

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

Dry As A Desert



Author

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 01

MAKHEDAMA

MAKHEDAMA



I heave a sigh

And look at everyone

With hopes that maybe
someone will side with me

Or just stand up and agree
with me

But they're all quite

And my mother just seems
so displeased

Seems like things are not
going my way

Me : I love this woman

Mom : you are not going to
marry that girl

Me : but mom

Mom : my decision is final ,
just know that if you marry
her you will never be happy .
And I will not support this
sham of a union

Me : but you're not being fair
right now

Mom : fair ? Son there's
nothing that's about fairness
, and that's just life . Make
peace with it

The room is so silence

It's like everyone here is not
even here

Only my mother's voice is
being heard

Mom : you're the newly
appointed chief executive
officer of our family empire ,
clearly you don't think
Sibabalwe is worth of being
the woman next to you . And
you have a duty to this
village , and it's people

Me : we have been together
for ...

Mom : time doesn't matter ,
money changes people .
Once she knows you're a
worthy man , she will love
you for the money you have

This is crazy

I can't believe I am even
sitting here

And just listening to all this

I love that woman

And I will marry her

Despite what my mother is
saying

Mom : don't lose sight of
what's important

Me : I am not

Mom : put lust and
infatuation aside

I shake my head

Mom : this will never happen
as long as I live

I don't understand why so
much is being put on my
shoulders

Mom : remember what we
stand to lose

I heave a sigh

It's what my mother wants or
nothing

But is everything else worth
loosing the only woman I
love ?

What's a guarantee , that we
will get what we want ?

That things will go our way ?

Is loosing the woman I love ,
worth the risk ?

None of them know what I
feel for my woman

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SIBABALWE

SIBABALWE



Hluphe : I wish I had your life problems

I laugh

Hluphe : it's been another week of searching for work

Me : times are hard for everyone , everyone is out here seeking work

Hluphe : as true as that may
be , you're still set and not as
worried as the most of us

I laugh

Me : I still want my own
future , to work for my own
money and make means to
live

Hluphe : and why would you
do that ?

Me : why wouldn't I ?

Hluphe : duh ! You have a
whole man in Prince
Makhedama

I heave a sigh

Me : and I don't want to
depend on a man

Hluphe : he's a crown prince ,
nothing is short on him to
take care of you

Me : I know that , but like I
said ...I don't want to be
dependent on him . I am still

ought to take care of myself
financially

Hluphe : my friend , your
mind was weird differently

I laugh

Me : and I prefer it that way

Hluphe : no you shouldn't ,
imagine being a queen and
working a day job . What will
people say ?

Me : Makhedama is not the
only son the king has

Hluphe : do you see the
other one here ? He long left
the kingdom , he knows

nothing about the people of
this place . What we want or
need , there's no way such a
man can rule this kingdom

Me : still , it's not our place

I pick up the bucket

Me : let's go

She gets up

And we head back to the
village

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SONWABILE

SONWABILE



Mom : it's time for dinner ,
get rid of these books of
yours and help your sister set
the table

I look at her and heave a sigh

I pack up my books

Even though I am not done
with my homework's

But I am avoiding talks

I place the bag down

And walk in the kitchen

Nombali : you just love
provoking mom

I say nothing

Nombali : why do you even bother with this ?

I look at her

Nombali : you know they're going to marry you off , the same way they did with me

I keep quite , while we finish
dishing up

And we walk to the lounge

Setting the table

And serve them

Mom : say grace

I look down

Nombali sighs and prays

I can feel my mother's eyes
on me

I don't bother looking at her

We start eating

Dad : you are ready for your exams ?

Me : ready as ever

Dad : I know you will make us proud , don't over do it ...

Mom : stop encouraging her

I side eye her

Dad : I am just ...

Mom : don't

My father keeps quite

I hate the way he gets
treated in his own house

It's like he's the wife

Or the child

And my mother is the man of
the house

Talk about the dysfunctional
family we have

In truth my mother is just a
bully

She bullies everyone

She wants things done her
way

And her word to be the last
word

It's her way or the highway

That's just how she is

She doesn't care about
anyone

But herself

And my father just feels so
powerless

He's even stopped trying to
raise his voice , above hers

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 02

MAKHEDAMA

Being woken up by a knock

So early in the morning

I haven't even thought of
waking up as of yet

Mom : I know you can hear
me , open up

I take a deep breath

And get up

I put on a shirt and open the
old

She looks like she's just
walked out of a shoot

I don't know how she does
this

Mom : you are starting to
lose sight of things , and I
don't like it

I heave a sigh

Who wants to wake up , and
start talking ?

I take about an hour after
waking up , before I start
opening my mouth

Mom : do you want us to
lose everything we have
worked so hard for ?

I shake my head

Mom : get your head in the game , your father was speaking to his bastard last night

Me : what ?

Mom : now you speak !

Me : what did he say ?

Mom : who knows ? I need
you ready and sharp , we
have worked so hard to be
where we are

I nod

Mom : and that goes for this
girl you want to marry

Not this again

Me : I love her

Mom : love won't give you
riches and power

Me : I don't see how ...

Mom : you won't see
anything , because you're
blind . Don't force my hand

Makhedama , you're my son
but if you get in my way ...I'll
do what I always do

I swallow hard

Thinking maybe this is just
some bad dream

But I know it's not

And she's not bluffing

She walks out

I take a deep breath , my
mind running wild with
thoughts

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SONWABILE

I barely slept

I kept thinking about what
Nombali said

I walk in her hut

Nombali : what ?

We don't have the best
relationship

Everything just changed
when she was married off

To the chief's son

And the guy she had been
with for years , killed himself

After trying to torture them
alive

And she was hospitalized for
three months

She was never the same after
that

I barely know anything about
her now

She hardly even comes home

Because they moved from
the village

And went to live in the city

Me : Uhm ...last night you
said , they're going to marry
me off

Nombali : so ?

Me : were you serious ?

Nombali : I have a degree ,
and yet the married me off .
What do you think makes
your special ?

I swallow hard

Nombali : get out

Me : did you hear something
? Is that what they're
planning to do ?

Nombali : you think I'll tell
you anything ? So you can
run away , and I'll take the
blame for that ? I don't know
anything

She turns her back on me

Our parents messed my
sister up

She really loved that guy

And when he heard she was
getting married

He couldn't take it

And everything just left her
traumatized

Me : I am sorry

I walk out

I don't hate her for how she
treats me

Or how she is

I just understand what she's
going through

And not because I have gone
through that

No , I haven't

But I understand

It's not a great morning

There's already shouting in
the house

I take a deep breath

I just need to take my things
and walk to school

Mom : you're toying with her
, you know we have bills .
And she's collateral

Dad : we can find other
means not this

Mom : you find them on your
own

I walk inside the house

And they keep quite

I don't even know what's the
arguing about

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SIBABALWE

I dial his number again

But it doesn't go through

I don't know why I am
panicking

But maybe he's busy

This morning , when I went
to the shops

People were just staring at
me

And I wondered why

Until I heard two girls ,
speaking about me and
Makhedama

They said he's said to marry
someone else

So people were just
gossiping about me

And I don't understand

Because next week his family
is supposed to come and ask
for my hand

So how can it be ?

Unless these are just
unfounded rumours

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 03

MAKHEDAMA

With these talks in the village

I had to beg my mother

Already Siba is panicking

There is no way I can bring
shame to her

Or her family

That also won't look good on
us

My mother is pissed off yes

But she gave in

Although I know she's not
happy

I am just glad I will marry the
woman I love

Me : I am sorry baby

She smiles

Me : these people are just
talking , I don't know where
they got this

Surely it's those annoying
elders

They just can't keep their
mouths shut

Siba : so our plans still stand
?

Me : yes baby

Siba : and there's no one else
?

Me : baby , you're a ten
minus nothing . Why would I
even dare , do that to you ?

She smiles

Me : I love you

Siba : I love you too

Me : soon , I will be calling
you my Mrs

She laughs

I take a deep breath

At least she's happy

I'll deal with the rest later

Now I'll marry her

And we go on with our lives

Who knows ? Maybe my
mother will change her mind

Once we're married , and she
gets to know Siba well

I am still worried though

About the talk my father was
said to have had with my
brother

We don't share the same
mother's

And he's older than me

Only by a year

Things are said , and
sometimes I do believe them
to be true

My mother dated my father
while he was married

And they had me

He completely changed
towards his wife

And that's how we got in the
picture

We even moved in the
palace

They got married

Soon after , the first wife died

And my brother was treated
like a commoner to be
honest

Even I could see it

When he was 16 , he left

And he's never come back
again

They still talk with my father

But I don't know how good
their relationship is

His mother was of royal
blood

Which makes him pure blue
blood

He can take over the throne

And I can't have that happen

People say my mother killed
his mother

It could be

Considering what she did to
my father

And didn't even hide that
from me

My mother is a dangerous
woman

She's unconfirmed

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SIBABALWE

My family is worried

And I don't blame them

With the rumours and all

But I know Makhedama, will
never lie to me

So I'm not going to let this
get in my head

I'm just going ahead , to
prepare for the royal family

Once they see me getting
married

They will shut their mouths
up

For now , I won't pay any
attention to them

They can talk all they like

Even though my mother feels
, like we should stop
preparing

In case what's being said is
true

And we end up embarrassing
ourselves

But I trust Makhedama

I just hope he is not fooling
me

That would just degrade me

And shame my family

I am praying he's being
honest with me

We met four years ago

When he came back from
university

Although I used to see him
around

When he came to visit his
family

But four years ago , we got
together

And we've never looked back

I love him so much

And I know he loves me

This is a new chapter of our
life , together

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SONWABILE

Things are just tense at home

Nombali will be leaving in a
few days

And I am sure she can't wait
to leave

It's never been joyous here at
home

If it's not the parents at
loggerheads

It's mom on my case

Its just tiring

But can one say ?

Dad : Prince Makhedama is
finally marrying Buzo's
daughter

Mom rolls her eyes

Mom : oh really ?

Dad : yes , her father said so

She chuckles

And it's not pleasant

Mom : we will see about that
?

Now I am so confused

What's it to her ?

Dad : what do you mean ?

They have been together ,
we all know this

Mom : it doesn't mean he
has to marry her

Dad : well he is , and he's
wasted her years . It's only
right he does

Mom : good luck to her , she
can settle . But the prince will
marry the right woman

Right woman for who ?

Now I am lost

Isn't he marrying Siba
because she's right for him ?

I don't know

My mother is not making
sense right now

But I'm sure it's just jealousy

Why is she so mean ?

Mom : and let's stop talking
about this

My poor dad

He keeps quite , knowing
he's been told to keep quite

And it's quite sad

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 04

A MONTH LATER

MAKHEDAMA

I pull a chair and sit down

Mom : you're late

Me : I was closing off a deal

Mom : drop the attitude

I say nothing

Mom : being in between a woman's thighs , and coming in here reeking of sex is closing off a deal

I heave a sigh

Mom : you arrived an hour ago , and decide to go see ...

She shakes her head

Me : she's my wife

I am so annoyed right now

I may have gotten what I
want

But it's not a walk in the park

My mother wants nothing to
do with my wife

She hates her

She's not even trying

And Siba is even seeing that
now

It's just a fucked up situation

My mother is just too much

Mom : you got what you
wanted and I don't see that
working out

I sigh

Me : it's only been a month

Mom : is she pregnant yet ?

Me : what ...mom please , it's too soon for this

Mom : your father wants grandkids , forget that throne if you don't make kids fast . She should be pregnant already , with all this much sex you're having

This is just being too much

Me : what do kids have to do
with the throne ? They will
happen when they happen

Mom : a king without an heir
!

I heave a sigh

Mom : don't annoy me
Makhedama , get her
pregnant or I do things my
way . No one will mess things
for me , not even you

I frown

Because her way could only
mean one thing

And to hell with the rest of
us

Me : I don't

I sigh

Me : I know you don't like
her , but she's trying . At
least just cut her some slack

Mom : cut her some slack for
what ? She's nothing of me ,
and yes I don't like her so
what ?

This hurt

To hear your own mother ,
speak so cold of the woman
you love

The door opens

And my father walks in

Me : my king

I bow my head slightly

Dad : as you were mtwana
(prince)

He pulls a chair and sits
down

Dad : what's the meeting
about ?

I look at my mother

She fake smiles looking at
him

Mom : it's not a meeting , we
were just talking

Dad : you do that a lot as of
late

Mom : and what's wrong
with a mother and son
bonding ?

Dad : he never does that with me , and besides he's a married man . What's he doing bonding with his mother , when he should be with his wife making kids . And shouldn't you bond with your daughter in-law ?

Mom : you're right , my prince you're excused . Go be with your wife

What the fuck !

I just feel like I am being
controlled here

I know that question about
bonding with her daughter
in-law annoyed her

That's just it

I get up and say my
goodbyes , going to my
chamber

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SIBABALWE

I was so happy and excited
for this new chapter

But it's hell

The queen hates me

She doesn't like me at all ,
she doesn't even hide that

Everyone in this palace can
see that

She treats me like one of her
royal maids

And not as her daughter in-
law

It's really painful

I don't want to lie

Makhedama keeps saying ,
it's all just in my head

But I know it's not

Even he knows that

He just doesn't know how to
defend his mother

The two of them are very
close

It's actually disturbing

Marriage is not what I
thought it would be

I have the ring and the last
name

But it's just sad

Even though I am married to
him

And not his family

I also wish to be part of the
family

Be one of them

Be acknowledged and loved

But that's just a dream

And it will clearly not happen

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NQUBEKO

NQUBEKO



I sit down , and dial his
number

Dad : my prince

Me : my king

Dad : it's good to hear from
you

I chuckle

Me : it's good to hear from
you as well , you sound so
much better

Dad : I am , slowly but ..

I let out a smile

Dad : I swear these things are helping . Now I see everything clearly

Me : mhm , and what of the decision you have taken ?

He sighs

Me : I don't care about him ,
but what about her ?

Dad : you know she decided
all of this , and said I agreed
with her . Even the elders are
on this now

Me : but you don't even
remember anything

Dad : there's no much I can
do

Me : this is nonsense , you're
a king

Dad : and you know I have
been tampered with

I sign

Dad : my head is not in the right space yet , to deal with this . I have just found out what happened to

Me : it's okay , I am sorry . I will check soon with you

I drop the call

It's still too soon

I shouldn't bombard him
with much

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 05

SONWABILE

As of late , things are just
bad here at home

Nombali since left

And it's just been us

I can see something is
happening between my
parents

And I am just trying to avoid
them , as much as I can

More especially my mother

But I have been suspecting ,
that whatever is going on
between them

It's something huge

They've been whispering and
all

Making sure I know nor hear
nothing

And today , it's just one
awkward day

The queen is here

Right here in our house

And I'm left outside

I don't know why she's here

Or what she's doing

The doors are closed

And I doubt anyone even
saw her

There's not even a car here

That suggests that she's here

I was still asleep when she
arrived

More like at dawn

My mother said to excuse
them

So I have given myself chores

I went to draw water

I've reeked the yard

And I've even made fire

I wish I can be a fly on that
wall

Just so I can hear what
they're talking about

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MAKHEDAMA

Mom : I have spoken to the
Mdluli's

Me : who are those ?

I do know them

Mom : mhm , I swear you think I am joking with you . I am only giving you a year , that has already been halved by a month . I want to see that girl pregnant , or you're taking another wife . And oMdluli are willing , even their daughter is very beautiful . And she's young , I

have no doubt she will give
you many kids

A year is a long time

And anything can happen in
that time

I refuse to be told how to live
my life

Mom : the sooner the better ,
so your father can step down
and you take over

Me : but what of Nqubeko ?

Mom : what about him ? He's
the least of your worries right
now , you have to look at the
prize . Put your feelings aside
, and remember the

importance of this . Feelings
and all this is not going to
work

I nod

Some days , I do hear her

And I end up agreeing with
her

But others , I feel like she's
using me.

To push her own agenda's

Mom : good , now I've done
a great thing before your
father changes his mind

Me : what ?

Mom : I gave oMdluli money
, that will serve as cows
asking for their daughters
hand . They've already
accepted it , so our back up
plan is in place

Me : what ?

Now , this I cannot believe

Mom : calm yourself down ,
and don't raise your tone
with me

Me : how can you do that ?
You said you're giving me a
year , but you've already
gone and married me a wife .
Behind my back , and
without even involving the
elders

Mom : I said ...

Me : what happens in that year , when Siba and I have a baby ? Then what ? What will you do ? Force this other woman down my throat ?

Mom : she is young , she will move on with her life . She just has to keep herself for a

year , and we'll take it from
there

I am so angry right now

A grown ass man my age

Yet I still have my mother
making choices for my own
life

Mom : but don't hold your
breath , you might want to
start making peace with it
now

She gets up and walks out

He heels echoing as she
walks away

I clench my fists

Siba is already dealing with a lot

She doesn't need this

And the pressure of getting pregnant

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NQUBEKO

Me : Mkhululi said he will help him

Sanele : and you trust him ?

Me : I don't know , I don't know who to trust anymore

Sanele : the queen was at the Mdluli homestead this morning , and she made sure no one saw her

Me : you think she went to give them money ?

Sanele : yes , he's very adamant that your brother

marries this other girl . She
really doesn't like the princes

Me : I see

Sanele : how do you want to
proceed ?

I sigh

I have to be smart

Me : keep watching them ,
and make sure Mkhululi
keeps to his word . My father
has dealt with a lot , and he's
made decisions he doesn't
even know about . The spell
...it ..

I shake my head

Sanele : don't worry ...

Me : I just want him to be okay , so he can see what he cost us . And what that woman has done , he needs to get over the spell and see his damage

I drop the call

Tears burning my eyes

I just fume every time I think
about this , it's just too much
anger

He brought this woman into
our lives

And now , she has ruined us

He was so oblivious , and
taken by her

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 06

NQUBEKO

I sit down opening my laptop

I log in to my offshore
accounts

And move the money around

Into three separate accounts

And withdraw the rest , into
my local account

I will move it once I get to
South Africa

I get up and pour myself a
glass of water

Grabbing my phone and I
make a call

Sanele : good morning

I chuckle

Sanele : you sound better

Me : mhm , I need you to do
me a favour

Sanele : I know you never call
without a reason , so I am al
ears

Me : I need you to take my father go Mkhululi for a few days , come up with a lie so the queen doesn't ask way too many questions

Sanele : Yhoh , but it's cool . I'll think of something

Me : make sure she believes it okay ?

Sanele : yeah , I know she's not to be trusted . The king has already started the process , and we can't let anything disrupt that

Me : good , I'm glad we understand each other . Because once she gets a whiff , that something is off

with him . She won't let it
lying down

Sanele : I got it

Me : thanks man , you'll get
your payment later

Sanele : not to worry , I know
you always come through

Me : sure

I drop the call

I've been away for so long

I'm sure I will barely even
recognise the place now

But I have to go back

I always knew what that
woman was capable of

And I knew she was
responsible for my mother's
death

And it confirmed everything
to me

I just knew it for a fact

When people started saying
it as well

Soon after , she was just
crowned queen

Just like that

And my father was blind go
everything

She has just been pulling him
with his nose

And he was not aware of
anything happening in his
own kingdom

I had to leave

For my peace sake

And safety

It was a struggle at first , but
I made it

And I'm old enough now

And I know what she has
been up to

I don't care for that kingdom

I only care for my father

As much as I am angry with
him

I still want him to live

And see the results of his
doing

We're here because of him

My mother is dead because
of him

Had he not brought another
woman into our family

None of this would have
happened

He brought a whole witch
into our home

And I lost my mother

I was treated like a dog

While he did nothing

Under a spell or not

I will never excuse him for
doing this

I will never turn a blind eye
to his part of this

I will always hold him
accountable

Even if we're good

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SONWABILE

Things are happening in this family

All of sudden , we seem to be so rich

To have money , we never
even had before

I am not blind

I can see , things are different

The main house is even
being renovated

Which is insane

I am wondering where we
are getting all this money

But of course , I can't ask
anyone

My father will not say
anything

And my mother , well that's a
no go area

As for Nombali , she will
probably just brush me off

Even if she knows

But it's very suspicious

The queen comes here

And few days later

All of a sudden we have so
much money

Or rather , my mother seems
to have money

Because she's the one
making all the plans

And my father is just
following suit

Right now , it's not my
business

As much as I am curious to
know

I have school

And that's my business to
focus on

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SIBABALWE

I look up as she pulls a chair
and sits down

Since Makhedama is so busy
these days

With his mother might I add

I feel so sidelined

I don't even feel like I am a
newly wed

It's like we're just two
strangers , forced into being
husband and wife

We don't look like the couple
that was so in love

Just months ago

And for years and years

Now everything has changed

I want to blame his mother
so much

But I also feel like he's
allowing this

He's a man , and he can
stand his ground

But he's not

Me : hey

Hluphe : hey friend ,
marriage looks so good to
you

I let out a fake smile

Hluphe : and then ?

Me : what ?

Hluphe : I saw that , what's
with the fake smile

I shrug

Hluphe : come on , talk to
me

I take a deep breath

Hluphe : that can't be good

I was told when I was getting
married

That I should not air out my
marriage problems

But I feel like I am drowning

It's just too much

I just want to offload

Me : things are not so great ,
I feel like his mother has too
much say even in our
marriage . Honestly , I am
starting to wonder if I made

the right decision getting
married

Hluphe : all mother's in law ,
are just monsters

Me : mhm , I don't know how
long I can endure this

Hluphe : it's still early days ,
you love your husband and

he loves you without a doubt
friend

I don't know

Now I am even starting to
doing his love

Hluphe : give it time , it's still
early days . You just got
married , it'll get better

I doubt it will

If I am already feeling this way , so early in my marriage

How will I be feeling after ten years or so

If we even make it that far

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

FIVE MONTHS LATER

INSERT 07

MAKHEDAMA

I look at my mother

With the way things have
been

My father has been different

Like something has changed
about him

He is barely around the
palace

He's always out in the
kingdom

Doing whatever he does

Without including us

And my mother is getting
frustrated

I guess she's also noticing it

Mom : what ?

I shrug

Mom : I feel like someone
has been busy , helping your
father

Me : with what ?

Mom : removing the spell

Me : that can't be ...who
could that be ?

Mom : I don't know

Me : no , it can't be

Mom : if it is , then it's
someone very powerful

Me : I think we're
overreacting

Mom : you can't tell me you haven't seen him as of late , he's very suspicious

Me : well

Mom : I need to find out where he has been to , and who has he been talking to

I shouldn't care about this
really

Because I have my own
problems

And I feel like I am loosing
my wife

Of which I am failing to win
her

Me : if the spell is over , then
what does that mean for me
?

Mom : marry that Mdluli

Me : no ! My marriage is
already in trouble , and you
want me to invite more

problems . I am asking about
the throne

Mom : keep wasting time ,
and you will lose it before
you even sit on it

Me : you promised me that
throne , so do something .
Bewitch your husband again

if you must , but I want that throne

Mom : almost 7 months in marriage , and still no child .
Bare an heir , and get your throne

She gets up and walks out of the office slamming the door

Me : fuck !

We have been trying to get pregnant

But it's just not happening

I don't know why Siba is not falling pregnant

Now this is fucking things up
for me

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SIBABALWE

I look at him

He's been awfully quite

I can see something is wrong

He just won a big tender a week ago

And he's not that excited

Something is bothering him

Me : what's wrong ?

I am asking

Even though I know I might
not get answered

He would rather talk to his
mother than me

That's just how things are

And I've made peace with it

I don't know for how long I'll
endure this

But it is what it is for now

Makhedama : I think you
should see a doctor

I frown

Makhedama : we've been
married for almost a year
now , and still there's no
child

I want to burst right now

As if it's not enough

People have been talking
about me out there

And I've heard the things
they say

Even here at the palace

I have been quite , because I
didn't want to upset him

I didn't think he thinks the
same as them

They're busy calling me
barren

What if he's the one
shooting blanks

But of course , the woman is
the one who always takes the
blame

Never the man

I get up from the bed

Makhedama : the elders are
loosing their patience , and
my father wants an heir . If
we don't have kids soon ,
they will suggest I take a
second wife

Hearing him say that

I feel like someone is ripping
my heart

I never thought I'll hear him
say this

Makhedama : I am
suggesting the doctor ,
because I don't want us to

keep trying without knowing
what's what

I don't even want to say
anything to him right now

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NQUBEKO

I get in the car

Me : hey man

Sanele : are you ready for
this ?

I take a deep breath

It's strange being here again

Me : yeah

Sanele : good , because no one even knows you're around

Me : I want to stay low for a while , they can't know I am back just yet

Sanele : your penthouse is ready , you remain in the city

and keep a low profile . No
one will know you're around

As soon as I am ready to
resurface , I will show face

Just not yet

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 08

NQUBEKO

Dad : this number ..

I heave a sigh , closing my
eyes briefly

Me : I can't tell you that

Dad : you're back ?

Me : dad ...

Dad : please , I just need to
know

I take a deep breath

Me : no , but I am in the
country

I don't know if it's safe yet

To tell him the whole truth as
it is

I can't risk that

Until I'm settled enough to
know where I stand

It's best no one knows I am
here

Dad : please , don't tell me
you will leave again

Me : I don't know yet , I can't
tell you anything . Because I
don't know how safe it is
with you

He sighs

Dad : I know I have
disappointed you , and I will
not make excuses for myself .
But you're my son , and I
love you more than you
know

Me : I know that , but I am
not sure as of yet . If even
now you're still on our plan ,
that you're not giving
anything away that you

remember . And you're well aware

Dad : I can do better

Me : you can't afford to give in , because that will bring war . She will never let you be . Remember she wants Makhedama on the throne , so whatever she says just

agree with her . Don't give
yourself away

Dad : I promise , I know what
she's capable of now . And
all thanks to you , if you
didn't take it upon yourself
to get me help ...I'll still be
her idiot . I am grateful for
you , and what you have
done for me . I know you
owe me nothing ,

considering what we have
lost . And I take all the blame
for that

That's a first

We've never had this
conversation before

And I always thought he just
didn't care

Dad : I am sorry son , and I
want to make things right

Me : it's alright

I've carried this hate and
anger with me , for the most
part of my life

Now that he's sorry what am
I supposed to do with it ?

I am not yet even ready to
forgive him

He's apologized for the first
time

And has acknowledged what
he did

But I am not yet there

Me : I will call again

I drop the call

I shouldn't have even cared
about him

I shouldn't even be helping
him

Considering everything that
has happened

But here I am

And I don't even know why

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MAKHEDAMA

I know I fucked up bad

My wife is not happy with me

My mom is putting pressure
on me

I feel like ever since I got
married

It's never been a honeymoon

I am just caught between , in
the middle always

And I am clearly not doing
something right

Neither of these women are
happy

I don't know what to do

I find myself so caught up on
the throne

And I don't want to lose it

So I've decided to talk to my
father

Maybe I can hear his
thoughts

And know where I stand

The man is old

He can't rule anymore

I want all that power to
myself

It'll do great things

Not only will I be in charge of
his companies

But the kingdom as well

And as king , I'll have more
power

Even in business

Hence I need this

Me : you've been so scarce

Dad : just seeing my people

I nod

Me : shouldn't I take over
that burden for you ? Your
health comes first

Dad : yeah , I am old now .
And it's time to let the reigns
go

I smile

Dad : I have been holding on
, but it's evident your brother
will never come back home .
Even when he's back in the

country , he doesn't bother
to come see us

I frown

Me : he comes here ?

He looks at me

I clear my throat

Me : I mean here in South Africa ?

Dad : I've heard , but he hasn't told me

Me : so you speak with him ?

Dad : I used to , but I think he cut me off

Me : mhm

Dad : but it's okay , I wasn't
the best father to him

That he wasn't

Even I know

I think everyone knows

Me : don't beat yourself up
about it , we all make
mistakes even king's

Dad : yeah ...and I think
about it , he doesn't even
know the people of this
kingdom . I am sure he
doesn't care

Me : so , Nqubeko was going to be king according to you ?
If he ever comes back home ?

Dad : as my first born , and a blue blood . But it is what it is

Fuck !

If that boy ever comes back
here

I will kiss that throne
goodbye

And I can't have that

Me : and what will qualify me
to sit on the throne ?

Right now I don't have time
to beat around the bush

Dad : you're doing great
things Makhedama , but
where are kids ?

Mhm , so they're both in it

Does this mean the spell is
not over ?

He still stands with his words

Me : kids will come

Dad : what of the Mdluli girl
?

Me : I don't even know her ,
is it a must I marry her ?

Dad : all that is needed is an heir , you don't ever have to love her . Make sure your wife understands that , because she's not in good terms with your mother

I heave a sigh

Me : I am worried something might be wrong with her

Dad : hence there's always a
back up plan , she's a
beautiful woman . But she's
not baring you kids , and you
need an heir for that throne

He leans down , minding the
flowers

He's doing the garden

I am left with words running
around my head

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 09

MAKHEDAMA

I am in a battle with my heart
and mind

Between what I want and
need

What's here , and what I
stand to gain

What I could lose for what's
here

I don't know what to do

But my head is telling me ,
what my heart isn't

What if these two women
turn out to be like my
mother

And the first queen ?

What then ?

Who will kill who ?

Will I lose the woman I really
love

Over a woman that's just
bearing me kids ?

Whether I love her or not

She will be the mother of my
kids

And somehow I will get
affected

I look at Siba

She hasn't spoken to me in
days

Me : babe

She doesn't bother looking
at me

Me : I am sorry

She says nothing

Me : I know I offended you ,
so it's best we leave this
matter . And I take the
second wife , you will always

remain my number one . And
you will be my queen , not
her

She looks at me

Me : it's you that I love , I just
want to end the talks

Siba : you're bringing me
talks , by bringing another

woman into my marriage .
Already people think I am
barren , and that's what you
think as well . You don't think
you're the one who could be
with a problem , the finger
has already pointed at me

She wipes her tears

I swallow a lump

I feel so guilty

And like a piece of shit

I am hurting her

Even I can see that

This is not what I promised
her

Me : I am sorry , but nothing
is wrong with me

Siba : do what your heart
desires Makhedama , I will
not stand in your way

I open my mouth to say
something

But nothing comes out

Words just fail me

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I am not certain about this
decision

I am conflicted

But I don't want to lose that throne

Me : I will marry the Mdluli girl

My mother looks at me

Mom : seriously ?

Me : yes

I look at my dad

And he's just quite

I don't understand that

Mom : you have made a
great choice , the people
need their king

I smile

Mom : this is good news my
son , actually great news .
You think with your mind ,
and not your heart

I nod

I know she is happy

I just hope I don't lose Siba
in the process of this

Because already , I feel like
I've lost what I had with her

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SIBABALWE

I have never been this hurt
my entire life

I never thought this could be
us

I thought I knew Makhedama

But clearly I didn't

Me : he has let power get into his head , so what if he is not king ? He still has his family companies that he's running

Mom : every man wants a child , and you're not giving him one

Me : I have been trying

Mom : clearly , he sees the
need for another wife to help
you

I look at her with my mouth
open

If my own mother cannot
understand

Then who will ?

Am I not woman enough

That I need another woman
in my marriage

And they say she's to help
me ?

Mom : this is nothing new , it
has been done from our
forefathers

I look down as tears burn my
eyes

Mom : you can choose to be
happy , and support your
husband . Be queen , and sit
right next to him on that

throne . Or continue to cry
yourself , allowing another
woman to be there for him .
Doing what you're failing

I think this is where I stop
trying

I came here thinking my
mother will understand , I
guess I was wrong

Mom : you have what most girls your age long for , you're married to a prince . You will be a queen , he has money and takes care of you . Sometimes love is not everything , you just have to look at the price . This other woman , will do exactly that . She won't care if Makhedama loves her or not

, she will take what he gives .
And bare as many kids for
him as she can . Start doing
the same , and stop crying
for love . In our times , we
didn't marry for love . We
married for stability , and to
move out of our families
homes . You kids of today ,
have changed the narrative
of marriage so much . You
think it's all roses , and

happiness . Men marry to start families , it's not about the looks . Because a beautiful woman cannot take care of a home , with her beauty . She will not take care of kids , with her beauty . And she will most definitely not be beautiful and going forever , she will age and grow old . And then what ? The marriage is over ,

because she's not beautiful
anymore . It doesn't work like
that , and you need to
understand that

I have never heard my
mother speak so unbothered
about my feelings

It hurts to be honest ,
because she's not with me

She doesn't understand what
I go through

Ever since I've been married

How certain are they this
new woman will bare kids for
Makhedama ?

I feel like I am being judged

For something any woman
can go through

It might not yet be my time
go conceive

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 10

MAKHEDAMA

Things are fucked up

But it is what it is

And I don't think there's any
rectifying them

So I might as well just go on
as it is

Mom : I know you love her ,
and you fought to marry her
. Even against my
disapproval , you married her
. The least she can do , is also
support and stand by you
the same way as you have
her . She can't be selfish in
marriage

I know she's just saying all of this

It's not like she cares that much

In fact , she doesn't care at all

Mom : you have made the right decision , yours is to

make sure that girl is
pregnant as soon as she gets
on these grounds . And the
throne is yours , at first sight
she's pregnant

I am wondering if she will
bare kids

What if I am destroying what
I have

Over something that might
not even be

I hope this will all be worth it

Otherwise , it will all be in
vain

I'll lose my wife

And still not gain the throne

So this girl has to give me
kids

I have to look at the end goal
now

And I am not at peace , with
what my father said

Things still could change , if
ever Nqubeko comes back
here

It's clear , he's the crown
prince and not me

I am just a fall back

Because my father is old now

Even he knows he can't rule
further

But I am not his first choice

And that makes me uneasy

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NQUBEKO

Sanele : your brother will
wed the Mdluli girl , as soon
as possible

Me : is it ?

Sanele : yes , they believe the
wife is barren

Me : mhm , get me Mkhululi

He nods and goes out

After a while he walks back in
with Mdluli

Me : take a seat

He sits down

And Sanele walks out

Me : how is it going with my father ?

Mkhululi : the king is coming along just fine

Me : any chance of her doing what she did again ?

Mkhululi : I have
strengthened him , she can
try but she will not succeed

Me : good , I can never thank
you enough for what you
have done

Mkhululi : now he lives with a
spirit animal like you do , if

they try anything to him
again he will retaliate

Me : let's hope they don't ,
because I don't want them
dead . But to suffer , death is
always just the easy way out

Mkhululi : right now , she's
not even aware of this . She

only knows of you to have
the spirit animal

I nod

Me : that's good , it should
stay like that . Because I plan
to make a visit , when my
brother is crowned king

Mkhululi : you will let him sit
on the throne ?

Me : yes , he needs to feast
on his power and burn
himself

Mkhululi : I see

Me : what of this wife of his ?

Mkhululi : you will find
yourself entangled in all of
this

I frown

Me : I mean the wife he has

Mkhululi : she's truly a
beautiful woman , but just as
a desert is beautiful . She is

dry as a desert , she will
never bare kids

I nod , now this is something
else

That's why he is marrying
another

But I doubt he knows what
he is doing

Me : you're excused

Mkhululi : mtwana (my
prince)

He bows his head and walks
out

I want nothing to do with
that throne

I will never even fight for it

But my lineage will sit on that
throne

And they will rule the land of
my forefathers

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MAKHEDAMA

My mother called me in a
hurry

And I rushed over to see her

Me : what is wrong now ?

She is pacing up and down

Clearly something is wrong

Mom : it's time , marry that girl get her pregnant and take over the throne

Me : but I've already agreed to this , so what's the rush ?

She glares at me

Mom : the rush is that Nqubeko is here

I pop my eyes

Me : what do you mean he is here ?

Mom : I mean exactly that , if you want that throne take it

I have never seen my mother this rattled

Mom : I have never told you this , but that boy is protected by a spirit animal . I wanted to kill both him and his mother , but I couldn't get to him . He is too powerful , and in the process I ended up hurting myself . I almost died , that's why I resorted to putting your father under a spell

Me : spirit animal ?

Mom : yes , if he wants the throne he will not even lift a finger to defeat you . This is war son , and you have to be ready to do whatever it takes to win . We have worked so hard , and we've come this far . We cannot lose now

Me : and you're certain he is here ?

Mom : yes , he's in the city .
But surely it's only a matter of time , before he comes here

I guess I have no time to waste then

Me : there is no need for festivities , we can do that when I am being crowned . You've already paid those people , it's time we get that girl . We can't afford to waste more time , I understand that

She smiles

Mom : that's what I like to hear

I hate hasty and rushed decisions

But this is a must

I have to do this now

Before he gets here

And my father changes his
mind

What is he even doing here ?

What does he want ?

He's been gone for years

Or maybe my father spoke to
him about the throne ?

It could be

Because he clearly didn't
hide who he wants on the
throne

I have to make sure

That , that doesn't happen

I will be king

Not him

He will come here and bow
to me

That's for certain

He just can't waltz in here ,
and take what's mine

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

A WEEK LATER

INSERT 11

SIBABALWE

What a damn week

I can't believe this is
happening

It actually feels like a
nightmare

Because I don't believe , my
husband is doing this

I don't even know how
they're planning to go about
this

I am being left out

I am not being told anything

And no one brother's
themselves about me

No one has asked me how I
feel

Or how this is affecting me

Makhedama and I , we live
like strangers

We don't even have sex
anymore

I am wondering if he ever
even loved me to begin with

The way he just changed
after marriage

Maybe we shouldn't have
gotten married

We should have just
remained boyfriend and
girlfriend

At least he treated me better
than

And I actually thought he
cared

Because he showed it

The four years we've been
together

To now ...

Well , it's been such a drastic
change

Today they're bringing that
woman here

I don't even know who she is

I have so many thoughts
running through my mind

I have so much

I don't even think I have any
tears left

My heart is bleeding

I am in so much pain

And I don't know what to do

I feel degraded as a woman

And that I've been replaced

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NQUBEKO

It feels so strange being here

It doesn't feel like home

I don't even recognise the
place

I barely even remember
anything around here

It is just a normal day

It doesn't look like anything
is happening here

Like a new wife is about to
be welcomed

Sanele : are you okay ?

I nod

Yet I have pains on my chest

But I am choosing to ignore
all that

We get out of the car

I look at him

Me : you found me in the city
, and I asked for a lift . I don't
want you to get into trouble

Sanele : understood

We walk over to the main
house

And as soon as we enter
inside the house

All eyes are on us

I look at my brother

And the fear and shock in his
eyes

It's enough to know he still
runs after his mother's skirt

Dad : mtwana (my prince)

He gets up and walks to us

Dad : it's really you ?

I side eye the queen

And she is looking at my dad

I know she's trying to read
him

And to see how he reacts

Me : my king

Dad : after all these years ...

Me : it's still my home , or am
I not welcomed ?

Makhedama : and the
prodigal son , has returned .
Welcome home brother , I
would love to chat and all .
But I am welcoming my wife ,
and well I have a Coronation
ceremony to oversee

Me : congratulations are in
order my prince

He squints his eyes

I look down with a chuckle

Makhedama : I am glad , we
understand each other

Me : I just came home

He clenches his jaws and
looks at his mother

Her eyes are piercing
through me

I let out a side smile

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MAKHEDAMA

Me : what do you think ?

Mom : I don't buy this , he is
up to something

Me : well then , let's crown
me tonight

Mom : we have guests
invited

Me : we just need the healer
for this , and the celebration
can go on next weekend as
planned

Mom : I don't know

Is she kidding me right now ?

Me : we cannot afford to be spooked by him , let's just do this while we still have a chance . Once I am king , he can't do anything

Mom : yeah

I look at her

It's like her head is not here

And I can't afford to have her
distracted

She started this

And now , I am all in

And there is no turning back

She can't pull out on me
right now

I've risked a lot

I am not loosing more

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 12

SONWABILE

I look at my parents

And I feel like I am in a
nightmare

What the hell is this ?

I've just gotten my results

I came home happy and
excited

I couldn't wait to tell them ,
just how well I passed

And then only to find my
bags packed

And the bombshell

Dad : we should have told
her

Mom : so she can run and
embarrass us ? No ways , she
is going there . We have

already spent the queens
money , we paid our debts .
It's all done

Me : dad !

That comes out as a whipser

I feel like I am shutting down

All this is shock beyond
everything

It can't be real

How am I sold to marry a
prince that's already married

I am only 18 for goodness
sake

Mom : we don't have time to waste , let's go . The royal family is waiting for us

She looks at my dad

Dad : I am so sorry

Tears just stream down my face

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NQUBEKO

I look at him

And looks like his mind is
miles away

He's worried

I can just tell

I take a deep breath ,
heaving a sigh

I move over and sit down
opposite him

He lifts his head

And looks at me

Me : don't panic , they're probably panicking . And they will rush everything , because he's scared . He thinks I'm here for the throne , so he's not himself at the moment

Dad : are you ?

He wishes

Because I will never Wang
anything to do with that
throne

I know I will have my day

And I will rejoice on that day

Just not for me

And most definitely not yet

Me : I don't want anything to do with this throne , it took the only person who's ever ...

Dad : please don't , because I am still here

Me : yeah , and you still
chose them over me

I get up

Dad : Nqubeko ...

Me : just let them do what
they want to do , don't stand
in their way because they will
kill you

He nods

Dad : I am sorry , I wish I
could have done better

Me : was my mother not
enough ?

He looks at me

Me : was she not ?

Dad : she was ...

Me : you broke her , and
teared our family apart . You
watched me get treated like
a dog , and you did nothing .
I will never forgive you for
that , never . The fact that I
care for you , it doesn't mean

all is forgotten . It's not , and
it'll never be

Dad : anger and ...

Me : I will carry it to the
grave if I must

He looks down shaking his
head

I am not about to listen to
his advice

Because I don't want to hear
anything , that he has to say

He can never erase what he's
done

What his actions led us to

And now we're left facing
those consequences

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MAKHEDAMA

I trust my mother to make
things happen

She has gathered the healer

And the elders

Tonight , they will all be here

Along with the village
leaders and the chief

I will be crowned

And there's nothing
Nqubeko can do about that

I don't care who says that

Right now I have the support
of the queen and king

As well as the elders

So this is happening

Before my father changes his
mind

He's my only worry right now

Remembering what he said
before

I can't relax now

Until I am crowned , and I
know I am king

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SIBABALWE

Everyone is outside to
welcome this new wife

I feel like screaming my lungs
out

Just looking at her

And I know her from the
village

I've seen her before

I just don't know her name

Or know her on a personal
level

My heart is in shreds

I look at Makhedama as he
walks to her

And the smile of his face

It just breaks me

He talks with her parents

And the queen and King also
walk to them

I swallow a painful lump
stuck on my throat

Voice : are you okay ?

I turn my head and look at
Nqubeko

I shake my head slowly as
tears stream down my face

I look at them as they walk
over

I walk to the girl and
Makhedama

She looks so lost

But I don't care what she's
feeling right now

Nqubeko : do not cause a
scene here

I ignore him

I stand in front of them

As the queen and king ,
along with her parents and
the elders walk inside the
main house

Me : I hope you know what
you're doing , and that you

know you can never build
happiness on another
woman's tears . You're
special now , because they
think you have a special
womb . Let's see how long
that will last

She's just looking at me

Makhedama : stop this

I look at him

I feel nothing but disgust for
this man

I click my tongue and walk to
our chamber

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 13

SONWABILE

What kind of people are
these ?

Like everything seems well to
them

They're eating and having
fun

I don't understand how

When I am still trying to
wrap the whole thing around
my head

And that woman ...

I just can't get her words out
of my head

She was in so much
emotional pain

And I felt it

But I couldn't even say
anything

Because I am just in shock

I am asking myself so many
questions

Why would my parents do
this to me ?

I have my whole future
ahead of me

I want to further my studies

I want to leave this village

Make something of myself

But now here I am

Married off , to an already
married man

All these months , they kept
quite

And the money they have
been spending

Now it makes sense

Why the queen was at our
house

And suddenly there was
money

Money they spent , without
even giving me anything

I am hurt beyond the words

And judging from the
woman's words

I swear , this palace will be
my hell

I look at the guy that walks in

We passed him by the door

Everyone looks at him

And they tense up

I wonder what's that all
about

But he just walks off ,
jogging up the stairs

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NQUBEKO

Makhedama can't help
himself

He's so caught up in all this
shit

He doesn't even know what
he wants

He has his mother leading
him

Just pulling him with his nose

And he just follows where
she leads

The way he is so unbothered

I know shit will come out of
this nonsense of his

I will remain here for a while

I just want to watch how
things unfold

So I can be ready to strike at
anytime

Just as long as it comes to
me

But they can do whatever
shit they want

Just as long as it doesn't
come to me

I looked at that girl

She's so young

And she looks so shocked

Just out of place

Like she didn't know
anything about this

Without a doubt , she has
been forced into this

She didn't agree to this
nonsense for certain

I could read her from a mile
away

And I know nonsense when I
see one

And this is it

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SIBABALWE

How can I say he still loves
me

When he hasn't even
bothered to come check on
me

There's nothing but just
laughter coming from the
house

Clearly , it's nice for him

He's having the time of his
life

Now I'm called because the
elders are about to crown
him

I want no part of that he can
do what he wants , without
me

Like he took a second wife
without my blessings

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SONWABILE

Mom : just don't embarrass us here , you might be sad right now . But you'll get over it , I swear you will . The king will take good care of you , so in actual fact we did you a great favour

I can't believe this woman

I look at my dad

And he hasn't said anything

They turn and walk to their
car

I watch as they drive out

Leaving me out here

That this is my reality now

I am trying to understand
what's going on in this
palace

How does a king get
crowned , without other
royals

They were in the throne
room

And I didn't see the wife

Everything happening here
doesn't make sense to me

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MAKHEDAMA

I walk in the chamber

And she's laying in bed

I look at her

Me : why didn't you come ?

She says nothing

Me : so this is how we're
going to live now ? Forever ,
without talking to each other

Still , I'm given the silence
treatment

Me : okay , I am going to
MaMdluli

She looks at me

I can see the pain on her face

But I have to do this

The sooner , Sonwabile gets
pregnant the better

And then I'll stay the fuck
away from her

Until such time for another
baby comes

I am king now , so I have to
have an heir

I take a deep breath

And turn walking out

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 14

SONWABILE

I swallow hard as he walks in

What is he doing in here ?

He closes the door and locks
it

I just stand still looking at
him

Makhedama : what's with the
stare ?

I swallow hard looking down

He walks closer to me

My heart is beating so fast

My whole body is shaking

I freeze as he places his
hands on my shoulders

Makhedama : you're here
because I want kids , don't
get it twisted . That's all
you're here for

I think my whole body just
shuts down

As he takes my clothes off

And I'm just frozen

With tears streaming down
my face

I can't even say anything

As much as I want to tell him
to stop

He takes his clothes off

And pushes me down the
bed

I let out a whimper of pain

Pain clocking my throat

He aims his mouth at my
coochie

Then he spits on it , and
places his dick over my
coochie flesh

He pins his hands on each
side and pressed down
sliding inside of me

He just roughly pushes in

I close my eyes in pain

As he tears me apart

And a slight scream escapes
my mouth

Me : pl...eas... stop....

He grunts at the warmth and
starts to thrust through my
flaps and walls her flaps

I am in so much pain

Tears can't stop streaming
down my face

I pull my hands over my face

While my body shakes , as he
keeps on thrusting

I just want him to finish

But he just keeps on going

I let out a scream , as I feel
the sloppy wet sounds

My own body is betraying
me

While someone is taking
advantage of me

He pulls out , and grabs my
arms off my face

Makhedama : get on your
knees

Fear just strikes into me and
shock

I quickly get off the bed and
get on my knees , and he
pushes me down the floor on
my face

He puts his hand on my back

While he holds his dick with
the other hand

And the slides inside of me

Soon he picks up his pace
going faster

While my face is on the floor

He thrusts in faster , and I
feel his dick expanding inside
of me

I break down , as the pain
intensifies

From his speed and the
breathing , I hope he's about
to finish

I hear his grunt so loud like a
wounded animal

And he pushes his dick
further inside of me

He keeps pushing it in ,
further and further

After a while he pulls out

I lay on the floor

While I hear he's wearing his
clothes on

Makhedama : let's hope
you're pregnant , otherwise I
will be back

He says unlocking the door

And he closes it

I slowly pull myself up

And the pain that shoots
between my thighs

Me : ouch

I close my eyes briefly

And the blood on the bed
duvet catches my eyes

Slowly I walk to the shower

And I open the water

Sliding down the bathroom
wall , sinking to the floor
crying my eyeballs out

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SIBABALWE

Now this is bullshit

He reeks of sex

And he has the nerve to
come in here

Me : what do you want ?

He looks at me

Makhedama : what do you mean ?

Me : you left , so what do you want ?

Makhedama : I am here to sleep

Me : isn't your wife's bed warm enough for you ?

He chuckles

Makhedama : I don't want drama , Sonwabile is just

here to give me babies . I am
not her lover

I chuckle bitterly shaking my
head

Me : oh wow , so she's just
your sperm dustbin

Makhedama : I am not doing this with you , we spoke about this

Me : it must be nice , she didn't even waste time . First day here , and you've already poked your dick inside of her

Makhedama : because she knows her duty here , I'm going to take a shower

Me : you disrespect me , you bring me another woman here . You ho exchange spits with her , and you come to my room smelling of sex . Have you no shame ?

Makhedama : it's not like you
didn't know where I was
going

I watch him as he walks to
the bathroom

He must be thinking I am
here to fool with him

He can't do this

He can't go sleep with her

And then come back to me

Like he didn't just fuck
another woman

He's a piece of shit

I see that now

I get up and walk to the
bathroom door

I lock the door , and throw
the key outside through the
window

I get in bed switching off the
lights

Makhedama : what's going
on with the lights ?

I let out a smile closing my
eyes , pulling the sheets up

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 15

MAKHEDAMA

This fucking woman

I can't believe she let me
sleep on the fucking
bathroom

And I slept on the floor

Cold as fuck

I couldn't even break the
door

No matter how much I
kicked it

It just wouldn't break

And I had no choice

Because she was clearly
ignoring me

I banged on the door

She wasn't budging

I am so angry with her

If my mother didn't walk in
here

Shit would have hit the fan

She's just full of shit

My mother is the one who
got me out of there

And Siba couldn't even look
bothered

She's happy , busy singing

And I just feel like strangling
her

Me : you ever do that shit
you did again , last night . I

swear there will be no
singing ever again

She doesn't even look at me

Me : don't try me Siba , I am
not your friend

She walks past me

I grab her arm

Siba : dare lay your hands on
me , and your mother will
fucking mourn you

I pop my eyes

She yanks her arm off my
hand

And walks to the closet

I shake my head , still
puzzled at what she just said

I know she is hurt

And I am responsible for her
pain

But I won't stand for this

We ought to work this whole
thing out together

Not her pulling away from
me

And worse , acting like this

I know I'm the one who
messed up

My mother is not happy

She was fuming when she
came to get me out of the
bathroom

And she kept telling me , she
warned me about Siba

But Siba didn't even care
what my mother was saying

She was just unbothered

And for the first time ever

I didn't see any emotion on
her face

And it scares me to be
honest

As much as I am angry

I will not stand being
disrespected by her

She can't treat me like this

What if people hear about
this ?

I will be made a joke

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SONWABILE

I just want to bury myself

And die in this room

But I've been called to go
have breakfast

I don't want to see that
Makhedama

That man violated me so bad

I hate everything about
myself

I am so disgusted

I can't even cry

Every time the pain hits me

My chest just closes up

And I feel so empty

This is what my parents have
dealt me

This is what they have gotten
me into

They took money , and left
me with a rapist

No matter how that can be
seen

He violated me , and he
knows it

I won't even bother myself
telling them

Because I know no one will
care

Especially not my parents

I can't tell my sister as well

Who knows what she will say

As for this man , he must be
mentally disturbed

He is out of his mind

If he thinks I will carry his
kids

He will draw them

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NQUBEKO

The tension on the table

It's a lot

The polygamous man , is in
between his wives

Who don't look so pleasant
at all

Nor does he

I heard about his morning
debacle

I guess that's what got him
so upset

But my worry , is about this
little one

She looks traumatized

Like something happened to
her

And just then , she gets up

Sonwabile : please excuse me

Makhedama : you didn't eat ,
nor touch your food . You
need to eat , to have healthy

babies . Sit down and eat ,
you can't skip your meals .
Breakfast is said to be the
most important meal of the
day

She just looks at him and
walks out

No one minds her

Except the queen

Who doesn't seem pleased ,
that her king son just got
ignored

After being locked in the
bathroom the whole night

This whole polygamy ,
started on a very bumpy ride

They all continue to eat

While mother and daughter
converse

I get up and walk out

Without even being noticed

I walk to her chamber

I knock and she opens the door

Me : hi , I'm Nqubeko I don't think we've been introduced

She nods

Me : I just came to check if you're okay

She nods again

Her eyes are puffy , and red

Which means she's been
crying

Could be about the marriage

But I doubt it

Me : you can talk to me
about anything , and if
Makhedama is hurting you .
Just tell me , I will hurt him
so bad he won't know what
hit him . I won't pressure you
, but when you're ready just
know I am here for you . And
whatever you need , don't
hesitate

Sonwabile : he is your
brother , how can I trust you
?

Me : I'll take any reason to
just hurt him , I hate him with
very fibre in my body

She stares at me for a while

And looks down

Sonwabile : I am okay

Me : just remember my
words

I turn and walk away

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

A YEAR LATER

INSERT 16

NQUBEKO

I open the door and walk in

He lifts his eyes from the
laptop

Sanele looks at me

He gets up and walks out

I walk in and pull a chair
sitting down

Nqubeko : no one saw you ?

I shake my head

He closes his laptop

Me : I need your help

Nqubeko : he did this ?

I say nothing

Nqubeko : what do you need
?

Me : abortion pills

I say with a straight face

He's not even fazed

There's no emotion
whatsoever on his face

Me : I can't keep going to the
same doctor , it's for the
theird time

Nqubeko : when will you
walk away from this
Sonwabile ?

Me : where will I go ? I have
no money , I know no one .
My sister will never help me ,
and my parents are a no go
area they don't care . The
royal family , only cares
about my womb

Nqubeko : I will help you

I frown

Nqubeko : open a bank
account , send me your
details

Me : you have helped me so
much , I don't want to get
you into trouble

Nqubeko : incase you haven't noticed , I don't care about those people

Nqubeko has become great help

I can rely on him

He really meant it , when he
said I can talk to him

Nqubeko : stay put , I'll go
get the pills myself . I can't
risk anyone knowing your
secrets

I nod

He gets up and grabs his car keys

Me : I'll have to go back , I have to lose the baby there

Nqubeko : then maybe you should come with , so you can open that account

Me : we can't risk being seen
together

Nqubeko : we won't

I can trust him

We walk out , and head
down into the parking lot

Going into his car

I've lost myself so much

That I don't even recognise
who I am anymore

In this year alone , I've
aborted two kids

I couldn't afford to use
contraceptives

Makhedama is a psycho

Any chance he would find
out

I don't want to risk what he
will do to me

I tell him when I'm pregnant

A week later or two , I just
lose the baby

I am always testing myself

So I can be able to get rid of
it

Before I get into more
months

And I fail to do anything
about it

I will never carry rape
products

And dare to raise them

To this day , Makhedama still
uses my body

He does whatever he wants

Leaving his filthy seeds inside
of me

I am so past the rape
trauma

But I will never carry his kids

And he gets to see them
ever

I will answer for my sins ,
when my time comes

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MAKHEDAMA

Mom : I don't think she
should be going out this
much

I look at her

Mom : she's pregnant , and
we don't want her to lose
this child as well

Me : she won't

Mom : we don't know that ...

Me : then you should know
why she keeps loosing the
kids

Mom : watch your tone !

I heave a sigh

Mom : maybe your other wife , who's barren is responsible for this . Maybe it's her jealousy , and she can't stand not being the one carrying your children

Me : Siba can't do that

She's a lot of things

But I know she's not that
heartless

And she would never harm
anyone

Especially not kids

Mom : open your eyes , and
do something about that
wife of yours

I tap the pen

I don't know what is what
now

Could my mother be right ?

The door opens

Me : what did I say about just
budging into my office ?

Maiden : it's the princess ,
she's loosing the baby

I'm on my feet in seconds ,
running out to her chamber

The blood on the bed says it
all

She's just laying there

Maiden : we were too late

Me : GET OUT !!

I roar in anger

And the two maidens walk
out

Mom : look into this ,
something is wrong here

She turns and walks out

Sonwabile : my baby

She wails in pain

I look down

Why am I loosing my kids ?

Could it be my punishment
for hurting Sonwabile ?

I don't love her

I don't even like her

I can't bring myself to make
love with her

Or go even have normal sex
with her

I know what I am doing is
wrong

But Siba doesn't even let me
touch her anymore

Sometimes I just need to
release

And I just go to Sonwabile

Fuck her however , and leave

She doesn't even cry
anymore

She's broken beyond

Her cry pierces through

I swallow a lump of pain

I close the door walking out

Me : clean her

I say to the maiden by the
door

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 17

SIBABALWE

I look at him as he walks in

Frustration is all over his face

I even feel like laughing

He takes his tie off

Me : once again it's
condolences

He sits down on the couch

Burying his face between his
hands

Me : I wish I can say I am
sorry for you , but I am not

I get up

Me : I loved you , and you
promised me heaven on
earth . But the second you
married me , you treated me
like a piece of shit . You

disregard me , and you didn't
give a shit . You tossed me
aside , and found yourself a
new toy . What did you think
was going to happen ? A
happy ending , on my
account and tears ? Never !
This is what you get , and
you deserve it . Let's see ,
what you do now king with
ghost kids .I swear , you'll

have a handful of heir's as
ghosts

He quickly gets up and slaps
me so hard

I bite my lower lip

Tasting blood in my mouth

I look at him in shock

Makhedama : I swear , if you
have anything to do with my
wife loosing our kids . I will
rip your heart , with my bare
hands

He clicks his tongue walking
out

I hold my cheek

And let out a scream of a cry

This is a first

I guess it has gotten go him

He's never put his hands on
me

Not even once

No matter how many times
we fought

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SONWABILE

Having been done this ,
more than once

I don't even feel anything
anymore

I know may be judged

But I don't care

No one goes through what I
go through

I'm only 19

But I've been through hell
and back

And it's me against everyone

So I will do whatever it takes

For myself

My phone beeps , I open the
text message

"Are you okay?"

I let out a smile , and
respond

"Better"

I put my phone down

But it beeps again

I heave a sigh checking it

And it's a bank notification

I pop my eyes in disbelief

I check my balance

And it's there

I dial his number

Nqubeko : hey

Me : I think you made a
mistake

Nqubeko : the pill didn't
work ?

Me : the money

Nqubeko : what about it ?

Me : you sent a lot of money
, I don't ...

Nqubeko : I didn't make a
mistake . Tomorrow you
must be out of there , leave

the country if you must . For
that , you'll need a lot of
money to start over

Me : but ...aren't you helping
with that ?

Nqubeko : I don't even want
to know where you are going

I take a deep breath

Me : what if he finds me ?

Nqubeko : with what ? Just make sure you go far away from here , with that money you can go anywhere you want to go

He drops the call

I am in shock

I've never had so much
money in my life

And he's right

With so much money , I can
go anywhere I want to go

I send him a text message

"Thank you"

Now I have to think of my
next step

I am not falling pregnant for
this pig ever again

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MAKHEDAMA

I have never been so
frustrated in my life

With Nqubeko still here

I don't know what will
happen to me

What if my mother , flips on
me ?

And he decides to overthrow
me

I mean , he can do that

And I can't have that

I've come this far

I have to finish this

And achieve what's needed
to keep what I have

I've made peace , my
marriage is fucked up

And there's no fixing it

But I can still hold on having
kids

I walk in our chamber

She's sitting in the dark

I look at her

She has a patch on her lip

Me : I am going to take
Sonwabile to a doctor

tomorrow , so they can see
why she keeps loosing the
babies . And of western
medicine can't explain it ,
then I am going to take her
to a traditional one . I am
telling you all this , so you
better pray I don't find out
you're the cause for all this .
Because all hell will break
loose

She is just staring at me

Me : I am telling you

I walk over to the shower

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SIBABALWE

He thinks he has read me

And he knows me

I shake him , and he doesn't
move

I slowly get on top of him

I grab the knife

And pin him down , as he
opens his eyes in shock

Makhedama : what are you

....

I strike the knife into his
chest

As he tries to fight me

I push it in harder , and he
gawks popping his eyes

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 18

SONWABILE

Shit , in this palace it's just
fucked up

It's insane

And that's definitely an
understatement

We slept , and we wake up
with horrific news

But of course I don't care

I actually wish I had been the
one that brave

To pull what Siba has done

But I could never

Everyone ran to the hospital

They're attending to
Makhedama

They only found him in the
morning

Stabbed and bleeding on the
bed all alone

As for Siba , I don't know
where she is

No cops were called

But they know she's the one
who stabbed him

I don't know what's going on
with him

Whether he's alive or dead

And quite frankly , I just
don't care

It would take a miracle for
him to be alive

Of which I wish he isn't

That one just deserves to die
, a horrible death

Just like the dog he is

I am glad his parents are not
here

It's my good chance to get
away

Without anyone paying
attention to me

I've already packed my bag

And I have a taxi waiting for
me

I didn't take anything
unnecessary

Just my important
documents

Things I know I will need to
start over

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NQUBEKO

Me : where is she ?

Sanele : by her parents house

Me : she won't last there ,
they're going to kick her out .
Fucked up parents

He laughs

Me : and everything is sorted
for Soso ?

Sanele : yeah

Me : okay , she will be here soon . Tell her I'm taking a shower

Sanele : okay

I get up walking to the bathroom

I this room has become my
go to place

When I want to get away
from everything in that
palace

With their fucking nonsense

And unending drama

Now they've stabbed the
polygamous husband

I wonder what did he think
he was going to achieve with
all this

One wife is busy aborting his
rape kids

And now another one , just
stabbed him

Serves him right

He's a boy , who just thought
he can fill in the shoes of
men

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SONWABILE

I look at Sanele

He stops and looks at me as
well

Sanele : hey

Me : hi

Sanele : I am on my way to
get coffee

He smiles

Me : is he inside ?

He chuckles

Sanele : yeah ...

I open the door walking
inside

Me : Nqubeko ?

I call him out

And he doesn't answer

I look around

But there's no place he can
hide in

This place it's just a two
room suit

And it's not that big

It's strange

Or maybe he's using the
bathroom

I sit down , tapping my foot
down

I am so nervous as hell

This whole thing I am doing
is scary

And I don't know what awaits
me

I don't even know if
Makhedama is alive or not

What if he's alive , and he
comes after me ?

Or I get Nqubeko in trouble
for helping me

I am leaving my whole life
behind

But after everything , I've
made peace

I know I have no one

And no one will miss me that
I am gone

I am so lost in my thoughts

I'm brought to , when I hear
him curse

I lift my eyes and look at him

He's in sweatpants

And shirtless

My eyes are just salvating
over his ripped body

I quickly get up

And trail his body down

His member is all wide awake

The length and thickness is
just printed on his
sweatpants

Nqubeko : Sonwabile !

I lift my eyes looking at him

Nqubeko : I am talking to
you

Me : mhm yeah ...

He chuckles

Nqubeko : stop staring at me
like that , you'll give me crazy
ideas

I swallow hard

I am no longer a virgin yes

But I can't exactly say I've
had sex

I've been raped

I don't know how it feels to
have a man , make love to
you

Nqubeko : where is Sanele ?

I just look at him

Not being able to say
anything

Nqubeko : stopdon't start
something you cannot finish

He says walking to me

I take a deep breath

Nqubeko : you've been
through a lot , and you don't
need this

Me : what ?

That comes out as a whisper

He takes my hand into his

And I get a tingly sensation

I lift my eyes to his

And we just stare into each
other's eyes in silence

Slowly , he breathes on my
face

I take a deep breath

I so badly want to taste his
lips

I don't know what this says
about me

Maybe I am a whore

I don't know

But I don't want to be
rejected

Because of what I've been
through

I slowly move back

My hand still in his

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 19

SONWABILE

I look down in shame

Me : I am sorry , I am soI
don't know what came

I heave a heavy sigh

Me : I am way too damaged ,
and no man would ever
wanna have that

The silence is too thick

You can even cut it

I scream out a bit

As he picks me up into his
arms

And he walks to the
bedroom

With me in his arms

Without saying anything

He lays me down on the bed
slowly

And slowly , he gets on top
of me

I am breathing so high

This feels so different

I am not even scared

Or feeling anyhow

Nqubeko : don't ever say
you're damaged , or I will
fuck you up so bad

I shiver just at that

I lay still as he takes my
clothes off

I am watching his every
move

Nqubeko : if you ever feel
the need to stop me , do it

I nod

Nqubeko : what ?

Me : yes

He lets out a fade smile

Nqubeko : good

I am naked

And he's piercing through
my body

I am feeling somehow

What if he's disgusted ?

So many thoughts are going
through my head

But they soon vanish

As his lips grace mine

And I freeze for a second

I've never kissed anyone

Not even the rapist

He wasn't pleasuring me at
all

So I can't say I know that

But my lips involuntary move
against his

His hands trailing all over my
body

And his touch is definitely
doing things go me

My body is reacting to this

It's not the same

I am not dry , every second
he touches me

I just get more wet

The kiss gets intense

He moves to my neck

And my mouth involuntarily
opens , letting out moans of
pleasure I've never felt
before

He slides his hand down

Rubbing his finger against
my flaps and walls

My moans increase , as he
keeps teasing on my clit

I part my legs further

And clinging tight on his
back

With my eyes closed

Feeling more pleasure

I gasp as he slips his finger
inside of my coochie

I grab his fingering hand as
he wiggles it inside of me
tapping a very sweet spot

I turn my eyes , moaning in
pleasure

He curses under his breath
with a grunt

Nqubeko : fuck

He leans over and sucks on
my nipples , while his other
hand slowly slipped out of
my coochie

And he gently massaged my
clit

He sucked each of my
nipples , and fingered me

I find myself just shaking , my
moans filling this room

Me : Ohhhoh ...oh

My eyes turn as a wave of
orgasm , rushes through my
veins

What a nice feeling , that I
can't even describe

He clicks my it , I gasp
freezing as I release every
cum

He goes on to continue
fingering me

I try closing my legs , but he
pushes them open

I am sweating insanely

I feel him tapping that sweet
spot again

I trail my hands to his arms ,
feeling the veins on his arms
with every flick that he gives
me

I flip into a frenzy looking
into his eyes , he bites his
lower lip

And fingers me quickly , I feel
that intense pleasure build
up

He leans over and deep
kisses me , over and over

My walls tighten , and the
feeling engulfs me again

I just leg go , and cum

But it feels different this time
, than the first one

I hold tight on his arms ,
screaming my lungs out

Me : ohhhhh fuck
Nqubekooo ... ahhhh

He gets on his knees

Taking off his sweatpants

And he is hard as a rock

While he carries on to flick
on me with his finger

I swallow hard , licking my
lips

Staring at his black veined
dick hanging between his
legs

Damn !

He is gifted alright

He grabs my hand , place it
on his dick

Just the feeling alone ,
having it in my hand

It just sends me over , I
vibrate so hard squirting all
over the bed

He slips his finger out , and
closes my legs

Leaning over , his lips
gracing mine

He slides down , and grabs
his dick

And slowly strokes it

While his eyes are locked in
on mine

Nqubeko : you still want
more ?

He says with a hoarse voice

Me : please

He chuckles

As his hard dick lands on my
coochie

I gasps as he rubs it on me

I am so longing for him

I finally , grab his dick and
slowly slide it in inside of me

Making sure not to hurt
myself

And he positions himself well

Nqubeko : ohh shit ...

He deep grunts

And slowly thrusts in

I grab on the sheets

And let out , grabbing his
arms

But the more pleasure I feel

I just lose myself

Not knowing where to touch
, and let go

He brings his face down

Burying it on my neck

He just sends me over , as I
lock my legs over his ass

Me : Ohhhthis feels so
good ...

I feel his weight over me

As his dick jerks inside of me

And I know he is cumming

Feeling him fill me up

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 20

SONWABILE

I lazily open my eyes

And he chuckles

Nqubeko : you said your
flight leaves at 16:00 , you
have an hour and a half . So

get up and go shower , let's
get something to eat . So I
can drop you off

Me : I'll call a cab

Nqubeko : where are you
going ?

Me : you said you don't want
to know

He laughs

Nqubeko : even now ?

I nod

Me : it changes nothing

He smiles and leans down
pecking my lips

He moves back

Nqubeko : you have 30
minutes to get ready

He walks out

I hear voices in the other
room

I guess Sanele is back

I wish I can sleep for an hour
or two

That was intense

And I have no regrets at all

I am even scared to ask how
he is feeling

Maybe I don't even want to
know

He might just ruin my sweet
thoughts

I'll rather take what
happened today with me

And leave with the memory

I slowly get up

And make the bed

He walks in while I'm still
making the bed

Nqubeko : I was going to do
that

Me : I don't mind

Nqubeko : are you okay ?

He asks genuinely

I look at him with a smile

Me : I'm okay , really

He nods , biting his lower lip

Me : Uhm ...

I stand up and look at him

Nqubeko : what ?

Me : is he dead ?

He stares at me , and bursts
out laughing

I heave a sigh

Me : did I miss something ?

Nqubeko : no

Me : okay ?

He shakes his head , with a
sigh

Nqubeko : I know you want him dead , but he's not

Mxm !

What a bummer !

Nqubeko : she stabbed him three times on the chest , but the knife missed all the vital

organs . So he will live , he
will take time to recover
though

I nod

I was hoping he died

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SIBABALWE

I feel like I am going out of
my mind

I thought by now I would be
arrested

But I'm still here

Mom : what were you
thinking ?

I look at her

Me : I wasn't thinking

Mom : yes , you weren't
thinking . And now you're
here in my house , you want
people to burn me

Me : where do you want me
to go ?

Mom : heeeh !

She claps her hands

Mom : in jail , where you
belong . You should have
gone straight to the cops

Me : really ?

Mom : don't give me that

Me : I ...I am tired , you don't
know what I've been
enduring in that marriage . I
am tired

Mom : you wanted to get married , and well that's marriage

Me : do you

I shake my head , as tears stream down my face

Me : he was accusing me of killing his babies

Mom : well , you were acting like a jealous low self esteem woman . Just because you couldn't give him kids

I look at her

And I wonder why she just can't support me

Why can't she just
sympathize with me

She's a woman as well

I don't know why I'm not
bearing kids

And I never asked for my
womb not to carry a seed

Me : I don't regret what I did
, and I hope I've killed him . I
am not going to report
myself , you can call the cops
on me

I get up and walk in my room

I lock the door

And lay down in bed

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SONWABILE

I take a deep breath as the
plane takes off

I didn't even want Nqubeko
to drop me off

But he insisted

And now this all feels so real

I will be boarding three
planes

Before I get to where I am
going

And it's not because there's
no direct flight

There is

But I just want to throw away
my trail

I pray that no one dares try
to find me

By that I mean the royal
family

I don't want anything to do
with them

Now , I just want to start over

A new beginning away from
everything

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

TEN YEARS LATER

INSERT 21

MAKHEDAMA

I take a deep breath

So much has changed
around this kingdom

Even I have changed might I
say

Yet , I am still trying to piece
myself together

After everything that has
happened

The losses and the gains

The hate and power struggle
I held

But I can say I've come a
long

And I am trying to navigate
things

The new and right way

Still finding my feet

Coming so close to loosing
my life

I knew I was fucked up

And I had fucked up a lot

And I had to change

A near death experience ,
opened my eyes a lot

I don't blame Siba for what
she did

I had broken her beyond

She reached a boiling point

And retaliated on her abuser

I was out for two months

And when I woke up she was
arrested

But I dropped those charges

And fought for her to be
released

And she was

But my mother had other
plans

And she used her dark
powers against Siba

She wanted her to kill herself

And she tried multiple times

She ended up being in a
mental asylum

A lot of things changed

It turned out my father was
off the spell

And he banished my mother

But of course

She wasn't giving up so
easily

She tried to fight against the
kingdom

And the village took it upon
themselves

It was a very gruesome

And traumatizing experience

I watched them burn my
mother to ashes

They said that was the only
way to get rid of her

And her wicked ways

I knew her , and the kind of a
person she was

But still , she was my mother

And to this day , her death
still haunts me

She had turned for the worst

As much as I understood why
Sonwabile ran away

Although it hurt , finding out
she was aborting the babies

They weren't miscarriages

But I understood

Yet my mother was hellbent
on finding her

And that wasn't going to end
well

But she never did

I still kept my position as
king

But I've lost a lot

The only woman I've ever
loved

And the people don't
consider me much

oMdluli they blame me to
this day for their daughters
disappearance

Her father passed away four
years ago

With a broken heart

Still longing for her daughter

But no one knows where she
is

It's like she doesn't want to
be found

And I can't do anything
either

Because I never married her
legally

So I have no grounds to look
for her

And I am sure I'm the last
person

Whom she will ever be
wanted by

I know I wronged her so
much

And that haunts me

It will forever haunt me

And the shame that comes
with that

Even though people don't
know about it

They don't know what I did
behind closed doors

But still , I know

I know what I did

And I can't undo any of that

The guilt just eats me up

So maybe it's a good thing
she left

Because who knows where I
would have ended

Maybe even to this day

I would still be hurting her

I would not be seeing my
faults and fuck ups

Our sins never escape us

They follow us , for the rest
of our lives

And I am understanding that
first hand

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NQUBEKO

I walk in

And Sanele raises his hand

I walk over to him , and pull a
chair sitting down

Me : tell me you're winning

He sighs

Me : Sanele ...

Sanele : it's the same thing
over and over again , the trail
ends in Dubai . But she's not
there

Me : we checked countless
times

Sanele : what now ?

Me : I don't want to stop
looking , but I have to get
back to South Africa

Sanele : I will keep trying

Me : I've called Cain , maybe
he will have something

Sanele : we will wait to hear
from him

I heave a sigh

A whole fucking ten years

And for 4 years , I've been
looking

But it's a brick wall

Me : no one just disappears
like this

Sanele : you told her to
fucking disappear

I laugh shaking my head

Me : I didn't mean
completely , maybe she

changed her identity . It can't
be this hard to find someone

Sanele : I doubt , but it's
worth a try looking into that

Me : it's the only logic
explanation I have

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SONWABILE

I slight knock in his room

And open the door walking
in

Me : hey

He lifts his head and looks at
me

Me : you're still awake

Cebo : why are you not
asleep ?

I smile walking to his bed

I sit down , and brush his hair

Me : I could hear you tossing
and turning

Cebo : I didn't mean to keep
you awake

Me : it's okay , I don't mind

Cebo : you need your beauty
sleep

I laugh

Me : yes , but I've never told you . Most nights , I wait to hear you've fallen asleep before I fall asleep

Cebo : why ?

Me : I don't know , I just want to hear you're asleep and peaceful . It gives me peace

He smile

Cebo : come here , let me
cuddle you

I let out a laugh

As he makes space for me

I get on his bed

Cebo : I love you

Me : I love you more

I place a kiss on his forehead

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 22

SONWABILE

He looks at me

I can tell so much is going on
in his head

But I don't know what to tell
him

And he knows it

To him , he just has a tattoo
on his back

That he was just born with it

I call it a birth mark

He says it's a tattoo

Because birth marks are not
like this

And each year , it just grows

And appears more clearer

It worries me to be honest

Because I don't know what it
is

Or why he has it

But he seems unbothered by
it

And everytime it gets
different , he always shows
me

Like today

His back has been itching for
a week or so

And we knew something was
going on

Today , he woke up and
looked at it

It has grown bigger and
looks different

Me : there all done

Cebo : why do you look so
worried ?

Me : I am not

Cebo : you're not a very
good liar might I add

I laugh

Me : is it not painful ?

He shakes his head

Cebo : no

Me : and if it was you would
tell me right ?

He lets out a fade smile

Cebo : you know me , I
vowed to tell you everything
. If someone bullies me , I
wouldn't cry about it I would
tell you . If someone hits me ,
whatever the outcome may

be I will tell you . If
something bothers me , I
would still tell you . I am just
smart like that , so don't
worry . You will never ever
live with a broken human
being , dying in silence . The
statistics of suicide in the
world show that ...

Me : whoa !

He frowns

Me : you're far from death ,
so let's not go there .

Especially not this early in the
morning , and please go eat
and brush your teeth when
you're done

He fixes his tie

Cebo : but I was just saying

Me : yeah , and you say a lot

He shrugs

I smile

Me : go on , I have an early morning

Cebo : anyways I love you

Me : I love you more

He walks out of his bedroom

I heave a sigh gathering my
thoughts together

There's not even anyone I
can ask about this mark

It doesn't make sense to me
at all

But what if I get a hold of the
psychic who helped me ten
years ago

Maybe she can shed some
light on this

I will have to try and find her

I was on a plane to Dubai
when I met her

Right on the plane

And she told me about the
kids I had aborted

And how I needed to cleanse

So I don't carry that dark
aura with me

To cleanse my energy and
aura

And for their sake as well

As their lives were cut short

So they can be able to find a
resting place

And not turn into wandering
spirits

And their souls not to haunt
me

That woman really helped
me

She guided me throughout
the whole process

And even had a reading with
me when I was done with the
cleaning

And I got to connect with
those three kids

An emotional experience it
was

But it helped me a lot

Was very much needed

And I didn't even know that

Now here I am , stuck with
another mystery

That I don't understand

And have never come across

I will see to it that I find her

Maybe back home , someone
would have an explanation

But I am done with that life

When I moved , I left
everything behind me

And I am happy and very
much content with my life
here

I do not want to open the
closet , and let past skeletons
in

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NQUBEKO

Sanele : your flight is ready
for 11 o'clock

I look at him dropping the
call

Me : no

Sanele : no ?

Me : we are staying , seems
like she's been right here
under our noses

Sanele : don't tell me

I shake my head with a
chuckle

Me : Cain just sent me what we need

Sanele : so ...what now ?

Me : we are going there ,
cancel the flight . I'll call
Kabo to hold the fort

Sanele : alright , I'm on it . I
can't believe we've been
looking so hard , for
someone that's here

Me : it's clear , we haven't
been looking enough

Sanele : your flight is
cancelled

Me : good , I suggest we
leave now

He gets up , packing his
laptop

Me : we might have a big day
ahead of us

Sanele : we driving ?

Me : yeah

Sanele : and do we need anything else ?

Me : just a 45 minutes drive from here

Sanele : alright , I guess that means we're cool

Me : I've pinned you the
address , so don't get lost in
morning traffic

He laughs grabbing the
rented car keys

I grab my phone

And we walk out

Sanele : mhm , this is it . I am
crossing fingers for you

I laugh shaking my head

We've come this far

And I hope it's not for
nothing

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 23

NQUBEKO

Sanele : looks like a great
place

Me : yeah

Sanele : you think she owns it
?

Me : I don't know , maybe

Sanele : or she's working to
make ends meet

I heave a sigh

Me : yeah , whatever it is

I open the door

And get out of the car

I look at him

Me : I just hope I find her

Sanele : good luck

I chuckle

And pass across the street

I open the door walking in
the salon

Or is it a beauty spa

Because I just see a lot going
on

And I wouldn't know
anything about these women
things

A lady walks to me wearing
the most , widest smile ever

Her : good morning sir

Me : morning

Her : welcome to angels spa ,
how can I help you today ?

Me : I am looking for
someone

Her : oh , a client ?

Me : I'm not certain , I'm
looking for a woman by the
name of Sonwabile Mdluli . I
was told she frequents this
place

She looks around

And swallows hard looking at
me

Her : I am sorry , but there's
no one here by that name

I doubt she changed her
name

And the looking around ,
looked very suspicious

She's hiding something

Me : are you sure ? Maybe I
can show you her picture

Her : I am sure , I am here say
in and out . I would know
anyone by that name , if
there was

Me : just take a look

I take out my phone and
show her the picture

She shakes her head

Hardly even looking at it

Her : no , I have never seen
her . I am sorry

Me : okay , can I ask your clients ...

Her : no sir , I am sorry I can't help you . Maybe you can call her

Me : call her ? Will you give me her number

She frowns

Me : thought as much , wipe
the fake smile . And I know
you're lying to me

Her : I am gonna have to ask
you to leave

Me : no need , because I am
already out the door

I turn and walk out

Crossing across the street ,
heading to the car

Sanele : doesn't seem like
good news

Me : that woman lied to me ,
she knows her

Sanele : you didn't find her
inside ?

I shake my head

Sanele : now what ?

Me : we wait

Sanele : like here , we just
wait ?

Me : how about you you
inside and get a buff and
shine ?

He laughs

Me : we wait

Sanele : right here

He positions his seat , and
lays down

I keep looking around the
street

I hope this wait will be worth
it

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SONWABILE

Cebo : you're early

Me : no , get in I still have to
go to work

He gets in , on the passenger
seat

Cebo : it feels like a half day
today

I laugh

Me : good for you

I drive off

Just as my phone rings

I heave a sigh

I just hope nothing is wrong

Because they know where I
went

I answer , putting the phone
on speaker

Me : Lalya

Layla : Ma'am , I am sorry to bother you

Me : I am on my way

Layla : just that there was a very suspicious man here looking for you

Me : oh

I look at Cebo

And he's also looking at me

Me : Uhm ...did he say who
he was ?

Layla : no , and I didn't ask .
Because I said there's no one
like you here

Me : I see , well I'll be there soon

Lalya : alright

She drops the call

I take a deep breath

Cebo : you don't look okay

I swallow hard

A thousand thoughts going
through my mind

What if it's Makhedama ?

Could he have found me ?

But after so long

No , it can't be

Me : I ... I'm okay

Cebo : you just displayed all
the body signs of lying

Me : please , not now

Cebo : are you dating ?

Me : what ?

Cebo : I mean , there's a suspicious man looking for you at your spa . And your manager just lied , of which doesn't say great things about her character . And another thing , we don't know what classifies the man

as suspicious . He could be a
crush or ...

Me : don't you want
something to eat ?

He laughs

Cebo : I'll keep quite

Me : thank you

Some peace and quite

I enjoy his company

But sometimes he gets too
much

And right now , I am
pounding with thoughts

Who could be this man ?

And what does he want ?

I just can't stop wondering

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 24

NQUBEKO

Sanele : and there is your
woman

I look at her

As she gets out of the
Mercedes Benz

And the passenger door
opens

A little boy walks out

Sanele : no shit !

My jaw drops

Sanele : do youdo you see
that ?

I nod , just speechless

Sanele : that means ...oh shit
!

Me : I ...I can't let her get
away now

I get out of the car

And follow behind them

She walks to the spa

The little boy walks to the
food truck

I get a look at him

And my insides just freeze

I take a deep breath, and
walk inside the spa

The lady walks towards the
door

And stops on her steps

They look at each other

And Sonwabile turns looking
my way

The shock is evident on her
face

I let out a fade smile

And she takes a step towards
me

And looks behind me

I turn and it's the little guy

He looks at me as well

And pops his eyes

Me : hi

Him : Uhm hello

Me : how are you ?

Him : well , and you ?

I chuckle

Me : I am good , what's your name ?

Him : Brice

She gave him an English
name ?

Why would she do that ?

I look at her

And she clears her throat

Bruce : am I crazy , or you
just look awfully like me ?

I chuckle

Me : or your look like me

Brice : either way

Sonwabile : okay , hi ..i don't
think this is the place . Can

we just get away from my
clients

Me : hi

She sighs

Sonwabile : how did you
even find me ?

Me : I didn't know you were
hiding away from me

Sonwabile : okay , let's go

She grabs her bag

And we walk out

Sonwabile : Brice , please go
to the car

She hands him the car keys

Brice : it makes sense right ?
Doesn't even need DNA , but
since we're all in shock we
should just meet and talk
about this

I look at him confused

Sonwabile : to the car please

Brice : yes ma'am

He looks at me

Brice : my name is Prince
Cebokayise Mhlongo , son of
Prince Nqubeko Mhlongo

I let out a fade smile , and
crouch down to his level

Me : I am Prince Nqubeko
Mhlongo

Cebo : we will meet , and talk
some more . It's very nice
meeting you , I have a lot of
questions for you but one
stands of importance

Sonwabile shakes her head

Cebo : I am going now

And he walks to the car

I get up

Me : smart kid

Sonwabile : loud mouth

Me : you couldn't tell me ?

Sonwabile : I disappeared

Me : but ...

Sonwabile : I don't know how
you found me , or why .

What is this ?

Me : where do you stay ? Am
I allowed to ask or know that
?

Sonwabile : what brings you
by

Me : where should we go ?
My hotel , or your place ?

She sighs

Sonwabile : do you have a
car ?

Me : I'll rather come with you
, in case you decide to ditch
me

She laughs

Me : so New York ? All along
?

Sonwabile : yes

Me : what was it with many
planes ?

Sonwabile : exactly for this
reason

She laughs walking to her car

I shake my head , with a sigh

I take out my phone and text
Sanele

"We'll meet at the hotel"

I follow her to her car

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SONWABILE

I keep looking at them

And they're just conversing
like they've known each
other

And he doesn't seem to
mind , the way Cebo is
talking

I drive in the driveway

And park the car

Cebo : we will catch up , I will
give you time to adult talk

He says getting out of the
car

I watch as he walks to the
door

And he unlocks walking
inside

Me : I found out when I was
two months , and I was till

finding my feet here . I didn't have a house , or a business. I was waiting table , at a restaurant . And sleeping in a flat , we shared with other five people . And the agreement was that I disappear , we didn't plan on having a person together...

He laughs

Me : I am glad you find that amusing

Nqubeko : we made a cute smart baby , and I would have loved to know I have a son

Me : isn't that why you are here ?

Nqubeko : I didn't know

Me : then why are you here ?

Nqubeko : I came looking for
you

Me : why ?

I look at him , as he goes all
silent

And the atmosphere just
changes

He leans over

I take a deep breath , looking
over the house

And he tilts my chin , his
breath hitting my face

I close my eyes as his lips
grace mine

And he slowly kisses me

I respond back to the kiss ,
with his pace

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 25

SONWABILE

I move back

Slowly pulling out of the kiss

I open my eyes , looking at
him

Nqubeko : you asked why

I clear my throat

Nqubeko : it's been ten years

Me : yeah , and you should
be married with a family or
something . We were never
anything

That leaves a bitter taste in
my mouth

I've never been able to forget
him

Especially because I was with
his child

Nqubeko : do you have a
family ?

I frown

Nqubeko : I thought as much
, you can't expect me to have
moved on when you didn't
yourself

I swallow hard

Me : well , I have a ten year
old with an old man's soul I
am taking care of

He laughs

Nqubeko : that is a very lame
excuse

Okay , it is

There has been guys

But I always turn them down

I don't want to relieve my
trauma

And I don't want to be
judged by my past

Relationships call for honesty

And I don't want to open
myself , that vulnerable to
anyone

Me : can we just go inside ,
before we get suspected

Nqubeko : just one thing
though

Me : what ?

Nqubeko : why him ? And
you didn't hide the truth
away from him

Me : because I wanted him ,
he was made out of
goodness . And I knew
starting afresh , was a good
decision . When I was on a

plane to Dubai , I met this psychic medium who did a reading on me . And she told me I needed to cleanse , and I didn't even know I needed to do that . But I did , and she lived in Long Island at the time . She helped me through the whole thing , and a week later I found out I was pregnant . There was no way , I was getting rid of my

second chance at life . I love my son , and I don't regret him . When he was 5 , I started telling him the truth . He's smart enough , I didn't want him to hate you in case he decides to ask about you someday or even look for you . I wanted him to know , you didn't turn your back on him . And I told him his identity , because I wanted

him to know himself . There
was no reason for me to lie
to him , and I didn't

Nqubeko : thank you , I
couldn't have asked for a
better baby mama

I laugh

Nqubeko : and you're the
only baby mama , and I
intend to keep it like that

I laugh

Me : nonsense , lets go

We both get out of the car

And walk inside the house

Cebo is watching the News

Nqubeko looks at him
somehow

Me : he really thinks he's past
cartoons , he doesn't even
have video games

He chuckles

Cebo : you took long enough
, I guess you had the talk

Sometimes , I even get
drained to talk back to him

Nqubeko : we talked yes ,
you said you have some
questions

Cebo : yes I did , but one is
of importance

Nqubeko : well I will answer
whatever question you have

Cebo : great , are you
spending the night ?

What ?

They both look at me

I don't have a problem with
Nqubeko

But why is he spending the
night ?

I don't trust myself around
him

After a while ten years , of
not seeing or talking to him

And I've already kissed him

Cebo : please mom , he will
sleep in my room . We will
share my bed

Nice to know , I don't have
space in the room

Me : well , I am sure the prince has places to be

Nqubeko : actually I don't

Cebo : great , that settles it . I guess we will have that talk , in the evening . Right now , I cannot miss this debacle between Biden and Trump

I frown , walking to the
kitchen

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NQUBEKO

Me : do call , if you'll ever
need me

She smiles

Sonwabile: why would I even
need you ?

I shrug with a chuckle

Me : you'll never know

Sonwabile : oh please

Me : anyways , goodnight

Sonwabile : goodnight

I peck her cheek

And tilt her face slightly

Smashing my lips on hers

My hands on her waist

And we kiss briefly

I pull back , and turn walking
to Cebo's bedroom

I walk in

He looks at me

Cebo : please , close the door
and lock it

I don't ask questions , I just
do

Cebo : so we have
established this relationship ,
father and son . You're a
prince , I'm a prince . And I
might not have grown up in

a palace , but I've read a lot
about African kingdoms

Me : okay

He gets off his bed

And stands on his feet

Cebo : I have this mark , my
mom can't explain . Ever

since I was born , I've had it .
And each year , as I grow it
also grows . I have a feeling
you might know what I'm
talking about

I let it a smile

There's no doubt , this is my
seed

Beyond the looks and all

He takes his t-shirt off ,
giving me his back

I walk closer to him

Me : okay

Cebo : I just need you to tell
me what that is

I take my shirt off

Me : here

He turns , and looks at me

I turn my back on him

Cebo : wow , it's huge

I chuckle

Me : yeah , it is

Cebo : I say it's a tattoo

Me : no , it's not

He scoffs

Cebo : I know that , I already told you it's a mark . I say it's a tattoo , so my mother doesn't worry about it .

Because I know she worries a lot , especially about things she doesn't understand

Me : yeah , but no one is born with a tattoo . I am sure even she knows that

Cebo : you're making me feel stupid , can we talk about this now ?

Me : it's your animal spirit

Cube : no shi

Me : Do not !

He nods his head repeatedly

Cebo : I just mean , it's real ?

Me : yes

I put on my shirt

Cebo : and as I grow , it'll
keep growing ?

Me : yeah

Cebo : this is some hella cool
sh....stuff

Me : let it be stuff and end
there

He laughs

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 26

NQUBEKO

Cebo : so , I need you to tell
me more about this mark

Me : what ?

Cebo : like , did your father
take you to a traditional
healer as a baby ? You were
strengthened , so women
can't bewitch you . And that's
how you got this ?

What the fuck !

Me : no

Cebo : then ?

I heave a sigh

Cebo : we're royal blood ,
anything is possible . I mean ,
one day I can be king . And
I've never even thought of
that

I let out a fade smile

Cebo : you think I have the capabilities ?

Me : I am sure you do

Cebo : definitely , it's also very imperative that a leader is smart and educated . I am just striving for that

Me : that on its own is
evident

Cebo : mhm , and who is
king now ?

Me : my younger brother

Cebo : okay , why not you ?

Me : I don't want the throne ,
I've never wanted to be king .
Maybe when my mother was
still alive yes , but she died
with that dream

Cebo : I see , and do you
have any other kids ? Besides
me , I mean

Me : no

Cebo : what a responsibility ,
now for your lineage to sit
back on your birth right . It
all depends me on , quite
heavy . But I have what it
takes

Fuck !

Me : aren't you too young for this ?

Cebo : have patience , I am only ten and I am very much aware

Me : okay , that makes the both of us

Cebo : but I love to challenge my mind , and I don't think like a ten year old . See my mother pays thousands and thousands of dollars , every month for me to be at the school of the prestiges . I cannot afford to let her down , and just be a pupil

Now I understand how Sonwabile feels

Cebo : anyways , back to the spirit animal

Me : what about it ?

Cebo : is there any chance that this thing might hurt me ? Because I know my mother worries

Me : it's purpose is to protect
you , now you're young
hence it's there . And it's
marked on you , like that

Cebo : and when I've grown ?
Is it going to disappear ?

Me : from your body yes ,
but it'll forever remain with
you

Cebo : now you're loosing
me

I chuckle

Me : when I was your age , I
had the mark as well

Cebo : you have it even now

Me : here

I pull the shirt up

Cebo : Ohhhhit's gone

Me : see , when we're young
it's always there . Because we
are not able to connect and
communicate with it . But
once we grow up , it

disappears from the back .
Because now we can
communicate

Cebo : communicate , like
channel each other ?

Me : yes

Cebo : now that is cool

I chuckle

Me : yeah

Cebo : alright , as long as it
doesn't hurt me . I am cool

Me : alright , can we sleep
now

Cebo : yeah , just one more thing

I thought this was the just one more thing

Me : okay

Cebo : this whole spirit animal thing , it should have

assured you that you are
indeed a king

I laugh

Me : okay , yeah

Cebo : but don't worry , I will
redeem you

Me : I got that , but for now I want you to just live your life . Be you , and away from the throne

Cebo : I'm only ten , I can't fight your brother

I look at him

Cebo : power is fought for ,
that is my legacy . I know he
probably won't just hand it
to me , I'll have to seize it
from him

Me : okay , sleep

He laughs

Cebo : you will get used to me , don't worry . Just as long as you don't think there's something wrong with me

I chuckle

Me : absolutely nothing is wrong with you mtwana (my prince)

He smiles

Cebo : goodnight baba (dad)

Me : goodnight my prince

The silence and the peace

How does this woman even
survive ?

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SONWABILE

It's been so quite for a while
now

I am guessing now they've
fallen asleep

I so wished to hear what they
were talking about

But I didn't want to
eavesdrop

I was locked out for a reason

And it's been a day

I should also try and get
some sleep

But a knock comes at the
door

I lift my head and he walks in

Me : what ?

Nqubeko : I sneaked out , I'll
have to sneak in the morning

Me : in the morning ...where
will you be the whole night ?

Nqubeko : here , cuddling
you

Me : like

I take a deep breath as he
gets in bed

Nqubeko : mhm come closer

He pulls me to him

Me : you really shouldn't be
doing this

He smiles

Nqubeko : I know , but it
feels so right

He leans over , capturing my
lips into his and we kiss

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 27

SONWABILE

He pulls out his already hard
dick

And memories just flood my
mind

A moan escapes my mouth

Just remembering just how
good , he once gave it to me

He slides my panty to the side

And puts the head of his dick inside , as we kiss

He feels the kiss , and lowers himself on me his dick pressed in hard

I pause kissing him , and lift
my head to look

But he pushes me down ,
with a kiss

Pushing my panties further
to the side

His dick head , laying on my
bare flesh

He rubs his dick up , and
goes down touching my
home

He slides his hand down ,
flicking my clit with his finger

I whimper softly , moving my
waist up enjoying the flick of
his head

He lifts his head , with his
fists pinned on the bed

And looks into my eyes , as
he slips down through my
wet slit

He moves his waist ,
gracefully

I close my eyes , placing my
arms around his moving
waist pulling him down

But he still doesn't slide in ,
he runs his length over my
clit

His balls laying on my
coochie , as he leans over
kissing my breasts

I let out moans of pleasure ,
reaching in between his
thighs

I grab his dick , I try to put it
in but he quickly removes my
hand

And pins it over my head ,
then he kisses me

He lets go , and pulls out his
shirt and kneels between my
legs

He presses my thighs , on my
chest

Exposing my coochie , he
rubs his tongue on my
coochie

And stops at my clit , he
gently sucks on it

I close my eyes , and vibrate
closing his head in between
my legs

Letting out a soft moan

Me : ahhhah ...ahhh

I hold his head , with both
mg bags as he goes on to
suck on my clit

And he flicks on it with his
tongue

He lifts his head , and moves
up

Placing his dick on my open ,
and he pushes in pressing
down his whole length

I close my eyes , biting my
lower lip to suppress my
moans

As I feel him stretching me
apart , taking up all space

He looks at my coochie ,
gripping on his dick like a
glove

He pushes in the last of his
inch , I let out a scream

His balls touching my
bareness , I curve to the side
as my coochie dodges the
last inch

He leans over and kisses me
gently

Gently he starts thrusting in ,
and eventually picks up his
pace

Nqubeko : mhmfuck

It feels so good , it comes
out through my moans

And he grunts , as he goes
on to thrust in

My coochie holding on his
dick so tight , he went in
deeper

And it just felt more sweeter

I grab my shaking breasts ,
moaning so hard

As I feel an orgasm building
up

He places his hand on my
abdomen , and he flicks my
clit

While his dick is still buried
deep inside of me

Welcoming his deep hard
thrusts

And it just sends me off , as
an orgasm rushes through
my body convulsing

I hold tight on him , as tears
escape my eyes

Me : don't stopAhh don't
stopdon't stop

He keeps thrusting with the
same peace , his hand still on
my clit

I roll my eyes over
convulsing

He leans over kissing me ,
and thrusts in deeper

He grunts and pressed in
deeper , shooting up his
whole load inside of me

Nqubeko : uhhh ...fuck ...

He gets up with his dick , still
up

He pulls me up , changed
position as his cum runs
down my thigh

He reaches for his t-shirt and
wipes my thigh

He positions my legs , and
press down my head

While he stands behind me ,
he lifts my ass and slides in

Spanking me so hard , I
whimper up and he pushes
my head down

He positions himself
properly , and holds my waist
as he thrusts in

Going in for another round ,
that just sends me over

As his balls taps on my
coochie , and his dick fills me
up

Tapping a sweet spot , I arch
my back further down

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For the first time ever in ten
years

I have no busy morning

Nqubeko helped with Cebo

And he's already done
getting ready

Without loud noise going on

Cebo : I think my dad is
strange

I look at him

Cebo : what ?

Me : no , what are you
talking about ?

I am even scared to ask

Because I don't know what
will come out of his mouth

Cebo : I mean , who smells of
a shower gel at dawn

I side eye Nqubeko standing
by the corridor of the kitchen

I look down

Cebo : I swear , he smelt like
he's just taken a shower

I shake my head

Cebo : he is a whole prince ,
he surely has money . South
Africa is not on the parts of
Africa where people starve ,
and kids have kwashiorkor . I
mean , some of the richest in
the world are from South
Africa . So definitely , he can't
be from a poor kingdom . He
knows what a shower is , I

don't know why he would
shower at dawn

Me : I mean , why did you
smell him ?

Cebo : first of all that is very
disgusting , I would never
smell anyone . Even if it's my
dad

Me : then how do you know

...

Cebo : because we shared a
bed , and he was reeking
shower gel

He heaves a sigh

Shaking his head

I frown at the gesture

Cebo : I have to talk to him

Me : you want to offend him
? Maybe your senses are off

Cebo : never , my senses
work just fine . Well , I mean
about his finances . So I can
know if he's poor or what , I

don't mind if he's poor .

That's his life choice , but he shouldn't include me in that equation . I am his only heir , so he needs to give me a portion of something

Me : Cebokayise ...please , his finances have nothing to do with you

Cebo : that's where you are wrong , every man prouds himself in having a son . So definitely , his finances affect me . Imagine if he dies , and he leaves me no legacy to carry on . That will be an understatement of an embarrassment , he needs to know where I stand on that . I'll rather speak , than die in silence

I am defeated

Me : oh lord ! Can you go
grab your bag , so I can take
you to Collins

Cebo : yeah

He gets off the chair

Nqubeko walks in

Nqubeko : are you done ?

Cebo : yeah

Nqubeko : okay , I believe we
need to talk . So I'll take you ,
if you don't mind

They both look at me

Me : it's fine

He walks to his bedroom

Nqubeko : that was a
mouthful

Me : ha should finish school
and pay his own dues , who
has so much entitlement

over people's money . That's
insane , I so hope he's not
lurking for my money

He laughs

Nqubeko : are you going to
work ?

Me : no

Nqubeko : okay

I don't know why the
question

I want to ask if he's going
back to his hotel or not

But I'll rather not

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 28

NQUBEKO

Cebo : I have a question here

Me : okay

Cebo : take no offence

I chuckle

Me : fire away

Cebo : are you poor ?

Me : no

He nods

Cebo : then you definitely
have a networth ? Because
even if you have money , if it
doesn't amount to a
networth then you're poor

I laugh

Me : I don't know about that
, but I am not poor . And yes
, I have a networth

Cebo : how much ?

I look at him

Cebo : I have to ask , so I know you'll leave me an estate and that I'll have a legacy to continue

Me : right , I have two oil companies . And a car centre , combined with my two penthouses and three cars . That's a few millions of net with

Cebo : what kind of cars ?

Me : a jaguar , Ferrari and a Mercedes

Cebo : nice , with those kind of cars I don't have to worry

Me : would you rather I show you ?

Cebo : that would work
better than taking your word
for it

I chuckle

Me : okay , I'll ask my
personal assistant to bring
my laptop . And when you
come back I'll show you

Cebo : deal , so you're not leaving ?

Me : not as of yet

Cebo : well , don't hurt my mother .

I look at him

Cebo : I am not five

Me : I know that , and I didn't say you were five

Cebo : so I know you sneaked in and out

What the fuck !

Cebo : she stayed ten years without a man , so don't be

the baby daddy that comes
back into her life and hurt
her . I won't take that nicely ,
you hurt her you hurt me . So
if you stick around , have
clear intentions . And get
your priorities In order

I heave a sigh

Me : are you always like this ?

Cebo : speak my mind and
hold nothing back ?

Me : not exactly what I was
going to say , but yeah

Cebo : yes , I don't lie and I
don't shy away from words

Me : yeah , I got that

I park by his friends gate

Cebo : walk me in , I want to
introduce you

Me : well , okay

I didn't see that one coming

It sure was a hell of a talk

From last night to this
morning again

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SONWABILE

He walks in

And places the car keys on
the key holder

He comes to the couch and
sit down

I look at him and let out a
laugh

Nqubeko : you're not nice

He leans over and place a
peck on my lips

Me : how was your drive ?

Nqubeko : you should have
warmed me

Me : welcome to my life

He chuckles

Nqubeko : I asked Sanele to bring my laptop , because now I have to give proof of my netwoth

Me : what ?

Nqubeko : apparently you're poor , even if you have

money . Just as long as you
don't have a networth

Me : that's nonsense

Nqubeko : who am I to say
that ?

Me : that's crazy

He leans back on the couch

Me : he is happy you're here

Nqubeko : yeah , I had an introduction to the friends and parents . It was quite interesting

We laugh

Me : I don't want him to get hurt , you're here now but you have your life back in South Africa . I know you've moved back there , and you have your companies there . I just don't want him to get used to you , and then you so a fast one on him

Nqubeko : I didn't even know about him , I came here

looking for him but I found
more

Me : I know , just don't let
him get attached if you know
you won't stick around . I am
not saying move your whole
life for him , he can do the
distance thing . I just mean
being a father , and knowing
it's a lifetime thing

Nqubeko : I plan to stick
around , I won't leave
anytime soon . And when I
do , it'll be for work purposes
. And it wouldn't be such a
bad thing , to move my
whole life here

I look at him

And he looks serious

Me : don't do that

Nqubeko : I mean that , what more do I want ?

I don't know about this

I don't want to invest myself in something , that's not certain

Especially when it involves
my son

Nqubeko : I have a capable
team

Me : and you left one of
them in a hotel , all alone

He laughs

Nqubeko : he is leaving
today , he will also take care
of things

I let out a smile

He leans over brushing his
lips over mine

Me : no more sneaking in my
room

He laughs

Nqubeko : that won't work , I
need you

He slides his hand in
between my thighs

Brushing his fingers over my
coochie

And just at his touch , I shiver
letting out a slight moan

He slows pushes me down

And he gets on top of me

I place my hands on his head
, bringing him down

We kiss , slowly as his hands
run all over my body

And he pulls my dress off ,
exposing my body

I pull his t-shirt off

And he gets in between my
thighs , his dick pressed
against my coochie

And he slowly dry humps , I
am wet already

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 29

NQUBEKO

Sanele : what's this now ?
You're not coming back ?

Me : no , and I trust you to
take good care of the
companies

Sanele : and when people
ask what do I say ?

I chuckle

Me : no need to explain , I'll explain myself . Even though I don't owe anyone that

He laughs

Sanele : and your brother ?

Me : what about him ? I don't care what he will hear

Sanele : I see

Me : I will work remotely online , I am not passing my duties to anyone . Just that I won't be there , so I will not be babysitting anyone . But that doesn't mean people are ought to slack

Sanele : I'll keep an eye on things

Me : I know I can trust you

Sanele : so you and baby mama ?

I laugh

Me : I will marry that woman

He chuckles

Sanele : I have known you
ever since you were 12 , and
I've seen you through
relationships . I've never seen
you committed , nor heard
you say the words marry

Me : well , I traveled halfway
across the world for this
woman . That was for a
reason

Sanele : I see an impact has
been made

I chuckle

Me : that boy talks a lot , and he doesn't even act like a ten year old . He is too smart for his own age , and he just knows too much . I don't know where he gets that from , but manI am grateful . And he's growing on me

Sanele : I see that , you're already being a father figure to him

Me : what the fuck ...I am not his father figure . I am his father

Sanele : yeah that , it's just strange to imagine you as anyone's father

I chuckle

Me : yeah well

Sanele : we'll keep in touch , I
better head to LAX . I don't
want to miss my flight

Me : safe flight

We shoulder bump

I grab my bag from the cab

He's already sent back the
rented car

And checked out of the hotel

I am okay with staying
behind right now

I mean , even the idea of
moving here permanently
has grown into me

But I don't want to rush
anything

I am still navigating things ,
and the new change of how
things are now

And I want to be certain , I
am doing what's right for us
all

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SONWABILE

I open the door and walk in
his room

He turns his head and looks
at me

He goes back to what he is
doing

I frown

Me : what are you doing ?

Cebo : I don't want to
inconvenience anyone , so
your baby daddy is moving
into your room

Me : he's what ?

Cebo : yeah , it's better that
way

Me : says who ?

Cebo : me

I chuckle with shock

Me : in my house ?

Cebo : this way , you can be
freely yourselves . Now don't
get embarrassed , but I know
he sneaked into your room .

So let's not have that happen again , he is moving in there . I don't mind him at all , we can still chill in my room and all . But it's not his sleeping place

Okay , now I am embarrassed

I mean

I swallow hard

Me : but he put his bag in
here

Cebo : yeah , and I am saving
him . We will live in harmony
, without acting like kids

Me : wh

I close my mouth keeping
quite

Cebo : he is definitely not
erupting his whole life
because of me , we know
that . Men are different
creatures , he can patent me
a million miles away . But he
can't love you that far , so he
wants to be here ...

Me : okay ...just do what you're doing , and stop trying to justify it . He's just met you , he wants to get to know you better

Cebo : we know each other , I mean I know how much he is worth . I know things about him , I doubt you even know . There's no knowing more than that

Me : oh

Cebo : yes , but with you it's different . Relationships take a strain because of distance , it has nothing to do with me

Me : juststop

He smiles

Me : and take those bags in
one of the spare bedrooms

Cebo : do you have so much
energy ?

Me : energy for what ?

Cebo : sneaking ...

I heave a sigh

Me : I am not sneaking , and
this is my house please ...just
stop

He grabs the bag , and the
laptop

Cebo : excuse me

I make way for him , and he
walks out

I take a deep breath

If only kids were traded

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BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

INSERT 30

SIBABALWE

Nurse : you have a visitor

I look at her

She smiles

Nurse : really , would you like
to see them ?

Me : them ?

She slightly lets out a laugh

Nurse : just as a term

I look down

Nurse : you haven't had any
visitors , in a while

I lift my eyes and look at her

Me : years

She looks at me with eyes of
pity

Nurse : I think you should
come see your visitor

Me : who is it ?

She smiles

Nurse : come

She walks towards the door

And she stops looking at me

I just nod

She smiles , opening the
door

She walks out

I take a deep breath

I slowly get up from the
window view

I look at myself , and fix my
pants

I iron them with my hands

I haven't had any visitors

Except for Hluphe

And she only came once

She never came again

I don't know what it's
happening out there

I don't even ask

Ever since I've been locked
up here

These four walls have
become my sanctuary

I never thought this could be

Locked up in a loony bin

Yeah , life will deal you

Until you understand , this
world doesn't belong to your
mother or father

I understood that well

Having to deal with
witchcraft

Being drove to insanity

Getting locked up here

The guilt of knowing what
I've done

I almost killed a man

And he wasn't even worth it

I should have known my with
and just walked away

There was always an option
to walk away

But I didn't take it

Instead I endured nonsense

And look where that got me
?

I found out I was barren ,
when I got admitted here

I finally faced that chapter of
my life

To this day , I still say I
should have just walked
away

And I wouldn't be here

I take a deep breath walking
out

I head into the visiting area

And it's empty

With just one person , sitting
on the far corner

Even with his back turned on
me

I know it's him

I shake my head walking in

I come around the table

He has his head bowed down

I pull a chair and sit down

I never thought I will see this
man ever again

Me : what do you want ?

He lifts his head

And I think I will feel rage all
over again

That I will remember
everything he has put me
through

But nothing

I feel absolutely nothing

Makhedama : beautiful
woman , but just as beautiful
like a desert . She's dry as a
desert ...

I feel my heart pounding so
hard

I clench my jaws

I push the chair back and get
up

Makhedama : kids or not kids
, I love you and I've always
loved you . And I always will ,
nothing will ever change that
. I don't hold anything you
did , I've never held a grudge

against you . Hence I never
wanted you arrested ...

Me : so now are you
expecting a thank you ?

He shakes his head

Makhedama : no , I don't

Me : good ...

I sit back down

Me : because you fucking
deserved everything that
happened to you , and more
for the shit you put me
through . And you have the
nerve to show your fucking
face here

Makhedama : I know

Me : what do you want ?

Makhedama : we are still
married , and I still love you

...

I laugh

I actually laugh

Because what the fuck !

Makhedama : I know you will come out some day , maybe sooner than later . And I wanted you to know that , I will never divorce you ..

Me : haven't you tormented me enough ?

Makhedama : I have , but so have you . I left you with emotional scars , but you also left me with physical scars . And I am saying , we will work things out . We will try again , better this time

I chuckle

I can't actually believe this

Me : are you out of your
mind

Makhedama : maybe in love
with you

Me : you are so sick , but
leave me out of your
nonsense

Makhedama : I will fight for
our love , for our marriage ...

I slam the table so hard , as
tears blurry my eyes

Me : you failed to fight for
our love , you let your
mother push me to the side .
You failed to fight for our

marriage , you brought me
another woman into my
house . And you fucking
gave her kids , because her
womb is so precious she can
bare

I wipe the tear that escapes
my eye

Makhedama : I know ...

Me : you know shit , because
if you did you wouldn't be
here

Makhedama : I can never
erase what I did , but I can
try and do better . I will not
give up , no matter what . I
know what I've lost , and I
want it all back . I was so
stupid , I barely saw or knew

anything that was happening around me . And I have no one to blame , but myself . I never slept with her , and it was sex she appreciated . I ...I raped her ...

My mouth goes dry

Makhedama : and she wasn't miscarrying the babies , she

aborted them . And now
she's somewhere in the
world with my brother and
they have a son together .
Sanele couldn't wait to gloat
to me , about that . And I
know , it's because he wants
me to know . I know one day
, I will lose even this throne .
And Nqubeko's seed will rule
this kingdom, I know defeat
when I see one ...

I let out a laugh

Me : dry as a desert my
fucking flat ass , I still know
my worth . You're not even
my type

I push the chair back , and
stand up . I drag my feet
walking out

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THE END