



**LAST SUMMER** by Nobantu Xaba

## ***PROLOGUE***

Just like every summer everyone wants to travel and visit new place and explore the world just like the two best friends Christine and Loraine the only difference this summer was that they did not visit the exotic ritzy places that they always do but they decided that they visit the country side in Africa.

It is late at night when both Christine and Loraine we're still up watching a movie an action movie. Christine was more enticed with what the characters were up too so an idea popped up on her mind her face beamed.

"I have an idea Loraine."

"Okay..." Loraine responded waiting for Christine to continue.

"Let's order something to eat online and while we are still waiting for our food to be delivered we are going to play a game." She said excitedly.

"Christine I hope this is not one of your ridiculous games." Christine chuckled.

"You are going to love this one." She smirks. "I'll be right back."

"I wonder what you are up to this time Christie." Loraine shakes her head.

After a while Christine comes back holding a revolver on her hand making Lorain jump off from the couch in fear.

"What the hell Christine!?" She shouts. "What are you doing with that? Where did you get it do you know how much trouble we can get into if they find out that we have a weapon in here!?"

"Relax now would you? This is going to be part of the game. Let's make this holiday fun loosen up a bit come on!"

"No! Not until you tell me what you are going to do with a gun."

"This is called a revolver and it carries seven bullets in but right now there is only one bullet in" She says playing with the gun on her hands.

"I hear you blabbering but I don't get your point." Loraine narrows her eyes and tilts her head.

"Follow me."

Loraine follows Christine behind going to the activity room. As they entered Christine grabs an apple.

"Have you ever heard of Russian Roulette?" Christine asks.

"I don't think I like the sound of that I'm out." Christine frowns.

"Wait! This is going to be fun

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trust me."

"Christine you are crazy! I am not playing that game."

"Look you can start. I am going to put the apple on my head and you aim to shoot it. If one of us hit the apple the one who didn't tips the delivery man who will be here in... twenty minutes ten dollars."

"Ten dollars is a lot I am not going to pay." She makes puppy eyes.

Christine hands the revolver to Lorraine who first hesitated on taking it but eventually took it. Christine stood in position and placed the apple on her head.

"Okay I am ready." Loraine cocked and aimed the gun on the apple. She was quite scared and nervous but as soon as she pulled the trigger her body relaxed.

"Woohoo! My turn." Christine excitedly says as they exchanged the positions. Christine was now holding the gun aiming it on the apple on Loraine's head. Loraine kept her eyes closed very scared until Christine pulled the trigger... Empty shot again.

"Whew! This game is getting more dangerous now. I don't think I want to play anymore." Loraine says. They changed positions again.

"Christine I don't want to do this we have already had two empty shots. The game is risky." She said that aiming the gun on the apple on Christine's head.

As Christine was about to say something raising her head higher Loraine pulled the trigger and the bullet flew right on Christine's forehead she collapsed to the floor.

"Christine!" Loraine ran up to her and shook her trying to wake her up. "Christine please wake up!" Her tears were falling profusely with the mucus.

"I am sorry Christie come back!"

There was no way that Christine would survive the bullet on the forehead it went in through her skull straight to the brain. Loraine pulled herself together but could not stop herself from crying. The time was now 11pm. She went to the garage and got some shovel and went to the back of the house and dug up a hole after she was satisfied that the hole was deep enough she went back to the house and dragged Christine's body on the floor leaving blood traces then pushed Christine's body in the hole before closing it again.

Loraine cleaned the house more like she cleaned Christine's blood all over where it had spilled and went to take a shower.

"I didn't mean to." She cried in the shower.

After the shower she wrapped her towel around her body and another one on her hair. She sauntered down stairs going to the kitchen. She found a box of pizza on the kitchen counter she looked around then ate the pizza while crying.

## ***ONE***

SIX MONTHS LATER...

I roll out of bed and drag myself to the bathroom for a shower after my morning routine I decide to wear just a simple summer dress with sandals and a straw hat now I really look good if anyone can't see that they are probably blind. I take my sun glasses and a handbag before I make my way out of my hotel room.

"Good Morning ma'am." Oh that is the room service.

"It is a very good morning isn't it?" I smile as I disappear down the hallway making my way to the elevator. I make a mental note to myself that I should stay positive.

This has to be the best looking mall that I have ever seen. Germany has to be one of the best places that I have ever visited and it is the best decision that I have ever made.

"Guten morgan." Oh that means good morning in German I learnt that the first month I have arrived here. You see! Even people here are the nicest people one could ever hang around pity I have not made friends but I am totally fine with that. Anyway...

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I am at one of the clothing stores and I have a basket on my hand throwing in the clothes that I have picked but I cannot find the bikini that I want. I walk around the aisle keeping my focus on the shelves until I bumped into someone or more like we bumped into each other making the basket fall off my hands.

"Oh I am sorry... I can be very clumsy at times." He chuckles I crouch down to get my things he helps me out.

"Don't be we are both at fault here." You can never miss the German accent when he speaks. We both got up.

"Thank you." I give him a warm smile.

"I am Austin and you?" He stretches out his arm for a handshake I accept it.

"Nice to meet you Austin I'm Loraine." This a very handsome man here.

"You are not from here are you?" I shake my head implying no. He stares at me for a while I drop my eyes.

"Oh Uhm... I have to go now." I turn on my heels walking away when he called me I turn back at him.

"Would you like to have lunch with me?" With you handsome of course I would.

"That would be very lovely but I do not want to impose." Giving him a little run around nothing personal.

"Come on I am inviting you here in fact I am not taking a no for an answer."

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I have been saved from have another lonely lunch if not dinner by this man here. I have realised that you can have all the money in the world but it can never buy you the happiness that you want and I totally relate to that. It gets very lonely going to bed everyday having no one to call family. I am the damsel in distress.

"So where are your parents friends?" He asks tossing a bolus of his meal into his mouth.

"Uhm my parents died in a car accident two years ago and my friends and I separated."

"Oh I am sorry to hear that." I shrug.

"No it's okay. Enough about me now tell me about yourself." He laughs.

"What about me?" Yes what about him exactly?

"Who is the woman behind that smile?" Did I just indirectly ask him if he has a woman?

"Are you asking if I have a woman in my life?" I bite my lower lip and look down on my plate. "Yes I have the most beautiful woman in my life." I gasp.

"Oh." I drink up on my cocktail.

"My mother. She's the only woman in my life. I would like you to be the other woman."

"As in you want me to be your girlfriend?" He smirks.

"No beautiful." I frown. "I don't do girlfriends. I want you to be my woman." I sigh.

"Uh; I don't know." He takes my hand across the table.

"You don't have to give me an answer now just think about it first." I nod.

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It's been a few weeks since Andrew asked me out and yes we are dating. I am contemplating on the three dresses that I have laid on my dress and I am not sure which one to pick. Well Andrew is

coming to pick me up for a dinner date at his parents 'house. I am meeting his family for the first time and I am nervous. Okay I think I will wear this red body hugging dress with black block heels. I am ready.

I am making my way down to the reception Andrew has arrived to pick me up. As soon as he gets a sight of me he stands up to meet me halfway.

"Hey you look beautiful." He pecks my cheek.

"Thank you I hope that I am not too much."

"Absolutely not. You look good. Ready to go?" I nod.

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As soon as the car comes to halt and the engine is killed I start having cold feet.

"Do you think they are going to like me?" He holds my hand.

"They are going to love you." He perches a kiss on my hand. "Shall we?" I take his hand and we make our way to the front door.

"Oh this must be the beautiful Loraine how are you?" That must be the mother. "Our son said so much about you." She hugs me.

"Good things I hope..." We break the hug. "These are for you." I hand her the bouquet of flowers.

"They are lovely thank you. Oh meet my husband Michael Mordrid." We shake hands.

"Nice to finally meet you Loraine."

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We are gathered at the dinner table having dessert over light conversations with Andrew's family when Andrew lightly hit his flute with a spoon turning the attention on him.

"I have an announcement to make. Beautiful..." He looks at me. "I know that

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we only have been together in just a short period of time and we hardly know each other but allow me to take this time and do this because there is no better time than now.” He goes down on his knee and takes out a fancy box from the pocket on his jeans.

“Damn! I am very horrible with words but I'll just keep it simple and old school. Loraine Peterson will you make me the happiest man and marry me please?”

“Aw my baby has grown.” His mother excitedly says. This is happening untimely I am not too sure about this.

“Sweetie pie my knee hurts.” He whines like a baby we all laugh.

“She is worth a wait son.” His father jumps in.

“Yes yes baby I will marry you.” Her mother screams in excitement clapping her hands. Andrew slides the ring on my finger damn it looks expensive. He stands up I also get on my feet before we hug and kiss.

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It has been two weeks since my engagement and this is the week where I finally tie the knot with the man of my dreams. It is all happening too fast but this is where I finally get a chance to a new life in a different country I have been lonely for too long.

A knock comes through I wear my slippers and shake my body to the door it's probably another unexpected visit from Andrew he has spent a few nights here and we all know how they go (wink).

After opening the door I find no one but an envelope on my doorstep. I look on both sides of the hallway but there is no one. Maybe I took time to open the door so they probably thought that there isn't anyone.

I close the door after picking up the envelope and throw myself on the couch. I open and take out whatever is in the envelope my heart starts racing the room feels hot and my armpits start sweating. My past is catching up with me I thought I that I had ran away from it and forgotten about it but someone is clearly trying to remind me of the mistake once I made. Who would have seen me us? It was only the two of us no one else and this stupid envelope has no reference.

My cellphone rings making me jumpy it is an unknown number.



"He-Hello." I say after answering the call the person on the line only breathes not saying anything. "I will hang up if you don't talk!" The person starts laughing evilly I want to cry. I quickly hang up and look at the photo again and read the message behind it: "I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER AND SO WILL HE!" My face is visible and very clear on the picture as I pulled Christine to the grave that I dug up myself behind the house.

"It was a mistake I didn't mean to." I pull my legs together to my chest as I lie down on the couch crying.

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I am woken up by my phone ringing gosh I can't believe that I slept so uncomfortable on the couch did I pass out on the couch? I quickly answer my cellphone before he hangs up.

"Good morning baby." I smile like an idiot.

"Hubby What's good about it?" I ask as I stretch out my body.

"Were you still sleeping?" I nod as if he can see me. "I am ten minutes away from the hotel I am taking you out for breakfast."

"Okay see you then."

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"So honey. Is there anything else that you will need before the wedding?"

"Not at all I am all sorted now." I answer honestly as I look over my shoulder then back on my food.

"Are you okay? You have been quite jumpy and edgy since we arrived here."

"I am good." I give him an assuring smile.

"You sure?" I nod vigorously he does not seem convinced.

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We spent the rest of the day at my hotel room until Andrew had an emergency to attend to. It is two days before my wedding and this secret I have been keeping from everyone is eating me up. My phone beeps notifying a message. I open it and it says: "Tick tock tick tock." I call the number and I am so glad it rang.

"What do you want from me leave me alone!"

"You not the one to make demands here." He chuckles. "You ordered the pizza remember? I came to deliver knocked at the door and no one responded so I let myself in and that's how I know exactly what you did." Oh my God.

"What do you want?" I snort and wipe off the tears.

"Now that's the right questions. One million dollars before your wedding I don't care how you get it but I want my money." He hung up immediately.

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The day before my wedding I make my way into the abandoned stable carrying a black bag full of money I am very scared.

"I see you made it I was keeping an eye on you all the way here." I throw the bag to him.

"Our business ends here. I hope that we never see each other again EVER!" He checks the money.

"Good girl. It was nice doing business with you." He simpers turning to walk away. I pull up my skirt taking out the revolver on my stocking.

"You forgot something."

"What?" I smirk at the shock on his face I pull the trigger three times until he collapsed to the floor. I grab the money and model out of the stable in my heels. I find him leaning against the car smoking his cigar. I lean on him and French kiss him he squeezes my butt making me moan before I pull out.

"It's done." I cry on his chest.

A few seconds later after driving out of the stable it exploded I looked at him he shrugged.

## ***EPILOGUE***

A year and a half later I am a happy wife living with my husband Andrew he has been the most supportive husband ever. Ever since he helped me to "get rid" of the pizza delivery man I knew that he is the one for me. He noticed that I "suddenly" got paranoid before the wedding so he "sexed" out the truth out of me I thought that he was going to leave but he understood and loved me more to even help me bury my past even deeper and made sure it never returns back.

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baby." He snuggles his hands from behind feeling my big belly.

"I love you too." He pecks my cheek the baby kicks... Oh I forgot to mention that I am seven months pregnant

"Oh someone is jealous." I laugh he comes around and kiss me I respond to the kiss.