arefa: (Smiled) Really well.

Laone: Can I see you? I would like to talk to you.

Arefa: Ok. How about after work? I'm walking to catch a taxi to work right now.

Laone: Cqn I pick you up instead? This can't wait.

Arefa: Ok. Bye.

She put the phone down and smiled from ear to ear reflecting on last night's dinner. She could

only imagine how much this man was going to spoil her.

At Pelo's rented apartment

Pelo packed up her things then sat by the bed and thoughtfully laid back. Was she doing the right thing by going back to this man or she would live to regret her decisions?

By the taxi stop

Laone parked his car by the stop then took out his phone to call Arefa.

Arefa: Hello.

Laone: I'm by the taxi stop, where are you?

Arefa: I see your car. I'll be there in a minute.

Laone: Ok. Sharp.

She hung up then quickly fixed her face and uniform before walking to where he was parked.

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Bear with me, I'm still not well  I'm a bit slow 

The Devil I Never Knew

#192

By the taxi stop

Arefa stepped into Laone's car and wore her seat belt as they both exchanged pleasantries. This time things seemed a bit different but like she had always been told, men changed like weather so she wasn't bothered at all.

Laone: Thank you for agreeing to meet.

Arefa: You don't have to thank me. I'm happy to see you. Last night...

She said with a bright smile but he stopped her right there.

Laone: Last night shouldn't have happened.

He said as he joined the main road and drove off.

Arefa: Rra?

Laone: Listen Arefa, up until last night, my wife wanted a divorce and there was no going back but now she wants to fix things.

She kept quiet as her heart sunk.

Laone: You see, that woman and I have been together for years and we've built so much together. Loosing her was a hard blow but I had accepted her decision which is why I had started pursuing you.

If Pelo was ready to take him back then he would move anything that could ruin their chances out of the way.

Arefa: So what are you saying? You take me out, impress me and get me to like you then drop me?

Laone: You're taking this way too seriously. I don't remember asking you out or let alone asking to sleep with you. We went out for dinner and had a great time and that's it.

She looked at the iPhone on her lap and shook her head.

Arefa: So you want to tell me that the only reason you bought me an iPhone was because you just wanted to hang out?

He glanced at it then parked by the side of the road not too far from her office.

Laone: Maybe not. Please take out your sim card and give me back the phone.

Arefa: What? You want to buy me something then take it back?

Laone: And you want me to explain to my wife that I bought a random chick a phone worth more than hers? I didn't sleep with you let alone kiss you so you've lost nothing.

Arefa: I'm sorry but you can't take a gift back. I didn't ask for it. You're the one that went out of your way to buy it so you will find a way to explain to your wife.

She opened the door and walked away.

Laone: Arefa!

Arefa: Stop shouting my name in the streets as if I'm your girlfriend please.

Laone: Kana ga nka tswa mo o tlo nyela. (If I can come out there, you're gonna shit on your pants.)

Arefa: You haven't been beat up by a woman akere?

She continued walking to her office...

At Serowe

Ben sighed heavily and sipped on his water as he replayed his brother's statement in his head. He had used a non traceable poison and according to him, no one knew of his plans. What were the chances of the law catching up with him? He frustratedly rubbed his head and swallowed. After all they lived in a country where solving such cases was almost a walk in

the park. With everything the old man had done against his children, they had a solid case but that's only if they had reported him. The only thing he could do at this point was to make sure that he had a lawyer on stand by. Such a case had the potential to ruin his career more especially that he was related to the family. Many would take it as a conspiracy and point him out as the co-murder.

His sister knocked in his room and he immediately stood up to get the door.

Serge: Goodmorning.

Kagiso: He killed him, didn't he?

Serge: What?

He pulled her in then closed the door behind.

Serge: What are you talking about?

Kagiso: Ben. Isn't that why he was here? If there's anyone that had the guts to stand against him then it was Ben.

Serge: I don't know what you're talking about and quite frankly, you can't go around accusing people of such things.

Kagiso: I know my brother and I've always seen it on his face from day one.

Serge: Are you ready? Can I drop you off?

Kagiso: Yes.

She looked at him then wrapped her arms around him. He was such a good person and she didn't want him involved in this mess.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#193

At Arefa's Office

Arefa rolled her eyes as her phone rang for the millionth time. Laone had spent the last couple of thirty minutes calling her non stop.

Puso: Take it or else that person won't stop calling. Sounds like a stubborn person to me.

She picked up her phone from the desk then answered the call.

Arefa: Yes.

Laone: So you decided to run away with my phone?

Arefa: Listen here old man, stop calling me. A gift is a gift. You can't just change your mind like that. I'm keeping it. If you have a problem with it then report me to the police.

Laone: I am only trying to help you. If my wife finds out where her family money was spent, she will not only come to you but she will sue you.

Arefa: Let her come. In fact let her bring the entire police force to me so that I can tell her the kind of stupid man she married. I didn't approach you or ask you for anything. You're the one that decided to buy me a phone, stop stressing and disturbing me. Go and play with your age-mates.

She hung up then turned off her phone.

Meanwhile outside the office Laone tried to call her but her phone went straight to voicemail. He knew that he couldn't go inside to see her or even try and scare her. His friend had warned him and this was his fault. He had rushed to start approaching other women even way before the divorce process had started.

At Serowe

Serge parked his car just outside his parents yard then turned to his little sister who didn't seem bothered by anything even with all the dramatic things that were taking place around them.

Serge: Are you sure that you want to stay behind?

Kagiso: Yeah.

Serge: Ok akere mme you know that you don't have to do this. I mean stay behind for the burial and be a part of this whole thing. This man abused you and you owe him nothing.

Kagiso: I want to do this. I don't know but I feel like somehow seeing his casket going down will give me some kind of closure.

Serge: I respect that. I guess I'll see you when you come back home.

She looked at him and smiled... Had he just called his house their home?

Kagiso: Thank you for giving me a home. I just

wish that there was a way for all of us to come together as siblings and fix things.

Serge: I would love that but I'm not about to force anyone to do anything that they are not comfortable with let alone pressure them. Maybe on one of the good days, we will work on our relationship as siblings but for now let's allow everyone to be who they are and do their thing.

Kagiso: I hear you but I'm still having a word with them after the burial.

Serge: Be safe and take care of yourself. I'll see you soon.

They bid each other farewell before going their separate ways.

At Laone's

Laone pulled his wife's large suitcase into the house as she followed him with the small one.

Pelo: Thanks for taking some time off.

Laone: I'm the one that should be thanking you for reconsidering things. I'm so happy. I don't know what to say. When you...

He sighed heavily then placed her bag on the other side as she put the other away and sat on the couch.

Laone: I swear to you that this time I'll do whatever it takes to make this marriage work.

Pelo: To be honest with you, it's all up to you from this point moving forward. I can't force you to do right by me but this time I can walk

away forever.

Laone: I won't give you a reason to.

Pelo: Good.

Laone: From this point going forward, I promise to be very transparent with you.

Pelo: I'm glad to hear that. We're both adults and I don't expect to follow you around. I won't force a grown man to grow up.

Laone: Emma.

Pelo: Good. So let's start off by accounting for our funds. I see that a few days ago, there's a large amount that was swiped at the phone shop. Care to explain about that?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#194

At Pelo's

Laone looked at his wife and held her hand as his heart palpitated. If he told her the truth about what he had done with the money then things would be over between them even way before they could begin. He had seen his wife walk away before and this time he knew that she wasn't bluffing when she said that she would leave.

Laone: I got you a new phone.

He cleared his throat and smiled...

Laone: I wanted this whole thing to be a surprise later when we go out for dinner but looks like you've already ruined it now.

Pelo smiled and shook her head.

Pelo: So you can be romantic after all? After all these years?

Laone: During the time that you were away on, I realized that I had messed up so much and failed you in so many ways. I wanna do things right. I am open to trying new things as you suggested and loving you the way that you want to be loved.

Pelo: I don't know what to say about this new guy that I've just been introduced to. I just hope that he's here to stay because that's all that I want.

Laone: I swear to you that I'll do everything that I can to carry us. You have done so faithfully almost our entire marriage and I appreciate it.

He wrapped his arms around her and kissed her.

At Arefa's Office

Arefa laughed and shook her head as Puso spoke about his past relationship experiences while she punched some documents which were to be filed and sent to a couple of clients.

Arefa: So you went back to her house and took everything that you had bought for her?

Puso: Yes. There was no way that I was going to be cheated on and sucked dry.

Arefa: (laughed) O go tlogetse. (She was easy on you.) I don't know much about relationships but I know that in life once you buy someone something, you can't choose to take it back. Like first of all, I didn't ask that guy to buy me a phone. He asked me out for dinner and gifted it to me out of his own free will. So there is no way that I'm gonna give it back.

Puso: And the wife? What if she comes after you?

Arefa: I'm not afraid of her. She can bring a whole army with her and I'll tell her the same thing I'm telling you now. I didn't ask him to buy me anything. He did that out of his own freewill and that's because he also wanted to benefit something. Why must I be blamed for her husband's failure to hold back? Owai ye iPhone ke yame. (I'm keeping the iPhone.) He should find something to tell his wife because he's not getting it back.

Puso: (laughed) I honestly don't wish to be that guy right now. I can only imagine what is going on in his head right now. Kana married folks account for every single thebe.

Arefa: I'm not even bothered.

At Sebaga's

Sebqga packed up her husband and son's lunch while they had their breakfast.

Sebaga: Guys please tell me if you don't like something instead of coming back home with it. It's not fair how much I invest into making this food only for you to come back with them.

Fela: Babe I know that we're trying healthy options but isn't there something far much better than the no meat option? Nna kana we

are men. We believe in having something salty in our plates. Kana yang mester? (What do you say sir?)

He said turning to his son.

Sefela: Mama tlhe mma the Beyond Meat sausages suck! Kana they taste like saw dust.

His parents laughed...

Sebaga: Ware they taste like what?

Sefela: These should be given to dogs. I don't think that anyone in this house was meant to be a vegetarian. Le wena mama I know that you want to eat meat. It's only that you've put us on this diet and now you want to prove a point.

Fela looked at him and laughed...

Fela: This boy is truly you! Don't be surprised when he starts calling all of us out.

Sebaga: Finish eating up. You're already late.

Sefela stood up and fixed his uniform...

Sefela: Can I use the bathroom first?

Sebaga: Hurry. I need to attend to a few things after dropping you off at school.

She waited till he had disappeared into the restroom.

Seaga: Have you spoken to her?

Fela: Yeah. She said we can meet up later.

Seaga: Great. Does she know that you're bringing a therapist with to the meeting?

Fela: Not yet. If I tell her then she will start acting all defensive. At this point I just need to get to the bottom of this and see how best to protect this boy because he's a danger to the people around him. Soon enough, he will be a danger to himself. I didn't sleep a wink last night thinking about how badly this could turn out.

Seaga: I hear you but don't go there with the intentions to fight. Engage her as his mother. I'm pretty sure that she's as worried as you. This honestly can't be easy on her. That boy is her little boy.

Fela: Ee mma. I hear you. And Serge? Did he tell you what the big emergency is all about?

Sebaga: No. He just said that he needed me to represent someone and that was it.

Fela: Oh ok. We will see you later akere.

Sebaga: Later babes.

She stood up and kissed him then gave him their lunch packs.

Sebaga: Don't waste any food today.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#195

Later that day...

At Fela's Office

Fela wiped his sweat with the back of his hand and sighed frustratedly as he turned on the air-con. To be frank, nothing really helped with his frustrations. He picked up his phone and called Kgabiso.

Kgabiso: What do you want? Have you called me to insult me some more? Aren't you and that therapist of yours happy with what you have already done?

Fela: And you think that you can fix this by just walking away. Kgabiso that is our son out there going out of his way to hurt others. Each one of us has to own up to the part that they played.

Kgabiso: Yet I'm the one that was most blamed?
Why call a meeting to attack me then use our
son's issues to address yours?

Fela: I wasn't using my issue to address Cody's.
All I'm saying is that we need to have a look at
the root cause and start fixing the problem from
there.

Kgabiso: Well tell your therapist that I'm not the
problem and she must stop blaming my past
for all this.

She hung up on him...

Fela: What kind of punishment is this Lord?

His phone rang almost immediately and he
picked up without looking at the caller identity.

Fela: You want to fight all day?

Laone: Hey man. Who are you fighting with that's gotten you into a bad mood?

Fela: Hey man. Forget about it. How are you?

Laone: Can we meet up?

Fela: Ok. I'll tell you when I leave the office later on. What is it about?

Laone: Can we make it now? I desperately need your help. My life depends on this.

Fela: Wena monna. Come through.

Laone: I was hoping that we could meet at the mall.

Fela: Are you going to tell me what this is about?

Laone: It's a matter of life and death.

Fela: I hope that this is as serious as you say it is because otherwise I won't forgive you for wasting my time.

Laone: I'm at the fields mall.

Fela: Ok. I'll be there in twenty minutes.

Laone: Thanks man. You have no idea how much this means to me.

He hung up and sighed in relief. He needed to find a way to buy that phone without using the family funds or any account that would leave any traces.

Twenty minutes later...

Fela stepped out of his car and dialed his friend's number as he looked around the parking lot...

Laone: Hey man. I see you.

He said stepping out of his car. The two happily greeted each other as they walked to their usual coffee shop.

Laone: Thank you for coming. I know that the last time we spoke, it wasn't pleasant.

Fela: Water under the bridge.

They greeted the waiter and settled down...

Laone: Eish my guy, I have a problem. I need some quick cash.

Fela: Is it that bad?

Laone: No. I need something small. Just a mere twenty thousand.

Fela: Are you going to tell me what's going on?

Kana legale it's private.

Laone: I overspent family funds and now my wife wants me to account for the money.

Fela: I'm I missing something? Are the two of you back together?

Laone: We're working on it and I really don't wanna miss it up. Tlhe monna help me out.

Fela: That's fine but let me run it with the government.

Laone: Do you have to?

Fela: I need to. Transparency is key in this marriage.

Laone: Aren't you two married out of community of property? Why is it important?

Fela: Let's not go there because you and I might end up not talking to each other.

Laone: So you're not gonna help me?

Fela: Are you even my friend? I mean you're willing to get me into trouble with my wife yet you want to sort things out with yours. Why is it that this friendship is one sided? Bona my guy, I think that we've dragged this friendship for way too long. It's about that time. The disrespect you have for my marriage is something that I'll never accept. Enjoy your coffee. And oh, next time you drag someone to meet with you under the pretense that it's between life and death, make sure that you understand the meaning of that.

He stood up and left...

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The Devil I Never Knew

#196

Later

At Laone's house

Laone walked into the kitchen with a bouquet of flowers then greeted his wife as they embraced each other. She had dressed to the occasion and she was looking fine.

Pelo: Go take a shower, I've ironed you a pair of clean pants and a few shirts to choose from.

Laone: Thank you but I was hoping that we could talk before we leave.

Pelo: Yeah, sure. Is everything ok?

Laone: Yeah. Mind if we go and sit?

Pelo: No. Not at all.

He took her hand and lead her to the living room.

Pelo: Are you sure that everything is okay love?

Laone: Yeah.

They both sat down. He swallowed and hoped for the best. At this point, the truth was the only thing that would set him free and who knew what more lies would do to their already crippled marriage?

Laone: Our entire marriage was built on lies for years and nothing ever worked out because of that. I realize that I can lose it all in a heartbeat

and that is why I want to come clean about everything that happened when you were gone.

Pelo: You didn't use that money to buy me a gift did you?

He widened his eyes then looked away feeling ashamed.

Laone: No. How did you know that?

Pelo: The timeframe in which the purchase was made. You honestly thought that I would believe it when you told me that you had planned it all for me? You didn't even know that I would take you back by then.

Laone: I'm sorry. I bought it to impress a girl by the time I was stressed and I...

She looked at him and smiled shaking her head.

Laone: What?

Pelo: I don't know what to say or how to feel. I mean I understand that this was when we had broken up or thought we would be getting a divorce. I'm just struck by the fact that you used so much money to impress a girl you probably didn't even know yet you have never given me a gift amounting to such a huge amount. Like do I derive how much you value me versus how you value other women from that?

There was silence as they both processed their thoughts.

Laone: That's not true. Babe what you mean to me can never be measured against any other woman or by money. No gift can ever prove my love.

Pelo: Yet you never show me. Gone Mme hela
ako o mpolelle Laone. When will you ever show
me that you love me madly as you say? Ga ke
gane, you always say that you married me and
that should be enough affirmation of your love
to me but it's not. Laone, I want to be loved
madly and insanely. Love me like there's no
tomorrow and I'm the only woman you will ever
love. Spoil me with gifts. Fuck me like it's the last
time and I'm the only woman you ever wanna be
with that way. Your commitment to me and this
wedding band is not enough because you
already don't value them yourself.

Laone: Ke labohelo mogatsaka. I swear to you
that I'm gonna do better.

Pelo: I really hope so.

Laone: Let me quickly get ready.

Pelo: I don't feel like going out anymore. You
can take a shower and relax.

Laone: Ao babe!

Pelo: You honestly want me to be ok with a dinner that will probably cost under a thousand while I know very well that you're capable of going all out and you used over ten thousand to spoil another woman? I'm sorry but I'm no longer in the mood to go anywhere. I've spoken to your mum and she said that we can pick up the kids tomorrow.

Laone: Can we leave them with her for a little bit while we sort out our issues? I know that it's too much to ask but I'd like to be given a bit of time to redeem myself.

Pelo: Ok. It's cool.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga held Serge's hand and squeezed it

tightly as he spoke. Although he was trying to be strong, she could tell that he had been thrown off by everything that was happening within his family.

Sebaga: I know that it's a lot to ask but does it hurt? I mean losing him?

Serge: I lost him a long time ago so it doesn't feel like a loss. It's almost feels like it's his way of reminding me that he didn't want me. While some of the children mourn the loss of a father, I can't really relate because he's never been there not even once.

Sebaga: If you had time, would you still try your best to work on your relationship and fix things?

Serge: No. If you're asking this because of your mother then maybe you should try fixing things with her. I mean she hurt you but one thing you're certain of is the fact that she badly wants

to fix things with you and be a part of your life.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#197

Later that evening

At Sebaga's

Sebaga silently chopped some vegetables while her husband attended to the dirty plates in the sink. She had been a bit down since he got back and he wasn't about to push her for answers till she was ready to speak to him.

Sebaga: Babe...

Fela: Mma?

Sebqga: Do you think that it will be right if i go and see Mma Sebaga.

He kept quiet for a few seconds wondering what had happened during the day.

Fela: I don't know why you're asking but that's a choice only you can make. Babe that woman is your mother and only you can decide what's right or what's not when it comes down to your relationship with her. Tota nna my job is to support you as a husband and nothing else. It doesn't matter what kind of a choice you make.

Sebaga: I don't know but a part of me feels like I've been angry for way too long. What she did is unforgivable but it doesn't change the fact

that she is my mother and she will always be my mother no matter what I do. Who knows maybe it's time to fix things and allow her to build a relationship with Sefela. After all Sefela is old and God knows that he will soon start asking questions. That's if he's not already asking the wrong people.

Felq: I hear you. Like I said, nna I will support you in whatever decision you make.

Sebqga: Yeah. I just hope that I'm not messing up my life again.

He looked at her then rinsed his hands before getting a table cloth to dry them...

Fela: I know that you've been hurt in the past and it's so hard to trust people. Half the time you're always looking over your shoulders but you need to know that at times it's ok to let your

gut down and let life happen. Babe you can't always prevent bad things from happening in your life. That's not a life. Things will happen. You're human. Allow yourself to live freely. If you want to work on things with your mother then do that. I understand that after what happened it's hard but she's your mother after all. You surely feel something for her.

Sebaga: Thank you.

She smiled then moved closer and kissed him.

Sebaga: I honestly thought that this marriage wouldn't survive but we're here even after all the struggles that we've been through. There are days I feel like things are too peaceful and they shouldn't be this way but then I realize that we deserve this peace. We've fought to be here for over ten years. Thank you for being the husband

that you are and most importantly the friend you are.

Fela: And thank you for loving me even with all my broken pieces.

Sebaga: You don't have to thank me.

She could still see some worry on his face and some deep sense of sadness.

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Sebqga: He will be ok.

Fela: Mma?

Sebaga: Cody. We will make sure that we win him back. He's a good kid. It's only that he's been through so much.

Fela: Thank you babe.

She nodded her head then continued with what she was doing...

At Pelo's

Pelo sat by the dinning room and swallowed painful lumps as she went through their bank

statements. How important was this girl that her husband had tried to win? To have spent so much money in a day? She tried to recall a time he had went all out for her but failed. He walked through the passage in his boxes then stood behind her.

Laone: Hey.

She turned around and forced a smile...

Pelo: Hey.

Laone: Come to bed. It's late.

He looked at their bank statements which were already open on her laptop.

Laone: Babe I know I messed up but believe me when I say I'm never gonna hurt you again. I should have listened to you and everyone that tried to speak some sense into me.

Pelo: I hear you and like I said, you're forgiven. Go sleep. I'll be right there.

Laone: Ok.

He leaned in to kiss her then turned around and went into their room. She had seen this game unfold before her eyes so many times and she knew how it would end but this time she wouldn't be on the receiving end alone. She sighed then finally gathered the strength to respond to the one text message that mattered in her phone.

The following day...

At Serowe

On the morning of the burial, the old man's children gathered in their father's hut and held hands to say a short prayer. The burial had dragged for so long and at this point, they all wanted it to just end.

Ben:

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The Devil I Never Knew

#198

The following day...

At Serowe

On the morning of the burial, the old man's children gathered in their father's hut and held hands to say a short prayer. The burial had dragged for so long and at this point, they all wanted it to just end.

Ben: I know that we don't always see eye to eye nor do we always agree but at this point, we all need each other. It's no secret that we have all been through so much here. This man laying in that casket made our lives a living hell but one thing that won't change is the fact that he's our father. Even after we leave him in that grave, he will remain our father. I understand that many of us are hurting and hold different opinions but

can we try and hold on for today. It's almost over bo nnaka.

The last couple of days had been really hard but he was right. Once the old man was buried they would finally be able to put this chapter behind them.

At Pelo's

Laone walked into the dinning room and smiled from ear to ear as he noticed the already set dinning table. His wife walked in with some dishes and greeted him in high spirits.

Pelo: Good-morning dear husband. How did you sleep?

Laone: Morning babe. I slept okay. Wena how

did you sleep?

He looked at the various dishes then back at her.

Laone: Are we expecting anyone for breakfast?

Pelo: (Smiled) No. Why do you ask?

Laone: You've made so many dishes and...

Pelo: To celebrate us and our marriage. Babe we're starting on a fresh slate and that is worth celebrating. For the very first time in your life, you told me the truth and if you ask me, I think that's some form of commitment into fixing our marriage. What you did hurts but I appreciate your honesty.

Laone: Ee mma. I appreciate your kindness and grace. We both know that I deserve none of them but to have you serve them like that

means a lot.

Pelo: (Smiled) Great. So I've left some left overs in the fridge from last night. I won't be coming home after work, I have a few things to take care of. Please warm them up and have them as dinner.

Laone: Oh. E le gore o ya kae? (Where are you going?)

Pelo: I have a meeting.

Laone: Meeting?

Pelo: Working late babes.

Laone: Oh i see. I thought that you hated working late.

Pelo: I do but it's not like I have a choice.

Laone: Oh I see.

Pelo: You're not comfortable with it?

Laone: I didn't say that. I just thought that we

would be spending some time together.

Pelo: You know what, you're right babe. I'll speak to my boss and find out if I can't submit my proposals a bit late or maybe move the meeting to an earlier time.

Laone: Serious?

Pelo: Yes babe. Akere golo ha we're working on fixing our marriage. I told you that I'm all in. I'm gonna do everything I can to make things work.

Laone looked up as a tear rolled down his cheek. How was it that he had spent years hurting such a good woman instead of loving her?

Laone: I don't know what to say especially after everything I've put you through.

Pelo: Don't say anything. We're working on things my love. Let me call my boss.

She stood up with a bright smile then dialed her boss's number.

Pelo: Good morning. I'm sorry to disturb your morning sir but I was hoping that we could move our meeting from later today to maybe lunch time to discuss my proposals? I'm in a bit of a tight space.

Him: Is he with you?

She looked at her husband and revealed a bright smile.

Pelo: Yes.

Him: Ok. I'll pick you up at lunch.

Pelo: Thank you sir.

Him: Good girl.

She hung up and placed her phone on the table then went around to stand behind her husband. She put her hands over his shoulders and gently massaged them.

Pelo: So I've canceled work plans. We can maybe watch a movie or do something together later on? Kana legale you have plans?

Laone: (smiled) Consider them cancelled if I ever had any. From now on, you come first. I'm committed to making you happy and making this marriage work before anyone.

Pelo: Good.

She leaned in for a kiss then went into the kitchen to bring some cold water in a jar.

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga parked her car outside her mother's gate then sat in for a few minute's recollecting herself. It had been years since they had last seen each other and it wasn't easy being here. She took deep breathes as she looked at herself in the rear view mirror then applied some lip balm. She pressed her lips together nervously as the old woman stepped out of her house and looked at the gate. She never really had visitors, let alone fancy cars coming into her yard.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#199

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga stepped out of her car then sighed heavily as she locked the car. This woman was her mother but over the years, she had become a stranger and it wasn't easy to be here especially with everything she had done to her.

Sebaga: You're doing ok.

She comforted herself as her husband's words also replayed in her mind. On the other side of the yard, the old woman stood in awe as she realized that the woman that was approaching the yard was daughter . For a minute she

beamed with joy but as soon as she remembered their last discussion, everything became dark. Who knew, maybe her first born was here to cement her last words to her.

Sebaga: Dumelang.

She greeted as she walked in...

Mma Sebaga: Dumelang.

This time her daughter walked in with some confidence and approached her.

Sebaga: Are you well?

She kept quiet for a few seconds and failed to

respond. This felt so unreal.

Mma Sebaga: Sebaga?

Her daughter fought so many demons inside while she maintained a calm and friendly face.

Sebaga: Emma.

Mma Sebaga: I'm I dreaming?

Sebaga: No. It's me.

The old woman looked away and swallowed. So much time had passed since she had last seen the child that had made her a mother. The one that had first suckled on her breast.

Mma Sebaga: We thank God my child. I don't

know what the purpose of this visit is but I more than anything thank God that I got to see you today. I thought that I would die without ever laying my eyes on you again.

Sebaga: Well I'm here. Can we talk inside?

She shook her head not believing what her baby had just said to her.

Mma Sebaga: Yes my child.

She took her hand and they went inside the house together.

At Fela's Office

Laone fixed his suit then rubbed his face before

stepping out of the lift and heading to Fela's office. After their last meeting and everything that had taken place in between, he knew that he owed his friend an apology. He walked to his office and just as he was about to reach there, Arefa appeared. None of them had been expecting to bump into each other so the shock in their eyes was visible almost immediately.

Arefa: I hope that you didn't come here to harass me because this time I will be the one to call the police on you. I never approached you or asked for anything from you. It was the other way around.

He kept quiet and looked at her from head to toe then walked away leaving her standing there alone. He stood by Fela's office then knocked a couple of times before being let in.

Fela: If I had known that it was you then I wouldn't have let you in. What do you want?

Laone: Good-morning.

Fela: I asked you a question. I thought that I had made myself clear the last time we met.

Laone: I know what you said but I'm still here to apologize. I'm not asking you to take me back as a friend but I want you to know that I'm really sorry for the friend I've been to you. I'm sorry that I never listened to everything that you wanted to teach me through out the years because you were right. Lastly I want to say thank you. For the friend you were and for the husband that you are. Maybe no one ever tells you but it's admirable. I wanna work on my marriage. Hopefully I can also be a good husband.

Fela: I hope so too man. That woman doesn't

deserve everything that you've put her through. It's time to step up. We may not be friends anymore but I wish you both the best. Be good to her.

Laone: Thank you.

Fela: It's not an easy journey but if you keep what's important in both your mind and heart then you won't fail.

Laone: Sure.

They fist bumped and he left...

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga looked around the messy room then forced a smile as her mother gave her a glass of water. Not only was the glass old but it also seemed a bit dirty.

Sebaga: Thank you.

Mma Sebaga: I should be thanking you for coming over. I never thought that I would ever see this day.

Sebaga: Do you live alone?

Mma Sebaga: Yes.

Sebaga: Okay.

Mma Sebaga: I know that I have apologized so many times but please forgive me for all that I've done to you my child.

Sebaga looked around and sighed... Karma seemed to have done it's part after all. The house looked almost empty and she had her doubts about a lot of things.

Sebaga: Do you have some food?

The old lady shamefully bowed...

Sebaga: I'm going out. I won't be long.

She went into the dirty kitchen to look around for the things that were not available then came back and grabbed her bag before leaving.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#200

Later that day...

At Pelo's Office

Pelo turned off her laptop then opened her drawers to grab her make-up bag. She leaned back on her chair and grabbed a mirror then took a good look at herself before taking out her lipstick. There was a knock on the door.

Meanwhile in the reception area, Laone walked in with a bouquet of flowers strapped in two hundred pula notes.

Laone: Good afternoon Precious. I'm here to see my wife. Is she still around?

Receptionist: I just got back in the office. Let me give her a call and find out.

She said dialing the landline.

In Pelo's office...

Pelo: Hello.

Receptionist: Ma'am your husband is here to see you, can I send him up?

Pelo: Unfortunately I'm in the middle of a meeting. Please tell him that I'll see him at home.

Receptionist: Ee mma. Copy that.

She put the landline down then turned to Laone.

Receptionist: I'm sorry but she's in the middle of a meeting.

Laone: Isn't it lunchtime? Can't she come down for a few minutes kana I should go up to see her?

Precious: I'm afraid that I can't let you do that.

Laone: I hear you.

He swallowed then turned around to leave with his surprise that he had failed to deliver.

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga held her waist and coughed from all the dust that had accumulated in the kitchen. She had spent a couple of hours cleaning up while her mother rested in the living room. Just as she began to pack up the groceries she had brought with her, Mma Sebaga walked in.

Mma Sebaga: Ao ngwanaka! You have been standing in here for the whole day. Why don't you come and rest? I will finish up cleaning later.

Sebaga: I'm almost done. Gape hela I can tell that you're not well so you can't clean up. Go and rest, when I finish, I will make you something to eat.

Tears built up in the old woman's eyes.

Mma Sebaga: Can we sit and talk for a bit?

Sebaga: I need to finish up in here and get started on the pots so that I can also get home and cook for my family.

Mma Sebaga: Emma. I promise you that it won't take too long. I just want to get something off my chest.

Sebaga: Ok.

She reluctantly agreed. The truth was that she was not ready to open up and speak to her mother about a lot of things though she was physically present. She quietly followed her into the living room.

Mma Sebaga: Come sit next to me.

She sat down.

Mma Sebaga: Everything is well with you my child. Everything that you shall touch shall be blessed and the works of your hands will prosper. I want you to know that I release these blessings from the bottom of my heart as your mother. I can see that you're not ready to talk and it's okay. I respect that. I pray to this God

that he remembers you in everything and you never lack. As a mother, I've failed you in the past but may this God never fail you. I'm sorry my baby. I'm so sorry. May you heal from this day and know that whatever happened was never your fault to begin with.

Tears rolled down Sebaga's cheeks as she looked at her mother. All she saw was remorse in the old woman's eyes.

Sebaga: Let me finish up in there. I will be back to see you.

She went into the kitchen and poured her a glass of juice then came back and served her mother.

Mma Seaga: Thank you my child.

At Pelo's office

Pelo closed her eyes and relaxed as Bogosi gently rubbed and massaged her shoulders. The man's hands were soft and gifted which almost put her to sleep almost immediately.

Bogosi: Your shoulders are so tense. When was the last time you had a full body massage and indulged in a sauna?

Pelo: You know that I'm a busy woman.

Bogosi: That's where the problem is. You need to make time for such things. Cancel all your plans for tomorrow. I'm taking you out of town for a spa date.

Pelo: I haven't finished with my submissions.

Bogosi: Then delegate. Pelo you don't always have to do everything on your own. You have people hired to help you. Delegate. Everyone already knows how hard you work.

He pulled her chair towards him then planted a kiss on her forehead.

Pelo: Bogosi...

Bogosi: I won't push you. I respect your decision so take all the time you need to think.

Pelo: Thanks.

She looked at him and smiled... A spa date wouldn't be that bad after all.

Pelo: Let's do that spa day tomorrow. I'll

delegate.

Bogosi: Now we're talking.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga stood by the gate and happily waved at her daughter as she got into the car and drove off. Even if the Lord was ready to take her then, she would die a happy woman. Although Sebaga had not said anything about forgiving her, she had seen her child at long last.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#201

Later that day...

At Sebaga's

Fela held his wife's hand tightly as she spoke to their son. For the very first time in a long time, his wife was breaking the walls that she had built around her and he had never been so proud as a husband.

Sebaga: I know that I don't talk about my mum and you've never met her but I think that it's high time you did. Well that's if you're interested in having a relationship with her. So much has happened between me and her and for the longest time, I was angry. I let my anger deprive you of building a relationship with her and for

that I'm sorry son.

Sefela looked at his mum and smiled. His brother had told him so much about the old woman and he had always dreamt of meeting her.

Sefela: I don't know what to say. I've never wanted to go against you as my mother but at the same time, I've always wanted to meet her.

Fela looked at his wife and nodded. She was doing well and he would support her every move.

Sebaga: I'll take you to meet her tomorrow after school.

Sefela: Thank you mum.

Sebaga: Thank you my boy. I'm sorry that I dragged you into my issues.

Sefela: Ee mma.

Sebaga: You can go and have your dinner. I've put it in the warmer. Make sure that when you're done, you wash the dishes.

Sefela: Ee mma.

He stood up and left the room.

Fela: Thank you babe. I know that it wasn't easy but I really appreciate it. All I want is for you to have some peace and that comes with breaking walls around you.

Sebaga: Yeah. She and I barely spoke but for some reason I feel so much lighter. Just seeing her and being around gave me some kind of closure. God has dealt with it his way. There is

no need for me to keep fighting.

Fela: That's very true and in all honesty, holding on to anger only hurts the host.

Sebaga: Yeah. So I was thinking that maybe if you're free this weekend, we can go away with the kids.

Fela: Both of them?

Sebaga: Yeah. We haven't done anything as a family in a long time. And maybe while we're at it, we could meet up with Kgabiso and discuss how best we can help Cody. I don't know why he did what he did but the boy needs all of us.

Fela: I don't know what to say except that I'm grateful. I've been told that no relationship can be this peaceful unless both partners are faking it but I love this peace and I appreciate it.

Sebaga: Me too. I'll do anything to protect it.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Moagi opened the fridge and shook her head as her sister inlaw opened up her food storage wall unit to show her what her daughter had bought for her.

Mma Moagi: Ware Sebaga came here in person?

Mma Sebaga: In person. I was so shocked when I saw her. Waitsi gore ngwanake o tsile ka tidimalo. A berekana le ntlu yame antse a itidimaletse. (My daughter did everything without saying a word.)

Mma Moagi: I don't know what to say except that God is faithful. Who would have ever thought that Sebaga would ever set foot here let alone buy you all this groceries. You can tell from everything that's in here that she did it out of love. Ke raya hela gore le wena wa bona.

Even Kgabiso has never bought you such groceries let alone cleaned your house. Who knows where you would be right now had you not hurt her the way that you did.

Mma Sebaga: That's in the past. I thank God for bringing me back my child before I die. I have nothing to give her as you know that I'm poor but I will pray for blessings upon her life each day that I get to live. That child is nothing like me or her sister.

Mma Moagi: I'm just happy that she forgave you even though you say that she hasn't confessed it with her mouth.

At Pelo's house

Laone sat alone in the living room constantly checking the time as he waited for his wife.

Pelo was not the kind to run late without

notifying her husband. He was now beginning to worry. Just as he picked up his phone to call her, the front door opened and she walked in.

Laone: Hey. I was starting to get worried.

Pelo: Sorry about that. I stopped by the restaurant in town for a glass of wine then ended up bumping into a couple of friends who I decided to have dinner.

Laone: Oh... That's nice but you should have called me so I don't worry and start panicking. Kana I was just about to call then send a search party.

She looked at the time and smiled...

Pelo: Ao babe. It's only nine.

Everything about this woman had changed and something told him that there was a lot that would still shock him.

Laone: Ne mma are we okay? I mean do we want the same thing? I don't know but ever since I told you about that issue ya phone, you seem to have changed.

Pelo: You think that I changed because you bought a girl a phone?

He swallowed then kept quiet...

Pelo: Yet I didn't change when you bought one a plot? And what about the one you bought a car? I come home late just this once and you start sweating. Nna rra I'm going to sleep.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#202

That same night

At Serowe

Lolo stood outside the toilet and waited for her brother. Now that they had buried the old man, she was determined to confront her brother.

Ben: Uhu!

He said in shook as he met his sister just after he opened the door.

Ben: And then?

Lolo: You killed him? Didn't you?

Ben: Heela wena!

He pulled her by the hand and looked around then dragged her behind the toilet.

Ben: What exactly are you hoping to start?

Lolo: I want the truth.

Ben: I'm beginning to think that you're the one that killed him if at all he was killed as you say. I mean let's face it, if there's anyone that the old man wronged more than anyone it's you. You could be looking for a scapegoat.

Lolo: I didn't kill him.

Ben: Ao? Then why are you acting suspicious?

She began to look around hoping that no one had seen or heard them.

Ben: What's wrong? Cat caught your tongue?

Lolo: You know that I'm not capable of murder. I can never kill anyone.

Ben: Do I? Like I said, you're acting suspicious.

Lolo: You're right. We need to let this go and start afresh. The old man is gone after all.

She swallowed hoping that she had not given her brother any reasons to go after her. A week before the old man died, she had also slipped some poison into his food.

At Pelo's

Laone stood behind his wife as she sat by the dressing table and did her skin routine. None of them had said anything to the other and the more she kept quiet, was the more it stole his peace.

Laone: I know what I did to you is unforgivable and I'm sorry. As hard as this may be to believe, I want nothing more than to fix this marriage. I realize that I messed up and that is why I'm committed to doing everything I can to make it peaceful again.

Pelo: Ee rra. I appreciate that. Let's go to bed. I'm honestly exhausted.

Laone: Sure.

He leaned in to kiss her neck.

Laone: I miss you.

Pelo: Not tonight. I'm tired.

Laone: Ee mma.

The following day

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso parked her car under the Morula tree and stepped out with a few shopping bags. She knocked on her mother's main door then walked in almost immediately.

Mma Sebaga: Uhu!

She said as her daughter walked in.

Mma Sebaga: I didn't say that you must come in.

Kgabiso: How are you mama?

Her mother looked at the shopping bags and her heart beamed with so much joy. This was the daughter that barely did anything for her mother. To have her bring even a single shopping bag was a blessing. Surely God was on her side.

Mma Sebaga: I'm well and you my child? It's nice to see you after so long.

Kgabiso: It's nice to see you too. I took the rest

of the day off. What would you like to eat for lunch today? Don't hold back. I bought every little thing you can think of.

Mma Sebaga: I don't know what to say. Waitsi gore I thank God. I'm even afraid to keep thanking him because maybe this is his way of taking me away from the face of the earth. Just yesterday your elder sister was here.

Kgabiso: Oh, I heard about that.

Her mother looked at her and shook her head. So even after all this while, her daughter had not changed.

Mma Sebaga: Is that why you came here?

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The Devil I Never Knew

#203

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso: So what did she want?

Mma Sebaga: She came to see her mother just as you have.

Kgabiso: Why after this long? Akere she said that you're not her mother. Wena mama don't tell me that you have that girl under your beneficiaries especially after what she did to you.

Mma Sebaga: I have two children and I will do right by them even though one of them is not mine biologically. Se se salang, they were both given to me by God.

Kgabiso: Nna i have always suspected that she

wasn't yours. Does she know?

Mma Sebaga looked at her late sister's child and sighed heavily. She had kept this secret for years and even she knew that she couldn't anymore.

Mma Sebaga: Please sit down. We need to talk.

Kgabiso happily sat down waiting to hear what she had always hoped for her entire life.

Mma Sebaga: Do you remember me telling you two about my late sister when you were growing up?

Kgabiso: Yes. She was your only sister. Is that who Sebaga's mum is?

The old woman swallowed and looked away...

Mma Sebaga: She was your mum.

She looked at her daughter and shamefully extended her hands to her.

Mma Sebaga: She passed away right after she gave birth to you and your father and I decided to take you in as our second born. We had been struggling to have more kids after Sebaga and...

Kgabiso held her throat as she felt a big lump blocking her throat. There was no way that this was true.

Kgabiso: You're not telling the truth.

She said as she choked on her tears.

Mma Sebaga: I'm sorry that we never told you any of this before but we didn't want to put you through any pain. You're my child and it will forever remain so. Your father also considered you as his till the very end. Who gave birth to you or how we took you in is not important.

Kgabiso: Not important? You want to tell that to a whole grown woman that you've lied to for her entire life? You think that I didn't deserve to know this truth? And who told you that it's not important?

She said grabbing her keys and storming out. This was not the way that the old woman had

intended for things to be. She had only wanted her daughter to realize that they were both her children regardless of how they were related and they had to love each other.

At Serge's house

Sebaga danced along to the music that she was playing in the kitchen as she did the dishes.

Serge grabbed the Bluetooth speaker and reduced the volume then sat by the kitchen counter.

Sebaga : Hey.

Serge: Thank you.

Sebaga: For what exactly? Babes you don't have to thank me for being your friend. This is what friends do for each other. I just hope that this

whole thing does not turn your life upside down or even mess up with your peace.

Serge: And for the very first time, I wish I had stayed away and focused on my own life. Babe I don't wanna get dragged in things like murder. I've worked so hard to build my career and everything that I have gape hela I don't support such acts. I'm for the law always.

Sebaga: I hear what you're saying but who knows what those kids have been through. Nna tota I won't judge anyone. I've seen what trauma and pain can do to someone over the years as we've represented different people. It's only that this one is too close to home hence why it feels different.

Serge: Maybe. I don't know. And wena? How did it go with your mum?

There was a certain spark in her eyes that

radiated peace.

Sebaga: We didn't speak but I'm at peace. O kile wa bona. I just went there to clean her house and just be around. I don't know if it's normal but that somehow helped. I just felt so much at peace after I left. I could see the relief and sincerity in her eyes even just as she spoke. That's all that brings me peace. Sefela le ene is looking forward to building a relationship with her.

Serge: I'm proud of you babe. I know that this wasn't easy at all.

Sebaga: Yeah but I'm glad that I did it anyways.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#204

Later that day

At Pelo's office

Pelo looked at her family potrait that was on the desk and sighed with a heavy heart. This was all she had wanted to build for years yet her partner had disappointed her so many times. She thought of her children and the journey she had wanted to embark on then emotionally retreated. No matter how careful she went on about it, someone was bound to get hurt. There was a knock on the door that instantly brought her back to life. She looked up and wore her best smile then asked the person to

come through.

Bogosi: Hey there. Are you ready to go? I'm so sorry for the delay. I had no idea that my day would totally go south. I've just called the Spa and they said we can come through. They have some accommodation so maybe we can spend the night there since it's a bit out of town. And before you say anything, I'll book us into different rooms.

Pelo: I really appreciate that but my mother inlaw just called. My daughter is not well so I need to rush over there and care for her. If you don't mind then we can reschedule. Thank you for organizing this.

Bogosi: I'm so sorry to hear that. Can I drop you off? Will you be okay to drive there on your own? Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Pelo: I'll be fine. I'll speak to you tomorrow. Let me get going.

She gathered her things then packed up and left.

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso stepped out of her car then rushed to her mother's house with a photo album in hand. There was no way that what the old woman had told her was true. She looked very much like her and even her childhood pictures told a different story. She burst the door open without knocking then walked in.

Mma Kgabiso: Heelang!

She said as her daughter's presence startled her.

Kgabiso: What do you hope to achieve by lying to me? Is it because Sebaga has more money than me and she can buy groceries worth my salary? I'm your only daughter. I mean where was she when you needed her all these years? Where was she when you got sick here on your own? Isn't this the same girl that said you aren't her daughter? I mean why do you want to please her at my expense. Why mama? Why must you always choose money?

She screamed in pain as her mother walked up-to her and hugged her. She's could feel her pain from just the screams in her cry.

Mma Sebaga: I'm sorry for keeping this away

from you. You're both my children and I love you both. I should have never treated you two in different ways. I'm the reason your relationship is broken and everything turned out this way. I was a bad mother for years.

Kgabiso: Wa yaka mosadimogolo ke wena.
(You're lying you old woman.)

Her deep cries left a wound that could never be healed in the old woman's heart.

At Pelo's house...

Pelo parked her car behind her husband's in the driveway then stepped out smiling. It was quite rare to see his car at home during such early hours. She had told him that she was not coming home yet he had chosen to stay home.

That was a first and maybe this was the beginning of their marriage. She walked into the house with so much guilt.

Laone: Hey babe.

He stood up to welcome her with a kiss then grabbed her things.

Pelo: Hey. How was your day?

Laone: Very long without you. How was yours? I thought that you were not coming home till late.

Pelo: Yeah. I cancelled my plans. Can we talk?

Laone: Is something wrong?

Pelo: No. I have something to share with you.

Laone: What is it? You're scaring me.

She looked at him a couple of times before she cleared her throat.

Pelo: Are you serious about making things work?
I mean being truthful and doing right by me?
Are you in this marriage for the long haul?

Laone: Yes. I meant everything I said.

If he was ready to put in as much work as he had said he would then maybe meeting him halfway was not such a bad idea.

Pelo: The truth is that I didn't come back to work on our marriage. I came back to seek revenge and let you feel exactly what I felt all these years you've cheated on me.

Laone: Babe!

Pelo: And tonight I was more than ready to go

through with my plans.

He looked at her with a straight face trying to hide his pain and disappointment.

Laone: I don't know what to say.

Pelo: I love you Laone. Coming back to you was a very stupid move but I don't care because that's my stupidity. I don't expect anyone to understand where I'm coming from or where I'm going. Don't try any of your crap with me this time around because two can play that game. You will end up in the hospital my friend. It's not that other men don't want me or I'm not beautiful enough. It's only that I've respected you. If you try anything funny then you will find out why the devil compares his notes with me.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#205

The following day

At Mma Sebaga's

Fela parked his car outside the gate then turned to his wife as she took deep breaths. Although she hadn't said much, he could tell that she was struggling in this particular moment.

Fela: Are you okay?

Sebaga: Yeah. I'm just nervous. I mean I know that I've been here before but she sounded like

she wanted to discuss something a bit too serious over the phone.

Fela: Given how things have been in the past few years, it is serious. There is a lot to discuss. A lot to heal from and forgive. I'm just confused as to why she also asked me to be around.

Sebaga: Same here.

Fela: But you know what, let's just go hear what she has to say.

Sebaga: Yeah.

They both stepped out of the car and walked into the yard.

Meanwhile in the yard Kgabiso looked at her mother with tears in her eyes. Her sister was going to have a field day and have another reason to look down on her.

Kgabiso: Why do you always choose her over me? Is it because I'm not your blood?

Mma Sebaga: You know that's not true. I am aware of the damage I have caused and I know that it can never be easy to repair. The truth is that, I've always chosen your side over hers. I've always babied you more. As a mother, there was a time I thought I was on the right track because I didn't want you to ever feel like you weren't ours or even suspect a thing. Over time, it changed and anything I did was driven by greed mme hela I've never chosen Sebaga over you because you aren't mine biologically. I might have loved you in the wrong manner but I've never not loved you my child.

There was a knock on the door.

Kgabiso: I'm not staying for this.

Mma Sebaga: I understand that you're angry but this is important. Please stay for just a little while.

She rolled her eyes as the old woman stood up to get the door.

Mma Sebaga: Dumelang bo ngwanaka.
(Greetings my children.) Thank you so much for coming. Please come in.

They greeted her back then walked in...

Sebaga: Dumelang.

She said facing Kgabiso but there was no

response till they were offered to sit.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you so much for coming my children. I know and understand that all of us in this room have their faults and mistakes. We have all been through a lot and mostly it's my actions as a mother that brought us here.

There was silence as Kgabiso stood up...

Kgabiso: I was just leaving.

Mma Sebaga: Please stay. What I'm about to talk about concerns everyone in this room.

Kgabiso: What exactly should I stay for? To hear you tell your daughter that I'm not yours and you took me in out of pity because my mother died?

Sebaga turned to her husband as her heart palpitated. What exactly were these two on about?

At Fela's office...

Laone parked his car in the parking lot and sighed in relief as he noticed that Fela's car was not parked anywhere around. His wife was too broken and he had been the cause to everything. If he didn't fix things now then who knew how things would turn out between the two of them. Fela was right. The way he had treated women was wrong and that's where he first needed to start.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#206

At Fela's Office

Laone stood by Puso's office door and knocked a couple of times before Arefa got the door. There was a moment of silence as she realized that he was there for her.

Arefa: I hope that you didn't come here to harass me because you will regret every moment of it.

Laone: No I'm not here for that. Can we please talk?

Arefa: As you can see, I'm at work. I don't have

time to just hang around.

Laone: I understand that and it won't take much of your time.

She reluctantly gave in to his demands.

Arefa: What do you want? Close the door behind you. You have ten minutes before my boss gets here.

Laone: Ee mma.

He did as he was told then sat down.

Laone: I came out here to apologize for my behavior and the way that I treated you. You're right. I'm the one that came after you not the other way around. I offered to take you out and

bought you that phone out of my free will. Calling to harass you and demand for things you never asked for was disrespectful. I'm the one that's married and respecting my wedding vows is my responsibility.

Arefa: Exactly!

Laone: Thank you for taking out your time to listen to me.

Arefa: Next time you decide to cheat on your wife, make sure that it's what you really want.

Laone: I'm never cheating on her. What I did was a mistake and I will do everything to make sure that it never happens again. I love that woman and I don't wanna lose her.

Arefa: And the phone?

Laone: Keep it. My wife and I came to an understanding. In her view, it's just a phone that can never worth any of the things we have built together.

He said with so much confidence. For the very first time, it was so much clearer what he wanted.

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga and her husband sat quietly and listened as mother and daughter argued. They had been at it for a good thirty minutes and it was now getting uncomfortable.

Sebaga: We can excuse you and come back another time you if you like.

Kgabiso: Maybe you should.

Mma Sebaga: Kgabiso!

Kgabiso: What? Isn't she the intruder?

Mma Sebaga: Ga o buwe sentle ngwanaka.
(You're wrong to speak like that.)

Kgabiso: Wrong in what sense? Wasn't I the one that bought you this plot and built this house? Where was she when you didn't have anywhere to go or when I took out a loan to build this house? You want to discuss your inheritance and she is suddenly interested in coming here?

Sebaga stood up and shook her head.

Sebaga: Let's go.

She said turning to her husband...

Kgabiso: That's right. Run away like you always do. Mme hela you need to know that you're not getting a piece of this yard. I worked hard to

build this small house that you see for your mother.

Sebaga looked at her mother and chuckled.

Sebaga: Keep well Mma Sebaga. We will check on you another time.

She ignored her sister and walked out of the house with her husband. She knew very well that Kgabiso was unwell hence she wasn't going to allow her to drag her to her level.

Fela: I'm shocked you didn't say anything in there.

Sebaga: And give her the satisfaction of seeing me in her level. Fela, I've lived with Kgabiso for years and I know how her head works by now. If

one is not careful, they might just turn themselves into a fool while she remains the wise one. I don't have time to argue with her. Nna kana I never said that I was interested in any of mama's things. I've toiled all my life for my son. I have my own things. I have no reason to demand for mama's things especially when I know I haven't been in her life. Let them fight on their own. Nna tota I no longer have the time for that. Let's just go.

Meanwhile inside Kgabiso took out all of the groceries that she had bought her mother and began to pack them in shopping bags.

Kgabiso: You can choose your daughter any day, anytime. Nna I'm leaving but please make sure that you vacate my house by the end of tomorrow because there is no way that your

child is getting anything that rightfully belongs to me.

She said as she left not giving the old lady a chance to respond back.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#207

At Sebaga's

Fela laid back on the couch and sipped on his champagne while his wife folded their laundry. You could tell that she was unbothered from just her calmness.

Fela: So this whole time your mum kept such a truth away from everyone.

Sebaga: Nothing shooks me when it comes to those two anymore. I don't even understand how you're shocked. I'm not getting involved tthe rra. Let them sort themselves out.

Fela: Yeah. It's a good thing we left.

Sebaga: I just don't understand how one can remain the same for the rest of their lives. I mean as a human being, you need to grow and change at some point. Koore my sister ene has been constant with her behavior. Ao!

Fela: Well there are such people in life. They even go to the grave without making an effort to change. I'm impressed with the way you handled her. Nna tota I'm just happy that very soon Cody will be an adult and we won't have to deal with her. You say that I'm a bit harsh when

it comes to her but that woman has never changed the mma. She is the same.

Sebaga: People like Kgabiso require you to deal with them using wisdom. If you apply your emotions into it then you will surely lose your mind.

Fela: I hear what you're saying.

A phone call came through interrupting their conversation. Seba looked at the caller identity and sighed heavily.

Fela: Is it her?

Sebaga: No. Mma Sebaga. This is the kind of drama that I didn't want in the first place.

Fela: I hear you but we're already here babe. So you might as well as hear what she has to say. Maybe she wants to apologize. Who knows?

Sebaga: There is no need. We've been through those so many times.

She picked the phone then hung up before dialing the old woman who instantly picked up.

Mma Sebaga: Sebaga ngwanaka.

She could tell that the old woman was in tears from her shakey voice which she tried to control but the pain was too deep.

Sebaga: Are you okay?

Mma Sebaga: Your sister has chased me out of her yard. She says that by tomorrow I should have left. I'm moving in with Mma Moagi.

Sebaga: Bathong! Is this about what she said

earlier on? Nna kana bathong I'm not interested in getting anything that belongs to her. I'm not back to take anything away from her or ruin your relationship. Please tell her that.

Mma Sebaga: It's okay my daughter. Let me move out and give her what she wants. I deserve everything that's happening to me right now. The monster we all see today was created by me. If only I had been a good mother then we wouldn't be here. I was just calling to let you know incase you come around and don't find me.

Sebaga: Emma. Thanks for letting me know.

She hung up then put the phone down and picked up her laundry.

Fela: And?

Sebaga: Like I said, the drama between these two never ends. Apparently Kgabiso wants mum to move out of the house she built.

Fela: Ele gore whose plot does that belong to? Can she even do that legally?

Sebaga: I have no idea. I didn't ask. Tota hela she should give her what she wants otherwise there will be no end to this issue. Are she will stay with Mma Moagi.

Fela: I get that but that's a temporary solution mme kana. I mean I get that Kgabiso is angry but for how long? You can't throw your own mother out. Surely she and that woman have had their good times and at one point, she was a good mother to her. Doesn't that count for something?

Sebaga: Not with Kgabiso. I'm telling you, if Mma Sebaga doesn't do as she is told then there will be hell to pay. Kgabiso doesn't easily

back down. It's just who she is.

Fela: I hear you. It's such a pity that things took a different turn only later in this life. I mean I personally think that the old woman is being genuine.

Sebaga: Yeah. The problem is that the damage has been done.

At Mma Sebaga's

Mma Moagi comforted her sister-inlaw as she cried. The pain of having to witness the damage she had done in Kgabiso's life was too much.

Mma Moagi: Don't take it too personally. This could just be temporary madness. What you just told her can't be easy on her. You and Rra Sebaga hid the truth from her for all these years

and it was wrong of you though you thought that you were protecting her.

Mma Sebaga: Emma. Let me get my things and leave. I don't want to add fuel her anger.

Mma Moagi: Yes. Let's give her a bit of time.

At Laone's

Laone grabbed his wife's laptop bag then took her hand and lead her to the living room where he had set up a foot spa and a tray with some goodies.

Pelo: And?

Laone: Welcome to your evening treat. I don't know if I have this plugged on properly.

She looked at it and laughed...

Pelo: It's fine.

She sat down and he went on his knees to take off her shoes. Once she had put her feet in the foot spa, he deemed the down lights and played some music by Kenny G. He grabbed a glass of wine by the side table and gave it to her then stood behind her and massaged her shoulders.

Pelo: You have no idea how much I needed this.

Laone: Relax and enjoy my love.

He increased the pressure a bit as she breathed heavily.

Laone: Let me know if I'm hurting you.

Pelo: (Sighed) It's actually perfect.

Laone: Okay. So once we've soaked your feet, we're going to take a shower. I'll give you a full body massage then so that you can sleep well.

Pelo: Thank you babe. I appreciate you.

The following day...

At Sebaga's

Kgabiso parked her car in front of the yard then sat in as her son stepped out with his backpack. Everything about this little vacation that had been planned annoyed her but she knew not to mess with Cody so she remained quiet.

Kgabiso: Have fun and let me know when you guys are back.

Cody: So you're not seeing dad?

Kgabiso: No. I'm in a rush. I'll call him.

Sebaga stepped out of the house and waved at her but she reversed out quickly leaving Cody standing outside.

Sebaga: Hey there.

She said as she pressed her button to open the gate then met Cody halfway and embraced him.

Cody: Dumelang.

He said smiling from ear to ear.

Seaga: So are you ready for a little fun on the beach?

Cody: Are we still here?

They both laughed as they went into the house.

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Goodmorning

The Devil I Never Knew

#208

Later that day...

At Mma Moagi's

Rra Moagi looked at his sister from head to toe then shook his head in disbelief. Was this the same woman that had said that she would never turn to him for help? Life was truly a wheel.

Rra Moagi: Dumela mohumi wa Gaborone.
(Hello Gaborone's richest woman.)

Mma Sebaga shamefully bowed.

Mma Moagi: Ga go dirwe jalo. (That's not how things are done.)

Rra Moagi: When she was busy dragging and disrespecting me, did you tell her that?

Mma Moagi: How many years ago was that? Do you see why you have things like blood pressure? Akere Mma Sebaga apologized? Why can't you move on from the past?

Her husband ignored them and went into the bedroom.

Mma Sebaga: If me being here will stir up some trouble in your household then i might have to leave.

Mma Moagi: Leave and go where? Mma Sebaga this is your brother's house. He will get used to the fact that you're here. If you leave then where will you go?

Mma Sebaga: You have already done so much for me. I don't want to cause trouble for you.

Mma Moagi: Stay. I'm pretty sure that Kgabiso

will calm down. She is just upset. Just give her a bit of time to accept this whole thing.

Mma Sebaga: I hope so because I really didn't mean to hurt her.

Mma Moagi: I know. It's only that Kgabiso is stubborn like her mother. It takes her a while to see reason but hela she will. You may have your own faults as a mother but you have loved that girl like your own and raised her with love. I don't remember a day that she's lacked or ever felt like an outsider.

At Sebaga's

Sebaga walked into the boys room with a box of pizza then placed it by one of the study table before she stood by the door.

Sebaga: Ok boys, your lunch is here so you can take a break from those games and eat. Our flight is only later so we have a bit of time to get everything ready. Cody your trolley bag is in the closet. I've bought you a couple of things which I've put in there.

Cody stood up smiling from ear to ear. It still came as a surprise that even after everything he had put this woman through, she still loved him.

Cody: Let's take a selfie.

He said as he got up and stood next to his mother.

Cody: Mama the mma don't pose like a parent. Try and act like a cool parent. This one is for the

grams.

Sebaga laughed shaking her head.

Sebaga: Ha re ga ke monkane wa gago. (I'm not your agemate.)

Cody: Ok, are you ready. Remember to act cool.

She smiled with her thumbs up.

Cody: Ae aoo.

Sebaga: What exactly do you want me to do?

Cody: Don't do that thumbs up. It's outdated.

She shook her head then posed smiling.

Cody: That's more like it.

He snapped a picture then turned to his little brother.

Cody: You wanna take a picture man?

Sefela: Not with mum posing like that.

Sebaga: That's it. I'm also not taking pictures with you guys.

She walked out as Cody posted the picture on his WhatsApp status captioned, "Our walking ATM, we love you mum and thank you for this vacation" He posted and his first viewer was his mother who instantly responded to the status.

Kgabiso: So have you taken off?

Cody: Not yet. I'll let you know when we leave.
Our flight is only for later.

Kgabiso: Oh ok.

She put her phone down and clicked her tongue. Not only was this girl living her life but she had also somehow managed to win over a child that had grown to hate her.

At Pelo's office

Laone stepped out of the car and rushed to the passenger side to open the door for his wife. He grabbed her things as she stood there waiting for him like a flower. It had been years since he had last taken her to work. Many of Pelo's colleagues were left amazed as they passed by and greeted them.

At Fela's Office

After wrapping up his meeting with Puso, Fela rushed back to his office to pack up his things. He was going to be on leave for a solid three weeks so he needed to take a few things with him. Just as he was about to leave, Arefa knocked on the door.

Fela: Come in.

She walked in and greeted him.

Fela: Did I forget something?

Arefa: No. I came to see if there's anything you need help with before you leave.

Fela: I'm good thank you. I think that I've covered everything from my side. Do you guys need anything?

Arefa: Nnyaa rra.

Fela: Ok.

Arefa: If you like, you can leave the key for your office so that I can clean while you're away.

Fela: Thanks but I'm not comfortable with that.

Arefa: Does this have to do with what happened?

Fela: No. This is my private space and I would prefer to keep it that way. Everything that you need is in your office unless I left out anything.

Arefa: I would like to apologize for the way that I acted and disrespected your wife. I'm only human and at times I make mistakes.

Fela: And like I said before. You're forgiven.

Arefa: Your wife is a lucky woman. I hope she knows that and doesn't take it for granted.

Fela: I'm the lucky one.

Arefa: I can only hope that one day I will find a good man.

Fela: You will. You're still way too young.

Arefa: Thank you.

Fela: Sure. Goodluck with everything.

At Sebaga's

After contemplating on calling her mum a couple of times, Sebaga finally picked up her phone and dialed her mother's number.

Mma Sebaga: Hello.

Sebaga: Hello. How are you?

Mma Sebaga: I'm ok my girl. How are you?

Sebaga: I'm well, thank you. I just called to let you know that I will be traveling out of the county for a few weeks. I've spoken to my friend and he will check on you. Should you need anything then please let him know. He will assist you.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you so much my girl. I don't know what to say but I just want you to know that I appreciate this and I will never forget it.

Sebaga: You don't have to thank me. We will talk when I get back.

Mma Sebaga: Ee mma.

Sebaga: Are you comfortable at uncle's house?

Mma Sebaga: Ee mmq. Everything is fine.

Sebaga: Ok. Keep well.

Mma Sebaga: You too my child.

She hung up and sighed heavily. Although the old woman claimed to be okay, there was something that left her feeling unsettled. She dialed her husband's number and impatiently waited as the phone rang.

Fela: Hello.

Sebaga: Hey. How are you?

Fela: All good babes. You?

Sebaga: So, so. I know that this may be too much to ask for but can my mum stay in our cottage. I mean temporarily?

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Goodnight

The Devil I Never Knew

#209

At Sebaga's

Sebaga unlocked the kitchen door then walked to the garden with her phone on her ear as her husband spoke on the other side of the line.

Fela: I don't know what to say. I wasn't really expecting this. I mean I don't have a problem with it.

Sebaga: I sense a but there...

Fela: But are you sure that's what you really want? Is this something you're willing to do kana you wanna do it because you feel pity for her? Are you prepared to face the challenges that will come with living with her in the same

yard? I mean, in the past years, it was easier to avoid her because you lived far apart. These are some of the things that I need you to be sure about before you decide to bring her home. Nna I don't have a problem with her staying but before anything or anyone else, it's you that I will put first. If you're comfortable and happy with her here then I honestly don't see why not.

She kept quiet for a while trying to think things through. The truth was that she didn't have any answer to all of the questions her husband had asked her. The only thing she knew was that she wasn't about to let the grandmother of her children suffer. She was aware of the relationship that her mother had with her brother. The two were like cat and dog so surely it must have been really hard for them to live together. Knowing her uncle, he would probably make it extra hard for her mother.

Sebaga: I don't have all that figured out yet and i honestly don't know how we will make it work but I just know that I can't leave her stranded. My uncle is not as bad as my sister but God knows how fast that man can send one to the grave with just his words.

Fela: So you want her to stay. That's fine. As long as you're comfortable. I'm actually on my way back home, would you like me to pick her up?

Sebaga: It's fine. I'll go and pick her once you're here. She and I need to have a chat before she can move in.

Fela: Emma that's fine. I'll see you in a bit akere?

Sebaga: See you in a bit.

Fela: I love you.

Sebaga: I love you too babes.

She hung up then went back inside the house...

At Mma Moagi's

Rra Moagi walked into the living room and chuckled as his sister sat by the couch and had some tea.

Rra Moagi: Who would have thought that such a rich woman like you would sit in my small house to have some tea?

Mma Sebaga kept quiet.

Rra Moagi: Oh look at how the mighty have fallen.

Mma Seaga: How long are we going to continue to fight? Why can't we make peace like siblings? I understand that I have hurt you deeply so many times but I wanna make peace with you. You are my brother and i love you. Don't you realize that this is no way to live? You and I are both adults. If we can't make peace then how do we expect our kids to? You're the only sibling I have. Please let's find a way to make this work. I can't die without making peace with you first.

His wife walked in and cleared her throat.

Mma Moagi: Is everything ok?

Mma Seaga: No. We were just talking.

Rra Moagi: Would you like to have another cup of tea?

He said picking up her cup from the tray on the table.

Mma Sebaga: I...

He ignored her and disappeared with the cup into the kitchen.

Mma Sebaga: I don't want to sound rude but...

Mma Moagi: But you're not comfortable drinking tea that's been made by him. This is his way of apologizing. I don't know what it is with your brother but this man will never apologize like a normal human being. This is the end of this discussion. You will never hear him talk about it ever again.

An hour later...

Sebaga parked her car in front of her uncle's yard then took off her shades and stepped out of the car. A part of her contemplated with the decision of letting her mother stay at her house but one thing that comforted her was knowing from the bottom of her heart that she was doing the right thing. She shook her head and smiled as her uncle who seemed busy by the car greeted her. She walked straight to him and embraced him.

Sebaga: Malome.

Rra Moagi: Mma Molefe. So you know where my yard is?

Sebaga: If this is emotional blackmail then it's working. You're right, I haven't been here in a while.

Rra Moagi: And what is the problem? Kana mma I chased you away?

Sebaga: No. Not at all. You know how busy life gets. I will do better nexttime.

Rra Moagi: You are only saying this because that old woman you call your mother is here.

Sebaga: I hope you two haven't been fighting.

Rra Moagi: Not really. I just ruffled a few feathers. You and I both know that she deserves it.

They both laughed...

Sebaga: Bathong malome.

Rra Moagi: You can go in. She is with your aunt in there.

Sebaga: I'm here to pick her up. I hope that I

won't be offending you in any way by asking her to come stay with me.

Rra Moagi: Sebaga! What exactly are you hoping to achieve by doing that? Do you want to ruin your marriage? Are you forgetting who my sister is?

Sebaga: Malome!

Rra Moagi: Don't tell me that you also think that she's changed.

Sebaga: So you two are still fighting?

Rra Moagi: I'm not fighting with anyone. I'm just telling you the bitter truth. None of you want to believe it but trust me, I know your mother better than anyone. That woman is my sister and I've known her all my life. She is only this gentle because things are not going her way. Give her the kind of life she desires and she will show you her true colors.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#210

At Mma Moagi's

Sebaga swallowed then forced a smile as her uncle spoke. These were some of the things that had gone through her mind as she drove here but she had made a decision after all.

Sebaga: I understand your concern uncle and more than anything I appreciate that you're looking out for me but I still wanna do this. We all deserve second chances. I mean if we don't

give her a chance then how else will we know that she's changed?

Rra Moagi: I don't know but I'm just saying that it's better to be safe than sorry. My child, you have suffered enough in this life. You don't need anymore stress. Just let it go. She can stay here and harass us or even go as far as betraying us but atleast we're adults and we can take it. Wena you've just been through so much that if you ever go through that pain then your father will wake up from the grave and make our lives bitter.

Sebaga held her waist and laughed...

Sebaga: He always said that when he was sick.

Rra Maogi: And he specifically asked me to look after you even though you've distanced yourself from me.

Sebaga: (laughed) And the emotional blackmail never ends with you.

Rra Moagi: I'm not emotionally blackmailing you. I'm just looking out for you. I don't want you going through the same thing you did in the past. You're as good as my child.

Sebaga: And I truly appreciate that uncle but this is something that I wanna do. I don't know how things will go. Maybe it will blow up in my face who knows? Or maybe this will be the best thing to ever happen to our relationship.

Rra Moagi: I hope you know what you're doing because I know how this story ends.

Sebaga: Can I go inside?

Rra Moagi: Goodluck my child.

Sebqga: Thank you.

She walked past her uncle and headed to the

house where she knocked and was let in.

Mma Moagi: Ahh ahh what a lovely surprise.
Ngwanyana wame. (my girl)

She stood up to embrace Seba.

Sebaga: Dumelang.

She hugged her briefly then let go and greeted
her mother.

Mma Moagi: It's nice to see you here. We thank
your mother for coming. Who knows when we
would have seen you.

Sebaga: (laughed) I didnt notice that it's been
that long.

Mma Moagi: Right.

They all sat down.

Mma Sebaga: Is everything alright? I thought that you were going on a trip.

Sebaga: I am. I have a couple of hours left before I leave which is why I need to talk to you.

Mma Moagi sat down unmoved with her phone and waiting for the tea.

Sebaga: Mma malome, can you please excuse us if that's ok? I would like to talk to my mother.

Mma Moagi: Of course my child.

She said forcing a smile as she left.

Mma Sebaga: Is everything ok? You're scaring me.

Sebaga: Everything is fine. You don't have to worry about anything.

Mma Sebaga: Ok. So what's this about that can't wait till your holiday?

She looked at her mother and sighed heavily. As much as this was in the past, it somehow brought back memories which haunted her.

Sebqga: It's been years since we have had any relationship or even seen each other and I want us to change that. I don't know how working on our relationship and fixing things will go but I'm willing to try as long as you don't have any plans to hurt me again in the manner that you did.

You're my mother and I will always have a part of me that loves and appreciates you for giving birth to me. This is why I can't go on my trip knowing that you're here and suffering from uncle's comments daily. Please move in with us while we find a solution to all of these problems.

Mma Sebaga looked away and fought back her tears but after all nature always won. She smiled and wiped them with the back of her hand smiling. Miracles did happen after all. From the state that their relationship was in, this came as shook.

Mma Sebaga: I don't know what to say. Tota hela ngwanaka I don't know how to feel. With everything that I've put you through, it feels like a dream that you're even here. I truly appreciate this more than anything my child and if I was to

die tomorrow, I would die a happy woman.

Sebaga: Good. So pack up and let's go home.

Her smile faded...

Mma Sebaga: I would love to do that my child but I can't. You have been through so much and I'm not willing to see you go through more things because of me. You're now a married woman with children. Focus on them. Nna I will be ok here. I'm used to your uncle by now. He just talks and throws around hurtful words but deep down he cares. If he didn't then I wouldn't still be here. I don't want to disrupt the peace in your household as I've done so in the past.

Sebaga: I've spoken to my husband and we're on the same page. At least come for the period we are away. If you're still not comfortable then you can leave when we get back.

She held her mother's hand.

Sebaga: Please.

There was silence in the room.

Sebaga: This is our chance to build a relationship and your chance to be close to your grandchildren.

Mma Sebaga smiled and nodded her head...

Mma Sebaga: Ok my child. I will come with you.

Sebaga: (Smiled) Do you want me to help you pack?

Mma Seaga: I never unpacked. Who can be so brave to do that while at your uncle's house. That man can even ask you to leave in the middle of the night.

They both laughed...

Meanwhile outside Rra Moagi and his wife gossiped about the two.

Rra Moagi: My niece is making a big mistake.

Mma Moagi: Why don't you just give your sister a second chance?

Rra Moagi: Because she is my sister and I know her too well.

Mma Moagi: You know what she used to be, not what she is now. Give her a chance.

Rra Moagi: I have given her one. If not then she wouldn't be here.

Later that evening

At Sebaga's

Mma Sebaga walked around her cottage and sighed heavily. When her daughter had first come to see her, this was not what she was expecting. A tear rolled down her cheek as she silently prayed to thank God for this opportunity. There was a knock on the door and she quickly jumped to open.

Sebaga: All settled in?

Mma Sebaga: All settled in.

Sebaga: I hope that you like the room.

Mma Sebaga: I love it my child. It's so big and spacious. Thank you so much for letting me stay.

Sebaga: You're welcome. So we're heading out. I asked the boys to come see you after they load the bags into the car. We will see you when we get back.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you so much my girl.

Fela approached them and greeted as they stood outside the cottage.

Fela: It's nice to see you here mama.

He bent and stretched his hand to her...

Mma Seaga: Thank you so much my son. May God bless you for this. I'm grateful.

Fela: Amen. Please keep well and let us know if you need anything. Serge will come around to assist you should you need anything.

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Last night's insert ❤️

The Devil I Never Knew

#211

A week later...

At Kgabiso

Kgabiso paced around the room as she went through her son's statuses. From the looks of things, the entire family was having fun and everyone was getting along. She picked up the title deed to the house and went through the offers she had received for her mother's plot then sighed heavily. As much as she was angry and bitter about the way that the old woman had chosen to raise her while withholding the truth, knowing that she was loved gave her some kind of consolation. In all honesty, the old woman had been the only person that had genuinely loved her, with her flaws and everything she was. When everyone walked out of her life, her mother had stayed. It only hurt to know that she wasn't hers biologically. She swallowed and picked up her phone to call her. As the phone rang, she said a short prayer. How could one's life be filled with so much misery?

Mma Sebaga: Hello.

Kgabiso: Hi.

Mma Sebaga: How are you my daughter?

So she still considered her as her child?

Kgabiso: I'm sorry about everything. I don't know what came over me. It just hurts.

Mma Sebaga: Are you taking care of yourself?

Kgabiso: Ee mma.

Mma Sebaga: Good. Make sure you cook and eat. Don't just starve yourself because Cody is not home.

Kgabiso: Please come back home. That is your house. It was wrong of me to throw you out and do what I did. I was just angry.

Mma Sebaga smiled and sighed in relief... She had broken this girl and robbed her off a peaceful life and hearing her admit to her mistakes meant so much to her.

Mma Sebaga: It's okay my child. I want you to sell the house and buy yourself a car or renovate your house. I am old and I will die soon so I don't want you to worry yourself about me. Live the life that you have always wanted and spoil yourself.

Kgabiso: Mama

Mma Sebaga: Mma?

Kgabiso: Why couldn't I do anything right?

Mma Sebaga: Mma?

Kgabiso: I've always failed miserably at everything while Sebaga always got it right. Why

can't I be like her?

Mma Sebaga: You think that your sister is perfect and she has it all under control?

Kgabiso: She does.

Mma Sebaga: You know what they say about human beings forgetting to count their own blessings because they are busy counting other people's?

Kgabiso: What blessing could I possibly have?

Mma Kgabiso: You have a job, a house and a son that loves you. Should I remind you that other people don't have some of these things you don't value. Kana ngwanaka some people don't have anything at all. Open your heart and allow God to bless you. There is no way that you can get some of the things you want when you're always ready to hate and oppress.

Kgabiso: Where are you?

Mma Sebaga: I'm at a friend's house.

Kgabiso: Can I see you?

Mma Sebaga: I'm not sure that she will allow my visitors here.

Kgabiso: What about at your house? We can go pack up some of your things and maybe go over to my house together.

Mma Sebaga: Ok. That's fine. You will find me there.

Kgabiso: Ee mma. Bye.

She hung up then video called her son.

Cody: Yoohh mum...

Kgabiso: I'm still your mother even when you're on vacation.

He laughed and moved his phone around showing her the view.

Cody: Wait till I'm rich baby girl, I'll show you the world.

His mother laughed as he teased him.

Kgabiso: I'm the one that's about to show you the world when you get back home.

Her tone changed as Sebaga called Cody in the background.

Cody: You hear that? It's time to eat.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#213

At Pelo's house

Laone walked around the living room topless as he cleaned up while listening to music. These were house chores that he had not performed in years and doing this somehow brought him some peace of mind. His wife walked in and greeted him.

Pelo: Goodmorning. I didn't hear you when you got up.

Laone: Yeah. I didn't want to wake you up. How did you sleep?

He said wrapping his arms around her.

Pelo: Well and you?

Laone: Very well. I can't complain. I mean I slept next to the most beautiful woman.

Pelo: (Smiled) I see.

Laone: So I was thinking that we could go out for the day at the park with the kids maybe?

Pelo: Don't you have anything going on with your boys? I mean isn't Saturday reserved for you?

Laone: That's all in the past now. Weekends are reserved for my family.

Pelo: Interesting.

Laone: I know that I used to do things differently but I'm over that stage. It's time to

grow up and be the man that you deserve. My children deserve a good father as well.

Pelo: I hear you.

Laone: You don't buy it?

Pelo: (laughed) I never said that mme kana.

Laone: You didn't have to. I can see that you're doubtful each day but I'll prove you wrong.

Pelo: I love to see it. Tota ga ole motho ga re o chenche. (As a human being, you need to change.)

Laone: I agree with that. At some point one needs to grow up.

Pelo: I'm proud of you.

She planted a kiss on his lips then breathed heavily as he lifted her up and carried her into the bedroom.

At Sebaga's

Serge walked into the yard with a few plastics then headed straight to the cottage where the old woman was sitting outside on a plastic chair.

Serge: Dumelang.

They exchanged pleasantries...

Serge: Sebaga asked me to drop a few food items for you. She wasn't sure what your preferences were so she had me buy a little bit of everything. If there is anything else that you may need apart from what I have purchased then please let me know.

Mma Seaga: Thank you so much my child.

He looked at her with so many questions in his head but he knew that he had to stay in his lane. The fact that his friend had brought back the old woman into her home must have meant that she really wanted to work on their relationship so as a friend he would not be a stumbling block.

Serge: I will be leaving. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Mma Seaga: Thank you my son.

It was almost as if her thank you was much deeper.

Serge: Ee mma. Please keep well and make

sure that you lock up at all times. The crime rate in this area is very high.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you my boy. I know that you don't like me very much.

Serge: Mma? I don't know what you are talking about Mme.

He said forcing a smile.

Mma Sebaga: I won't hurt her.

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

Mma Sebaga: I can never forget your reaction at her daughter's funeral when you saw us.

He swallowed then looked away.

Serge: Keep well mama.

Mma Sebaga: I was just about to go out. Can I please have a ride?

Serge: Ee mma. Which direction are you headed?

Mma Sebaga: To my house.

Serge: Old Naledi?

Mma Sebaga: Yes.

Serge: I thought that they had kicked you out.

He held in his laughter not wanting to sound disrespectful.

Serge: Let's go mama.

Mma Sebaga: Let me put these inside before we leave.

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The Devil I Never Knew

#214

At Mma Sebaga's

Serge on turned down the radio and rolled down the window as Mma Sebaga stepped out of the house.

Mma Sebaga: Thank you my son.

He chuckled as he saw Kgabiso's car.

Serge: I know that it's not my place but for what it's worth, I hope you don't end up hurting Sebaga because she really wants this to work out.

Mma Sebaga: I'm a mother of two. I need to make sure that both my girls are okay. Fixing things with the other does not mean that I should stop being a mother to the sister. I understand where you're coming from my son Infact I don't blame you because my daughter has done so many questionable things but one thing you need to know is that she will always be my child and as a mother, I know her better than anyone. She is not as evil as you all think she is.

Serge: Are we talking about the same person? No offense mama but your daughter is the devil in human form. The only thing she doesn't have to prove this is horns otherwise everyone

knows this.

Mma Seaga: Because she's made mistakes like other people? I mean haven't you made mistakes before?

Serge: Just know that the reason that she will never change is you and you only. That girl can not see her mistakes because her entire life she's been pampered.

Mma Seaga: You don't know anything about my child. She's been through so much.

Serge: I know a lot of people that have been through so much yet their experiences and traumas have made them better people.

Mma Seaga: Thank you for the lift.

She said turning away and going into the yard.

Serge: She will probably believe this when this

girl has sent her to the grave. Well that's if there's after life.

He rolled up his windows and reversed out then joined the main road.

At Fela's office

Puso shook his head and laughed as he read Arefa's advert on Facebook. For someone that had fought so hard to keep that phone, it was unbelievable that she was selling it off for even such a low price.

Arefa: Share the joke.

Puso: I see that you're selling your phone.

Arefa: Yeah and?

Puso: (laughed) Don't get mad. I just don't understand how you can sell it off after fighting so hard to keep it. I thought that you loved it.

Arefa: I do but I also need the money.

Puso: For what? From what you told me, you don't pay rent or buy food because the boss's wife buys your aunt groceries.

Arefa: To start up a business and have something of my own going on. Who knows, maybe if I did then I wouldn't have been fighting for gifts. I don't know but I just feel like it's time for a total turnaround. A lot of things don't make sense in my life right now but one thing I'm certain of is the fact that I will succeed.

Puso: That's the spirit my girl. You don't have to date anyone's husband to reach your dreams. You are young, beautiful and smart so focus on building your future more than anything.

Arefa: I agree with that.

She smiled as she looked through the comments on her advert.

At Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso and her mother sat in the living room as they packed up some plates from the kitchen. After everything that had happened between them, having a conversation seemed a bit far out of reach.

Kgabiso: So I have decided to go for counseling.

Mma Sebaga: I thought that you were already attending it.

Kgabiso: That was for Cody. I don't know but I realize that I have a problem. It's not easy for me to accept that I'm here and my sister is in a

different place. I see her as competition and anything that concerns her achievements leaves me hurt. I don't know why that's the case but I can't help it. It hurts so bad.

Her mother looked at her and remembered Serge's words.

Mma Sebaga: Maybe counseling will help because the way that you are living is not right. I thought that it was because of how I raised you but now I'm starting to doubt it. Your problem goes beyond that my girl.

Kgabiso: Maybe it does. I don't know. I just know that I'm tired of feeling this way. That's why I'm also thinking of relocating.

Mma Sebaga: And what about Cody?

Kgabiso: He seems to be doing well without me.

He can stay with his real family.

Mma Seaga: You think that's what he really needs? My girl, that child needs his mother around. You need to be here to raise your son because if you don't do that then you will blame the next person for how he turns out. Just do better for you and that boy. This back and forth is not healthy for either of you.

Kgabiso: I hear you. I just don't know if I deserve him.

Mma Seaga: Of course you do. That boy is your son. You deserve him more than anything. You gave birth to that boy after all.

Five years later...

At Serge's house

Kagiso and her sister walked into the garden with a few plates as their brothers sat down playing cards. This was the very first time that they had come together for a meal and it was everything that they had wanted. Being able to sit together as siblings and have a decent conversation.

Kagiso: I think we should plan a family trip.

Ben: Eseng family get together?

Lolo: Those are old fashioned. A family trip will work perfectly for people our age. Those get togethers are for people in their fifties.

Serge: (laughed) I'm offended. Sebaga and I host those from time to time. Does that mean that we're old?

Kagiso: Do you want an honest answer or you're trying to get upset with us?

They all laughed as he picked up his phone and dialed Sebqga's number.

Sebaga: Friend, we're almost there. We were picking up the kids from Kgabiso's akere I told you that she has a date with mama. Le nna I need to see her for a bit.

Serge: (laughed) Friend you're such a liar. I thought you said that you're almost here.

Sebaga: (laughed) I meant that I'm almost done with my things. I'm rushing over to my mum's. The kids will be there in a bit. I'll join in after I see mama.

Serge: Ok babes.

He hung up then turned to his sister.

Serge: If it wasn't for my colleague who's running late as usual then we would have beefed up a strong response.

Kagiso: As usual.

At Mma Sebaga's

Sebaga stepped out of her car and fixed her dress then walked through the gate of her mother's newly purchased yard. She looked around and smiled. Her dream of buying her mother a house had finally come true and she was at peace. In the past few years, it had not been easy to work on their relationship but they had put in the work and with the support of her husband and sister, things became a bit easier. She knocked on the door and stood outside for a few minutes before her sister opened up.

Kgabiso: Hey sis.

Sebaga: Hey. How are you doing?

Kgabiso: Can't complain.

Sebaga: O kae mmago? (Where's your mum?)

Kgabiso: In her bedroom getting ready.

Sebaga: Why I'm I getting jealous about this date. I mean since when does mama ever take her time to get ready?

Kgabiso: Ma'am this one is fancy.

Sebaga: Clearly. Is she in her room?

Kgabiso: Yeah.

Sebaga: Ok. Let me see her for a bit.

Kgabiso: She is all yours. I'm going to get some cleaning detergents for the house.

Sebaga: Sharp.

They waved at each other and Sebaga headed to her mother's room.

Sebaga: Mama?

She said as she opened the door.

Mma Sebaga: Mma?

Sebaga: And all these dresses?

She said as her eyes fell on a bunch of dresses her mother had laid on the bed.

Mma Sebaga: Your sister said I must dress my best.

Sebaga laughed as she picked out a dress.

Sebaga: Here. Go with this one. All of your dress worries could have been solved with one phone call to me.

Mma Sebaga: I didn't want to bother you. You come here at-least three times a day.

Sebaga: As I should. I'm your daughter..

Her mother looked away as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Mma Sebaga: I still don't know how to thank you for this house. I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would ever own a house like this one. Thanks to you and your husband.

Sebaga: And again, it's what I should do as a daughter.

Mma Sebaga: No. The truth is that I don't deserve any of these things especially after how I treated you.

Sebaga: Mama I've told you that we've moved past this. It's been five years. Lebala ka tseo mosadimogolo. (Forget about the past old woman.)

Sebaga: I've got to go. I thought I would pop in since I haven't seen you for days. I'll see you tomorrow for the family lunch. I hope everything is ready.

Mma Sebaga: Your sister has handled everything.

Sebaga: Thank you. And I'm so happy she is doing well. Shows you how much counseling can transform one's life.

Mma Sebaga: Me too my child. This is a very refreshing part of my life. That way I know that even if I die, you two have each other.

Sebaga: You say it like you will die tomorrow.
You heard what the doctor said, you're as
strong as a horse.

Mma Sebaga: Letsopa la bogologolo.

They both laughed.

Sebaga: I'll see you tomorrow. I love you.

She kissed her mother's forehead and left.

Meanwhile outside Fela parked his car behind
his wife's then stepped out. Seba shook her
head and chuckled as she met him outside.

Fela: Thought I would pick you up.

Sebaga: (laughed) You're kidding right? And the

kids?

Fela: No, I'm not. They drove to Serge's with their own car. There is no way I'm becoming their personal chauffeur when I have other interests to take care of. Cody is twenty one and has a driver's license. He knows his way around the city.

Sebaga: What else have we left out?

Fela: I did a bit of trimming in that garden last night but didn't get rewarded for it.

She got closer and wrapped her arms around him then giggled.

Sebaga: Babe we're gonna be late for Serge's party.

Fela: I've already called him and told him that we're taking care of business. He knows we're

gonna be late gape the boys are there.

Sebaga: So what are we gonna do?

She said trying to maintain a straight face even though she failed dismally.

Fela: Drive to that little place of ours and take care of business.

He kissed her then grabbed her ass.

Sebaga: Let's go.

She jumped into her car and sped off. He shook his head and laughed then got into his and went after her.

At Laone's

Pelo jumped and covered her mouth in excitement as she inspected the brand new Range Rover that was parked in her yard.

Pelo: So this is really mine?

Laone: Yes honey. It's all yours. You deserve it after all.

Pelo: Thank you for this. I don't know what to say.

Her legs began to shake.

Laone: After everything that you have done for this family and held it together, this is nothing.

He hugged her tightly...

A few metres away from Mma Sebaga's

Kgabiso kissed her boyfriend and smiled as he took her by the hand and lead her behind his car.

Him: So when can the boys carry out the mission?

Kgabiso: Right now. I saw my sister's car leaving. She is all alone.

Him: Are you sure about this?

Kgabiso: Yes. If we don't kill her now then she is going to change her will and Sebaga will get back her house. Babe this house is worth at least one million. Do you have any idea how much we can do with that? I mean how long have you been wanting to start that new

business? Let's just kill her and get it over and done with. Stage a break in and we're good.

He looked at her for a while then made a phone call.

Him: Go for it.

At Mma Sebaga's

Two boys covered in balaclavas slowly opened the main door and approached the old woman's room . One took out a gun and quickly attatched a sound suppressor as the other one headed to the shower where the water was running. As soon as the other one gave him a sign by whistling he headed there.

Mma Seaga: Le bo mang Iona dio...

He pulled the trigger and blew up her head as his partner ran around the room to throw things around. Who knew how much time they had.

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The End