



Book Name: I am inlove with a Sangoma Lizo J is the author of this impressive book.

PROLOGUE

"Wande we should not be doing this"

I whispered softly in response to his touch what we are doing here is wrong on so many levels.

Him: "It feels right Madlomo"

Every time he would refer to me by my clan name something deep inside moves. It was like I was under his spell or something.

Our foreheads met and we slowly engaged in a kiss. So full of passion life could stop at that moment.

I couldn't believe what I am doing yes my marriage with Siyabonga is failing but why jump from one man to another? But God why does it feel so right? Why is my heart so at peace with this man? Is it because he is a spiritual healer?

My hand gently touched his arms I felt so much at peace. This man carries an aura of tranquility but it still doesn't justify what we are doing here is wrong.

Our lips moved an inch away from each other.

Him: "Make me yours Madlomo let me love you"

he whispered softly.

Again

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the calling of my clan name.

Why is this man doing this to me!

Me: "You know I am still married to someone else" Him:
"No! You are not stop refusing my love"

Me: "Please give me time to sort out my problems first"

Him: "Ndizakulinda"-I'll wait for you

Me: "I should be heading home"

He remained quiet.

Driving Home had never been an issue before but the moment I landed in South Africa I knew my world was to change. Being an artist comes with so much work and travelling places with the near opening of the new one in Port Elizabeth the months will be hectic. I had been receiving calls left right and center gallery owners calling for me to exhibit my work with them I unfortunately had to decline.

After Tanzania the plan was to fly to Europe but being married to a businessman comes with duties of being a wife. However nothing could've prepared me for what I was met with after I stepped my foot off that airplane.

My Journey began with my feet stepping on the grounds of the windy city...

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CHAPTER ONE

It is always a breath of fresh air whenever I come back to Port Elizabeth the windy city with all its demons but it is home I am where my life revolves. I have been away

from the country for three months. It did me well because Tanzania where I had been treated me well. That country is full of amazing talented and gorgeous people. I have no complaints and their artwork is so out of this world mind-blowing. Now being back in Port Elizabeth or South Africa in general means I have to cough out all I had learnt in that country and use it as an inspiration for my next art collection with soon opening a gallery here in P.E I have to stand out. I am not famous no! But my work is and I love it that way.

My phone rang as I pushed the trolley which had my luggage in it. It read 'husband'

Me: "Hello"

Him: "hey I can't fetch you baby I have a meeting in five minutes time and I am sorry I won't make it"

Me: "It is fine I'll take a cab back home"

Him: "Okay I can't wait to see you"

Me: "I can't wait to see you too"

Him: "Okay I have to go bye"

I exhale. Sometimes I wonder how I ended up with this man but he said he is busy and I will accept that.

The driver of the cab was very nice he knew I was tired and didn't do any silly chit-chat. I made it to Wells Estate midday the security didn't give us any hassle at the gate. I offload my luggage and leave some of it on the entrance passage.

I head straight to my bedroom and just throw myself on the bed I am tired from all travelling over hours.

I must have dosed off because I was woken up by a gentle shake I opened my eyes and it was my husband. The man I said my I do's to.

Me: "You are back" I yawned and stretched myself

Him: "Yes and it is so good to see you back"

he is showing no signs of interest no smile.

Me: "I have missed the house"

Him: "Bulelwa there's something I want to tell you"

Already...

Me: "Yes

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Already...

Me: "Yes" I sit up

Him: "There is someone else"

I am confused

Me: "What do you mean?" Him: "The months you were not here I pursued something else with someone for that I am sorry. Me saying this to you is an indication that I am deeply sorry Bulelwa please find it in you to forgive me"

Me: "Who is she?"

Him: "You don't want to know"

Me: "Do not fool me Siyabonga!" my voice got louder

Him: "My P.A Sisanda and she is expecting my child"

I felt like someone took a knife and stabbed my heart many times. In the years that I have been with this man we had tried so hard for a baby we tried to a point that I could not take it anymore hearing him saying those words bring back all those nights I had cried praying and begging for God to bless me with a child. He betrayed me.

Me: "She is expecting your... your child"

I stuttered this was not the way I expected to be welcomed home... be welcomed by such a bomb.

Him: "Yes"

I got up and wore my shoes my heart is in pieces. I can feel my soul slowly leaving my body.

Me: "Where are my car keys?"

Him: "Bulelwa I am sorry"

Me: "My car keys!!" I shouted

Him: "Here!" he handed the car keys

I am at loss of words the pain I am feeling is excruciating unbearable... How could he after what we've been through why men are such a disappointment.

Me: "I have only been away for only three months and this is my welcome back! Well played Siyabonga"

Him: "It was a mistake Bulie!"

He shouted.

I shook my head as Tears threatened my eyes I furiously walked out of the bedroom down the passage and descended the stairs down to the kitchen I headed to the garage. Got in my car and driven out of the yard.

The security of the estate refused to open the gate for me.

Me: “Bhuti please! Do not test me!”

I was fuming.

Him: “Ma’am you are in no state to drive”

Me: "In Jesus name you are in no position to tell me what to do! You open the gate or I will drive through it"

Him: "Your husband instructed me to not let you out"

I revved my car

Him: "Okay Okay yho sister"

He opened the gate and I drove out of the estate in anger I had no Idea of where I was going but the speed at which my car was travelling could've killed me on the spot. The tears were already blinding my vision...

TWO

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I found my self driving to my church and I arrived in
unharmd the speed I was
driving at was more than enough to get me in an
accident and kill me right
away. I parked my car and walked in the house of the
Lord. It was empty so I went straight to the front and
went down on my knees. My tears fell down as I
couldn't say what's hurting me I finally gathered the
strength and called out my Lord and savior.

Heavenly father I kneel before you as a broken woman
my husband has committed adultery but I trust in your
love to give me strength. Father give me power to fight
this as the devil came in my house dressed in skirts and
tempted my husband if this is your doing my
Lord then let it be it. Heal me father show me the right
path and lead me to where my happiness lies. Do not let
the devil to take over my life rather save
me from any evil done to destroy my life. I have faith in
you I ask for a heart that is pure I ask for peace and

abundance in my life I ask for positivity in the name of Jesus I believe all I ask will be done in your mighty name Amen.'

I took a deep sigh and a sweet voice echoed on the walls of the empty church. It was the pastor's wife her voice is angelic.

Her: "It is good that you came to the house of the Lord believe that he will heal you and show you the way"

I turned and smiled at her as I got up wiping my tears.

Me: "I am sorry there was no other place I could think of"

Her: "No don't apologize my child the temple of god will always be open for those who seek comfort do not apologize you did not do anything wrong. The house of the lord is always open for everyone to come and release the heavy load"

Me: "and I feel like it is such a heavy load that he has given me"

Her: "God doesn't give you a burden you can't carry he knows you are capable of fighting whatever you are going through."

I heard your prayer from start to end God shall grant you the strength you need and know that he is never too late nor too early he is just on time qina emthandazweni and you'll see him performing miracles in your life "

We sat down on one of the benches and she held my hands

Me: “ Thank you for the reviving words Ma but can you give me advise on what I can do with the situation that I am facing?” she exhaled

Her: “I cannot tell you what to do but I can give you guidance on what you can try doing first. Yes your husband committed adultery broke his vows that he said in front of the Lord but my dear forgiveness is key. He did you wrong I agree but forgive him my dear for your own peace and sake. Do not let hatred take out the humbleness in you replace it with forgiveness. Act in humbleness because if you do not the devil will take over your life and you do not want that as he the devil will make you do things that are not in Christ. Forgiveness is key.”

Me: “Thank you for sharing this with me Ma you’ve indeed opened my eyes”

Her: “Remember to not act in an unholy way and remember that God is always with you okay”

I nodded. A girl child about ten years of age walked in and greeted with her head slightly looking down in respect

Child: “Molweni Ma I am sorry to disturb you but umamfundisi uyacelwa on the Sunday school class”

Her: “Okay my child

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Her: “Okay my child I’ll be there just now”

Child: “Okay Ma” The girl walked back out.

Her: “My dear as you can see I am needed please think about what I said okay sisi” I nodded

Me: “Thank you Ma I should probably go too”

Her: “Uhambe kakuhle sisi don’t forget to pray he will never leave you nor forsake you my dear”

Me: “Okay Ma” we let go and she walked to the other door and I exited the church feeling much better.

I got in my car and drove to the petrol garage filled my car up and bought flowers. I found myself driving towards the Forest hill cemetery. This is where we laid

my mother to rest. I got out of the car and walked to where her grave is at God decided to take her away from me she

is at peace now but it's hard to forget her. She was such a lovely mother. Down to earth and an advocate for education a lady who believed in herself. I miss her.

I placed the flowers on the tombstone slab

Me: "Mom I wish you were here with me life is getting bitter for me and I miss you but that is not why I am here. You taught me to always trust in the power of the lord and be a strong woman for that lesson I thank you very much I hope you are resting peacefully and no longer feel the pains of this world (chuckles) I would have loved to come here with grand-kids but God hasn't granted me with one yet I guess he is waiting for the perfect time"

I spent an hour to two talking to her telling her about my trip to and back from Tanzania. The painting and drawing I've

worked on my artworks and exhibitions. I somehow felt her presence even though it was dead quiet but I felt closer to her. And the sun has already set I should head back to the house it is getting dark.

Me: "I have to go now mom I will visit you again and I miss you every day you don't even visit me in my dreams anymore. But it is okay"

I smiled and walked back to my car.

I drove from the graveyard back to the estate one long drive but worth it as my spirit is revived.

I parked my car in the yard and I noticed a White Chev. Spark car in the driveway I wondered who would visit at such time.

Nonetheless I walked inside the house through the kitchen door and I was met by Siya's PA Sisanda! Oh my God what is she doing in my house!? The baby bump is showing and she is drinking a glass of water so much at home.

What did this woman want in my house? I am being tested...

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To be continued.

THREE

I closed the door behind me and placed my keys on top of the kitchen counter. She turned and looked at me and smiled. The liver.

Her: "Hello I am Sisanda" she let out her hand for a shake I declined.

Me: "I know very well who you are"

Sisanda is probably a size twenty eight with a fluffy Afro and she is light skinned. She is not tall nor short either.

Her: "Oh someone is in mood" she placed the glass on the sink.

Me: "Where is my husband?"

Her: "Why would I know?"

Me: "Because you are here" Thiza ndiyalingwa.

Her: "So me being here how does it..."

Me: "You know you are lucky that you are pregnant because I'd be mopping the floor with your face? What are you doing in my house if my husband is not here?"

Her: "Oh dear you haven't heard? I now live here"

Me: "Wait... what do you mean you live here?"

Her: "Well I am carrying Siyabonga's first born you really did not expect me to live far away from his father?"
Another bombshell. Why would this man disrespect me like this.

Me: "You did not have to rub it in how long have you been staying here?"

Her: "Three weeks"

Me: "Wow"

Her: "You really didn't know? Yho get yourself checked lady you cannot be serious right now did you not notice?"

Me: "Excuse me"

I grabbed my keys and went upstairs to my room. Searched for my cellphone and found it. It had missed calls and messages all from Siyabonga. I dialed him back

Him: "Thank goodness you're okay where are you I am worried"

Me: "Quit acting like you care where are you?"

Him: "I am driving back home"

Me: "Oh well drive faster we have to talk"

Him: "What... you are at home?"

Me: "Mxm" I dropped the call sat on the bed. How did I not see all this the calls were not the same and he was always busy. I had been a fool.

I am bruised deeply inside my heart all those years we were trying for a baby without succeeding. The sleepless nights the cries and prayers all that for nothing. But I am not questioning how God decided this to play out.

I also cannot deny the fact that I am emotionally hurt I am drained. He did not only get her pregnant but invited her to stay for the duration of the pregnancy he gave her keys to our house! But I was told to pray for forgiveness hatred has no place in my heart and my tears will not be in vain.

I said a little prayer my heart aching like someone decided to cut it slowly and painfully. I leaned on the headboard and felt tears wetting my face slowly this man doesn't respect me at all and it is time to let all of this to be slowly step out of this union.

After what felt like forever I got out of bed and walked to the shower.

There is something peaceful about warm water hitting your skin it soothes and makes you feel clean not only external but internal too. I wore pajamas a sponsored tshirt with cotton shorts and silk doek to be exact yes they count as pajamas too.

I walked out of bedroom to the kitchen oh yes my dear husband is busy on the stove cooking.

Him: "I thought you were resting"

Me: "I was"

Him: "I am making something to eat I told the cooker to take a day off"

I didn't even bother with answering him I took out fruits from the fridge and turned on the kettle for water to boil I needed a strong coffee.

Him: "How was Tanzania?"

Me: " Fine" I sat down on the chair and ate my fruits

Him: "Just fine?"

I gave him the look

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Him: "Just fine?"

I gave him the look and continued indulging in my fruits
His missus walked him my stomach turned I don't even
feel like eating anymore. Composure Bulelwa.

Him: "You know you should be sleeping by now?"

He asked her it has been certified; I am the clown of the
circus.

Her: " I know but with all these cravings I can hardly close
my eyes. White bread with raw purple onion rings and a
spread of mayonnaise mhhh"

I almost choked! Who in their right minds eat that? Ohh I wouldn't understand 'odd pregnancy cravings'

Him: "What!?"

Her: "Yes and make it for me" Clingy lady hold yourself.

I got up and walked back to my bedroom I cannot be seriously watching them doing all that to say I am hurt is an understatement. The door opened and he came in

Him: "Bulelwa"

Me: "Go be with her she needs you more than I do" I am defeated. Yes.

Him: "I don't want her I want you" I chuckled

Me: "Am I written 'fool' in my forehead?"

Him: "No"

Me: "Then why do you keep on treating me like one huh?"

Him: "I am sorry"

Me: "How will sorry fix everything huh?" I kept my voice firm.

Him: "It won't I know that but we can move forward from this"

Me: "you cheated impregnated her and invited her to come stay in our house! Our home and now you tell me we can move forward from this!? You must be high on something strong"

Him: "We can talk it out please calm down"

I laughed.

Me: "Calm down! You do shit and tell me to calm down?
Today you woke up planning to send me to hell straight!
Hayi ndiyagezeleka"

Him: "This is for the both of us Buli listen when she told me she was pregnant I initially suggested a abortion I even gave her money for it but she didn't do it. She told me she couldn't and I sat down and thought about this. I am going to be a father something I've wanted for the longest of time later I gave her keys to the house because

I need her to be here so she can have a smooth pregnancy and she wouldn't have that in her flat" He is proud of what he did not at all sorry. By the look of things; he would do it again.

Me: "So for the duration of her pregnancy she will be here?"

Him: "Yes"

Me: "You love her?"

Him: "... No I don't"

Me: "You just wanted a child with her?"

Him: "It was unplanned hence at first I told her to abort it"

Me: "So what do you think will happen to our marriage?"

Him: "We work it out we can overcome this. We will take it as a test from God"

I chuckled. I am made a fool. I shook my head

Him: "We can work it out Bullie I do not want to lose you but I will understand if you want a divorce. Mother is also coming for a visit this weekend"

I remained silent.

Him: "I hope you will be here and yes Sisanda will join us too"

I looked at him. First day being home after I had been away for months and I am welcomed by a gift full of disappointments betrayals heartache and pain. Welcome back Bulelwa.

He walked out of the room I crawled under the covers and hugged myself. I felt like my soul is being taken out of body violently. He cheated yet goes on as if it is not wrong. He impregnated her and that hurts more than anything I am going to be mocked and laughed at by people maybe he did that to prove he is not the problem but what he does not know is I can conceive too. When I was in Tanzania I got myself examined and there's nothing wrong with me I was told I produce eggs and anytime it meets a sperm I can get pregnant without any hassle what confuses me even more is that; If he is not the problem and I am not either? Why is it so hard for him and I to have our own children? He is fertile and I am too but what keeps going wrong! The only explanation I can come up with at this moment is that God doesn't

want us to to have one maybe our time is coming and I can only hope.

I dozed off after trying to contemplate what might be keeping us from having a child.

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To be continued

FOUR

I woke up with a strong headache my eyes are puffy from the crying. The time on the watch read 07.15 I said my morning prayer and got out of bed to refresh and be ready for the day. The sun is out early today it is going to be a sunny day. I dressed in a dress and flats. Having braids is really helpful you just spray and brush the thing

then you are ready to for the day. I made my bed took my handbag keys and walked out.

I entered the kitchen and of course it's a happy family; with my so called husband playing and brushing the baby bump I just stood by the entrance and watched them must be nice.

Her: "Stop it now!" she giggled

Him: "Let me bond with my baby for a minute" I swallowed hard.

Her: "You can bond another time I need to get ready for work"

Him: "You work for me so you don't have to worry"

Her: "More reason for you to stop" she giggled and I walked in and cleared my throat. They both jumped.

Me: "Good morning"

Him: "Morning my love how did you sleep?"

Me: "Fine quite a cozy one for the two of you"

Her: "I am sorry about that.. well.." lady just shut up.

Me: "You don't have to explain yourself to me"

Him: "We weren't cozy as you thought I was just..."

Me: "I seriously don't want to hear it"

I took out a bowl and poured cereal followed by cold milk.

Me: "Sisi when are you leaving my house?"

I took in spoons of my cereal.

Her: "Excuse me?"

Me: "You heard me"

Her: "I don't know what is wrong with you but I am not leaving this house"

Him: "Bulelwa we talked about this"

Me: "I don't want her here she must go somewhere else"

Her: "Too bad if someone is leaving here it has to be you"
I almost choked.

Him: "Sisanda please shut up! Bulie we'll work around this"

Me: " I am the wife in this house okay what I say goes and right now I want you out of my house I don't care whether you are carrying the president's daughter or whatever! You must be out of here. And Siyabonga the nerve to bring your mistress in our home! Wow bhuti"

Her: "Please do not call me a mistress because you don't even know what Siya and I have okay!"

Him: "Sisanda mind you tone you are talking to my wife here"

Her: "Oh now she is your wife weren't you divorcing her? Last night you were in between my sheets telling me you'll file for a divorce! Today she is your wife?"

Okay I choked this time! Hard too.

Me: “What!!”

I coughed hard

Her: “I see you haven’t told her well Siya here is divorcing you him and I will get married! You are so slow sometimes” I grabbed the bowl and threw it furiously in their direction and they ducked it smashed across the wall. My hot slap landed across her face she screamed loudly!

Him: “Bulelwa!!!”

Her: “I am going to get you arrested for assault! Hitting a pregnant woman is a crime”

Me: “I would love to see you try until that divorce is finalized I want you out of my house!”

Her: "I will not do such! Maybe if your womb was able to carry what I am carrying we both wouldn't be in this!"

Him: "You two stop behaving like hooligans! Kwaksasa!"

I grabbed my keys and handbag walked out of the house with Siyabonga following me

Him: "Bulelwa let's talk and what you just did there was uncalled for!"

Me: "I have nothing to talk to you about and it is not like what she said there wasn't true!"

Him: "Bulie please marn!" pulled my arms

Me: "Khawundiyeke rhaa!!" I yanked my arm out of his touched and walked to my car in the driveway

Him: "You should stop running away from your problems Bulelwa! When are you going to learn to face them"

Me: "My problems? You are not serious. As far as I know I have no problems!"

Him: "Haibo Bulelwa!"

Me: "Ndiyeke ke"

I got in my car and drove out from the estate to my friend's house in Colchester.

Zininzi she is a lawyer and a single mother to this beautiful nine year old Bayolise. I would say her lifestyle is just being free and loving her child. It has been unfortunate for her that the father of her child died a month before she was born my friend was devastated. It was God who came through for her and helped her get back on her feet. I have to say she had done pretty well over the years in terms of emotional healing and letting go.

I reached my destination parked in the driveway and went inside. Knocked at the door and I am welcomed by the little princess.

Her: "Aunt Bulie" She jumped up for me to hold her

Me: "Hello Baby B"

Her: "How are you mom is going to so happy to see you"
We walked inside the house

Me: "Really?"

Her: "Yes and I have missed you so much! I had no one to take me for an ice-cream whilst you were gone"

Me: "Now that I am back we will go my love and you are so heavy"

She laughed and I put her down with Zininzi walking in

Zininzi: "I thought my ears were deceiving me but no!!"

Me: "Hello my friend" we shared a warm hug

Zizi: "Look at you all glowing and beautiful Tanzania did you well sister"

Me: "Thank you my friend I can see you've been taken care of by Bayolise here"

Zizi: "Yho this one is the reason I'll get old quickly let's go sit down and you can tell me all about Tanzania Bayo bring us snacks dali"

We walked to the lounge area

Zizi: "Bulie Tanzania did you good Madlomo you are glowing"

Me: "Awu stop it already I am still the same"

Zizi: “Really babe Mr April must be happy you are back”

Me: “Argh I wish my friend lemons were served yesterday yho

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Zizi: “What happened?”

I told her everything.

Her: “What!! After all these years!?”

Me: "Yes after all we've been through"

Bayolise brought the snacks and excused herself.

Zizi: "Friend you have to fight for your marriage! You really cannot let all those years go to waste"

Me: "At this point I am tired my friend I really do not know how to move forward even so I still long for his touch I sound desperate but he is the only man that I know and... ay my friend I am stuck"

Zizi: "Sweety I say stay and fight for your man I mean that woman is nothing to what you have gone through with your husband"

Me: "Nhe?"

Zizi: “Yeah or you can move out from your house and start your life afresh”

Me: “I guess I should choose”

Zizi: “Yes and you know you are always welcome to come stay here with me”

I smiled

Me: “I know friend I know. I am thinking of going to Grahamstown for a few days and then come back but for now I have to focus on my gallery which I will open soon at Walmer park I have to try and find an apartment that is closer there so that I don't have to travel long distance and traffic here isn't nice”

Zizi: “I hear you my friend and I think it is a good plan too but I still say fight for your man girl you've been through hell and back with him”

Me: “You should see how joyful he is around her and the girl doesn’t let a chance slide she makes sure she rubs it in”

Zizi: “Okay move out my friend I take the fight back thing back. Leave him dali because he will change you to be the worst person and you are not that at all”

Me: “You see why i am stuck in between! Anyway enough about me and my marital stresses how has your life been?”

She smiled. Genuinely.

Zizi: “Life has been fine my friend amazing in fact and God has been taking care of me I must say” She winked.

Me: “If you are happy then who am I to be sad huh?”

We laughed and talked about everything. It was good after months of speaking English non-stop and a bit of Swahili it was good to catch up with someone close I even forgot my marital problems.

After hours of talking and laughing I had to go back to the house devil's pit.

I exhaled as I walked in and went to sit on the couch facing the wall looking at my paintings on the walls and just reminiscing on the good days of my marriage. I closed my eyes for the afternoon rest my body is still used to Tanzania I actually miss that country I had been so happy...

Arguing voices woke me up from my nap I stood up and walked to where the noise of the voices was coming from and it lead me to the kitchen. I leaned on the side I know eavesdropping is wrong but I can't help it. I could

hear Sisanda's voice and the other one is unfamiliar. It is a male voice with a coloured accent.

Sisanda: "you have to leave Frankie they can't find you here"

Him: "Why should I without you?"

Sisanda: "You'll have to"

Frankie: "Sisanda you're carrying my baby I want you to come home with me"

Oh Okay. Ewe Bulelwa it's that wow.

Sisanda: "Stop that this is not your baby and you know that"

Frankie: "Sisanda I know you're carrying my baby Stop this nonsense you're doing and come home with me you

know that I am the father of this baby. This oak can't even shoot man"

Sisanda: "Frankie you're not the father!!"

Frankie: "I am! Now stop being a bitch because April is not the father you just after the money" true.

Sisanda: "That's not true"

Frankie: "It is and you know it"

Sisanda: "Get out of this house now"

Frankie: "Sisanda this is not over I want my baby and you know that it's my baby so don't you think you'll run I'll always find you"

Sisanda: "Frankie get out"

I cleared my throat and walked in I needed to see this Frankie person so I could be able to recognize him when I want to have a little talk with him. Sisanda has shock written all over her face.

Frankie: "Mrs. April"

Me: "Hello and who is this Sisanda "

Sisanda: "This is Frankie my cousin he was around so he decided pop in and check up on me but he was leaving now"

Me:"ohh that's bad is he in a hurry? I would love to chat with him"

She shook her head

Sisanda: " Why the sudden interest in my cousin? Frankie we will chat on the phone please leave"

Me: "The security at the main gate hardly lets anyone in here without consulting us first but that doesn't matter now. And lady back off please I am not like you" Frankie: "I apologize on her behalf Mrs April. She gets like this sometimes and more I am sorry of how she took over your household I can understand what you are going through. And even our family is disappointed in her that she would be a home wrecker" his tone emphasized 'home wrecker'

Me: "We take it as it is Frankie please stay until my husband is back from work he will be here in two hours' time that's if you have time"

Frankie: "I have all the time in the world ma'am I will wait for your husband as we also have to talk about paying damages because you see our family is deeply rooted in culture so we have to do right by them"

Me: "I see Sisanda please make him feel at home. i'll be right back"

I slightly smiled and walked out of the kitchen.

Her: "Bulelwa what are you playing at?"

I did not notice she was following me.

Me: "Don't start with me please"

Sisanda: "This is going to backfire badly!"

Me: "Leave my house that's all"

Sisanda: "You won't see that"

Me: "Fine"

I left her and ascended the stairs to my bedroom.
Siyabonga has been fooled. played.

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To be continued...

FIVE

I walked in and took my phone out of the handbag and dialed Siya. It rang a few times and he answered

Him: "Bulie"

Me: "Are you coming back for lunch?"

Him: "Yes I'll be at home lunchtime"

Me: "Okay we have a guest he is waiting for you"

Him: "what guest?"

Me: "A man by the name of Frankie is here he says he is Sisanda's cousin well she claims it's her cousin too"

Him: "what!?"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "I'll call Sisanda we will talk later"

Me: "Sure"

I ended the call and went back downstairs to the kitchen to prepare lunch Frankie walked in holding a whisky glass.

Him: "You have a beautiful house"

Me: "Thank you"

Him: "I am sorry about the liquor couldn't resist it"

Me: "No problem"

Him: "Can I help you with whatever you're preparing?"

Me: "I think I'll manage but you are welcome to keep me company"

Him: "Sounds just about right with me what are you going to cook?"

Me: "Macaroni and cheese"

Him: "Oh I love it "

Me: "is it ?"

Him: "Yes"

Me: "Nice well tell me about you? What do you do?"

Him: "You know my name I am Frankie it's actually Frank but you know people"

I chuckled

Him: "And I work as an estate agent"

Me: "Oh you are into property?"

Him: "Yes and I want out I've been doing that thing for years man! So a little change can do"

Me: "I totally understand besides change is good"

Him: "Yes and you are an art person how is it like? Maybe you can draw me you know!"

I laughed

Me: "I love it! I mean when you wake up and do what you've always dreamed of doing is liberating. I could actually take you up on that offer!"

him: "And rumor has it that you are opening another gallery at Walmer park"

Me: "Yes but not as of yet I still need to put together an art collection and now you are giving me ideas"

Him: "Okay tell me more"

Me: "Well I am thinking doing something that will grab the local's attention I've always managed to grab the attention of other nations but rarely in my own hometown. I have never seen my neighbors attending my exhibitions which it's something i would like to change"

Him: "And that is why many of our artists don't get the support they really need they are focused on what other nations are doing rather than starting at home and offering the world who they actually are. So work on that try and find ways you could draw their attention"

Me:" Thank you and this is actually the reason why I was in Tanzania. Well apart from showcasing my own art I was learning some new things there"

Him: "And how was being out of the country?"

Me: "It's always good being out of the country but I missed home and it is very unfortunate that I came back to this"

Him: "Oh sorry but don't beat yourself up for trusting him you thought he'll behave and stay faithful since you guys are in a relationship actually married"

Me: "Yes but hey expectations kill"

Him: "and again I am sorry for what Sisanda did it was wrong of her to do you like this"

Me:" We can't keep blaming her though my husband had a hand in it too had he also stayed away neither of this would have happened"

Him: "How do you feel about the whole thing?"

Me: "Well I am hurt and I just hope it'll pass and I'll move on with my life"

Him: "I was also trying to talk her to come back home our parents don't know she is pregnant she's been hiding from everyone"

Me: "You guys are very close"

Him: "We are I was raised I her home when my mother passed"

Me: "Oh okay I now understand"

This man was a professional liar his eyes do not flinch nor does his finger reach up to his face. Someone who lies without a flinch.

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We talked about his so called 'childhood' with Sisanda. He is a very interesting man intimidating at that but calm however I can't see why is Sisanda attracted to this man as he doesn't look like her type. What I mean by that is he is unmarried. I do not confront him about what I overheard but let him continue with his lies.

Sisanda walked in pulling her big suitcase.

Me: "Is someone leaving?"

Her: "Don't act like you didn't know about this"

Him: "Drop the attitude Sanda"

Me: "At least wait until I am finished with lunch then you can leave after"

Her: "And risk being poisoned by you? No thank you Frankie can we go now?"

Him: "That would be appreciated Mrs. April but as you can see hormones are playing with her

Sponsored

Frankie can we go now?"

Him: "That would be appreciated Mrs. April but as you can see hormones are playing with her" she rolled her eyes

Me: "I can tell drive safely"

Him: "Until we meet again Mrs. April and I wish God to bless you with your own one day"

Her: "Lidlolo nothing will ever grow in that rotten womb of hers"

Someone is mad but composure Bulelwa she is trying to start a fight.

Me: "I wish you a happy life Sisanda" I smiled

Him: "That is enough Sisanda we will go now sister bye"
She walked out first leaving frank to pull the suitcase and the bag.

Me: "Until we meet again Frankie bye"

He walked out and I heard the sound of the car driving away. I exhaled whatever Siyaboga said on that phone call got her off her high horses.

I said 'I do' to a disappointment. Lunchtime came and passed my husband did not come back for lunch. I tried calling but it went straight to voicemail. Usisibhanxa Bulelwa.

The house is quiet and empty we are almost out of groceries too. I have to go to the shopping center or the mall. I end up driving to Greenachres mall.

I bought a few groceries the mall is not busy as it usually gets I was able to go in and out. My cellphone rang as I packed my groceries in the car.

I took it out and it's Zizinzi I answered.

Me: "You miss me already?"

Her: "Yes and where are you?"

Me: "Uyatefa ndise Greenachres"

Her: "Great! Please drive straight here I need you to help me with something"

Me: "Okay I'll be there just now"

Her: "Oh and we will need a bottle or two of white wine"

Me: "Now I have to go back inside your timing is awful friend"

Her: "I know I'll send a text of other things I need just now okay"

Me: "Okay"

I walked back inside the mall and my phone beeped I looked at it and it is the list of items i have to buy nameley; Biscuits bread soda water and fruits. I texted her back

Me: "Are we baking a cake?"

Her: "Lol no my friend I am trying out a new recipe"

Me: "Okay you..."

I bumped into someone so hard that my wallet keys and cellphone landed on the floor my cellphone smashing loudly. I almost screamed. I looked up it was a man already going down picking up my things.

Me: "Jesus!"

Him: "I am so sorry I wasn't looking uxolo sisi" he handed them to me and luckily my cellphone is not cracked.

Me: "No no! It's not your fault uhm I was also texting whilst walking it could've been pole or something" I looked up facing him more like scanning this man who I just bumped into. Jeans long sleeved white t-shirt medium sized dreadlocks and I can't help but notice the beads around his neck and wrist they are not your usual ones but ancestral beads. He is a shade lighter than brown.

Him: "And I should've looked on where I was going" He smiled the man has a dimple on his left side of the face. Bawo Intle Indoda.

Me: "I am glad you understand" I nervously chuckled.

Him: "Wait... I don't want this to come as off but I do know you you are? The famous artist uhm..." I laughed

Me: "I am not famous but my artwork is I am Bulelwa"

Him: "Yes of course my niece is into fine arts too and she adores you"

Me: "Oh really?"

I genuinely smiled it's always a good feeling when you meet someone who actually adores your craft even if it's the uncle.

Him: "Yes and unrelated to this but I can feel you are not at peace you soul is disturbed"

Me: "At the moment I am going through something but I will try and work on finding inner peace" I smiled I love it when we talk energies. I do believe in that auras do communicate and mine just did that to this man.

Him: "You have a beautiful smile keep it pasted on your face. Oh where are my manners I am Mawande Dlamini"

Me: "Oh thank you well you know me Bulelwa" we shook hands

Him: "Let me not keep you Lelwa It was nice meeting you or rather bumping into you" he chuckled.

Me: "I was actually the one who bumped but definitely a pleasure to meet you send my love to your niece"

Him: "I will" He smiled again.

We went our separate ways. I walked to the store to purchase these items.

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To be continued.

SIX

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The drive back to Zininzi's house was a smooth one no hassle. She was already standing out as I drove in her driveway parked and got out with her plastic.

Me: "You are such a handful my friend"

Her: "I know my friend and you love me like that"

I handed her the plastic bag.

Me: "What is it that you needed help with?"

Her: "Let's go inside"

Me: "Okay"

As soon as I walked in I heard screams

"Surprise!!"

Me: "What!!" I jumped in excitement and also I noticed a
"Welcome back Bulie and Zama"

Zamacirha short for Zama one of my close friends she had been in the U.K for the past five years we've always kept in touch. I turned and jumped as I saw my her.

Zama: "Oh my God!!" we shared a hug the warmest.

Me: "When? How? And why am I only finding out now?"

Zizi: "It's called a surprise darling"

Me: "Wow I don't know how to feel I am so happy to see you Gosh!" I pulled her in for another hug and she laughed

Zama: "I missed you too Bulie"

Zizi: "Okay okay you are going to make me cry now"

Me: "Sorry"

Zama: “Well we haven’t seen each other in a while so”

We laughed and I am introduced to the faces around the house about six people and among them is Zama’s fiancé my friend is getting married. We walked to the kitchen.

Me: “When did you arrive Zama?”

Zama: “We landed at O.R thambo five days back then Ncube and I decided to do a road trip down here”

Zizi: “You actually haven’t told us how on earth you met a Zulu man in the U.K?”

Me: “Like chances of that are slim to none”

Zama: “Through social media friends” She smiled and giggled

Zizi: “You know what we do not want to hear it at all!”

Me: "Keep it to your self-sister but as long as he makes you happy then all is well my friend" she smiled and it reached her eyes. My friend is indeed happy.

Zama: "But I am scared though I am scared of marriage"

Zizi: "Story of my life"

Me: "My friend if both of you are happy then there's no need to worry"

Zama: "And we are Bulie anyway zizi how many more guests are we expecting?"

Zizi: "Just four more and they should be here by now"

Me: "Okay I'll prepare some green salad"

Zama: "No everything is ready Bulie we just need to pour wine and drink"

Zizi: "Yes!"

Me: "A glass of juice for me please"

Zama: "you're still uptight Bulie an enemy of alcohol"

Me: "No I still have to drive"

Zizi: "No sisi you are sleeping over pour her a glass of the white one Zama"

The doorbell rang.

Zizi: "I'll go get that fill up that glass with wine Zama"

Me: "Zama how many more guests are we expecting?"

Her: "Uhm those at the door are last ones Zizi's colleagues. So we are about eleven or twelve"

Me: "Oh that's better I thought she invited the whole of Port Elizabeth"

We laughed

Zama: "You know Bulie I am quite hesitant on this marriage thing"

Me: "What do you mean?"

She poured wine and handed me my glass

Zama: "I don't know I'm just hesitant"

Me: “Don’t be babe just be happy and if the two of you are down for each other I don’t see why you should be hesitant”

Zama: “And we love each other my friend after two years we are still going o strong” her face sparkled up. The happiness glow I couldn’t help but smile too.

Me: “And I am happy for you”

Zama: “Thank you my friend I actually still cannot...”

Zininzi walked in interrupting us followed by four people two ladies and two gentlemen. Oh my God I recognized the man I bumped into earlier and he’s still in the same outfit I guess were heading to the same place.

Zizi: “Ladies please welcome my colleagues I know you don’t know them”

Zama: “Come on Zizi we know them we just never talked” My eyes are locked on him. He kept stealing glances too.

Zizi: “But anyway this is Luzuko and Mawande with Nwabisa and Thabisa”

Zama: “Nice to finally talk to you all I am Zama”

They laughed

Luzuko: “Definitely nice to meet you Zama”

Me: “I’m Bulelwa” I said it with a smile pasted on my face my eyes kept going back to him.

Thabisa: “Girl we all know you here the famous artist”
She pulled me in for a hug again laughter filled the room

Mawande: “Her art is famous and not her” Oh!

Me: “You got it!”

We all laughed.

Zininzi: “I’ll take it you’ve already met her because that is her favourite line”

Mawande: “We bumped into each other at the mall” He smiled God that dimple!

Zama: “Oh

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God that dimple!

Zama: “Oh okay well you see each other again!”

Zama nudged me and gave the ‘stop staring’ look.

Luzuko: “I thought he was lying when he said he just bumped into you nice to finally talk to you Bulie”

Thabisa: “Haywena an entire Sangoma lies? You want the ancestors to punish you”

We laughed

Nwabisa: “I thought he was joking too nice to meet you Bulelwa. And oh welcome back home”

Zizi: “Oh yes Homecoming queens!”

Zama: "The rest of the guys are outside making the meat
I'm sure you know your way around the house"

Luzuko: "Oh we most definitely do nice meeting you
ladies"

Zama: "Likewise"

They both walked out of the kitchen.

Zininzi: "Ladies there's more than enough things to drink
in the fridge please don't hold yourselves Bulelwa you
should be on your second glass now sisi I'll go check on
the other gents outside"

Me: "Your plan is to get me drunk I see"

The meet up or the party goes on pretty great I am on my fifth glass of this delicious white wine and I can't stop smiling. It had me good great infact.

We took it outside and had our meal on the table which we all fitted but now everyone is just scattered around the yard. The music is blasting on the speakers some are even dancing and my eye had been trying to locate that man with no success. Sigh.

The ladies are nice Thabisa just fits in with the vibe perfectly. Nwabisa is a bit shy she doesn't talk much and the word for her type of personality is observant. She took a few pictures with us and has been quiet since but everyone is just happy here.

I walked up to her and stumbled a few times but laughed it off as I sat next to her on the table.

Me: "Hey"

Her: "Hello" she smiled faintly

Me: "Are you okay? You've been quiet nje almost the entire time we've been here whatsup?"

Her: "Oh don't worry I am okay please enjoy your party and don't think I am not enjoying myself. I am enjoying myself like this" she smiled gulping down her glass of whatever is there.

Thabisa: "She's lying she has a thing for Bhut Wandes and she thought they'd hook up here or something but bhutiza didn't even notice her" Thabisa comes in already hugging me.

Her: "Thabisa shut up don't listen to her Bulie I am okay and she is just drunk"

Me: "Thabisa no man Okay sweetie please don't hold yourself and just enjoy okay"

Thabisa: "Fine Bulie come let's leave her to sulk. Zama is asking for you"

Her: "Please don't worry about me I am fine" another smile.

Me: "Okay"

We laughed and walked to the fire area Zizi is sitting on Luzuko's lap on the camp chair and Zama is tangled up in her fiancé by the wall the other guys are cracking up jokes and I still can't find that man. Maybe he left.

Zizi: "Bulie get another glass my love don't be sitting there smiling to yourself like a crack addict"

Me: "No I am actually good. Can you believe I am already feeling the heat? Driving back will be a hassle"

Thabisa: "You should sleep over here"

Zizi: "I tried too Thabi she is not having it"

Luu: "Don't worry we will drive her mami. I mean Wells estate is right next to truck-in so sizakubeka peto"

Zama: "Who will drive who?"

Zizi: "You done kissing you man there sisi!" we laughed

Me: "Drive me back home my love they talking about me"

Zama: “Oh okay kanene a wife doesn’t sleep without her husband”

Thabisa: “You got it sana!”

We laughed

Me: “Let me go to the bathroom”

My bladder is full. I walked back in the house to the toilet and released. The music is not as loud as it is inside and the song by Mlindo - Emakhaya is playing as I washed my hands. I admired myself in the mirror moved my head a bit feeling the vibe. I can’t stop smiling and i blame the wine.

I walked out of the toilet as I looked up. I saw him I am suddenly at loss with my breathing.

Mawande: "Madlomo"

I blinked multiple times my brain going all fuzzy like there's a malfunction the noise coming from outside as this other song from comes to play with everyone screaming it.

Me: "Hello" I can't help but smile

Him: "You really should stop looking at me like that"

Me: "How am I looking at you?"

Him: "like you want me" oh straight like that.

Me: "I am married and besides I just got off a phone call with my husband which is why I still have a smile pasted on my face it's not for you" yes that'll put him off.

He chuckled and shook his head

Me: "What!?"

He took both my hands and held them took a step closer leaning over to reach my ears. I inhaled his scent it is not a perfume or cologne it's something of nature herbs. It's refreshing and calm love it.

Him: "You are wearing a dress without pockets and your hands are not holding a cellphone like a person who just got off a phone call"

Oh busted! He moved back still holding my hands and looked at my flushed face

Me: "It doesn't prove that I want you" this wine is making me weak.

Him: "Still stop searching for me with your eyes okay"

Me: "I wasn't"

Him: "Don't lie"

I just shook my head

Him: "If you were not lying your body would stop getting tense. You are a bad liar too"

Me: "I am not tense"

He smiled again

Him: "Madlomo I am holding your hands and I can feel you. I would't be able to explain it to you but I feel a lot of tension in you I easily connected with your soul or that is a big word let's just stick to energy"

Me: "Maybe the tension is caused by the pain inside me. Let's say you easily connected because you ought to heal me"

Him: "That depends on you and your belief"

Me: "Meaning?"

Him: "If you believe I can heal you then it will be that way but for now stop drooling over me"

Me: "Stop saying I am drooling over you I was just amazed to see you here"

Him: "If you say Madlomo"

He let go of my hands and smiled he walked away from where we were standing. Leaving me in-between thoughts and smiles of what just transpired between him and me.

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To be continued.

SEVEN

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I snapped out of those thoughts and went to fetch my bag in the kitchen and walked back to where everyone is

seated. Mawande is seated on the table with Nwabisa which is good for him. Who am I kidding I'm feeling a little of jealousy.

I took out my cellphone and it has about six missed calls from Siyabonga I called back and it rang unanswered I tried two more times and same thing. I just switched my cellphone off and poured another glass of wine. I looked around and everyone is kind of in their own mood they are enjoying the party without holding back. I smiled the music volume is lower now but not off.

I placed my glass down on the table and took my purse and turned my cellphone on again the time is just after nine o'clock. I got up and I cannot see Zininzi nor Luzuko. I walked to Zama

Me: "My love"

Her: "Babe"

Me: "I am going to go back home now I cannot find Zizi but please say my goodbyes to her"

Her: "Are you sure you can drive back?"

Me: "Yes babe I am not that drunk"

Her: "No Bulie request an uber at least or a cab"

Me: "Uhm..." I was cut off by his deep voice

Mawande: "We can drive with her we are going to KwaMagxaki and it won't be an inconvenience to drop her off at her house at least neither Luzuko nor am I drunk"

Zama: "Yes good idea we can't let you drive alone"

Me: “I have a car and I can’t leave it her who’ll fetch it tomorrow”

Mawande: “I’ll drive you Luzuko and the others can drive behind us”

Nwabisa: “That’s if we can find Luu”

Zama: “Where did he disappear to khona?”

He cleared his throat behind me

Luu: “I am here”

And Zizi appeared too her hair a bit out of place.

Zama: “Bulie is going home you’ll drive with Nwabisa and where is Thabisa?”

Zizi: “That one is already off she’s sleeping in the spare bedroom”

Luzuko: “I will drive with Nwabisa and Wandes here is driving Bulie to her house right?”

Zama: “Yes”

Me: “Great can we now go people?”

They laughed. We hugged and said our goodbyes.

Me: “Adjust the seat” I said as I stumbled to get to my side of the car. I drive a Renault Captur.

Him: “Your car smells like you” I closed my door and fastened the belt and he did the same

Me: "Well it's mine"

Him: "It was just a comment"

He drove out of the yard.

Me: "I am so tired I need my bed" I leaned back and closed my eyes

Him: "You went heavy on the glasses"

Me: "You were not even there half the time"

Him: "I was you just didn't see me"

Me: "Wow and you say I was drooling over you? Pssh"

Him: "Madlomo you were and we are not going to discuss that again"

I opened my eyes and looked at him for a brief second and then looked ahead.

Me: "You should tell me about you"

Him: "What do you want to know Madlomo?"

Me: "Everything you said your niece is into art maybe I could meet her and see her artwork"

Him: "Would you really do that?"

Me: "Yes and I'm opening another gallery so we could work something out if she's really good. My aim is to bring in new talent"

Him: "She would really love that"

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Him: “She would really love that I think I’ll call you when you are sober tomorrow”

Me: “You think I’m too drunk to make an appointment now?”

Him: “I didn’t say that”

Me: “But you are implying it”

He looked at me for a brief moment and chuckled

Him: “You are overthinking it Madlomo”

Me: "If you say so"

Him: "I like you you aren't intimidated by me"

I like you too.

Me: "Why would I be intimidated by you?"

Him: "Because I'm a healer I see beyond the naked eye. Many think we are demons as we can communicate with our ancestors. Maybe that?"

Me: "Well not everyone sees you like that. You are not a demon you are spiritually gifted and have the powers to communicate with those in the spiritual world. You are the bridge between life and death which we use to communicate with our forefathers. Besides I don't let my belief in Christ change how I view my own traditional spiritual ways"

Him: "But by that wouldn't you say you are breaking the Ten Commandments"

Me: "I am not because I do not worship my ancestors but I acknowledge them as people who have once lived in this earth and they know how it is"

Him: "So you are not against it?"

Me: "No and I respect your gift it's powerful."

Him: "Mhh okay"

Me: "Yes and I really need to sleep right now my body is giving in"

Him: "We are almost there"

Me: "So I am not at all intimidated nor do i fear you okay?"

He chuckled and smile.

Him: "Okay"

We finally arrived at the estate then to my yard. He parked in the driveway and Thulani pulled through too.

Me: "Thank you for driving me"

Him: "My pleasure have a good night"

Me: "You too"

Thulani: "It was nice chilling with you guys I hope we could do it again soon masembe ndoda sutshela"

Wande laughed and got in the car.

Him: "Take care of yourself Madlomo"

I smiled

Me: "Drive safely guys"

They drove out and I took out the groceries on my car trunk and walked into the house. It is dark lights are off. I turned on the lights and packed the groceries in their places and walked to my bedroom after.

I walked in and Siyabonga is seated on the edge of the bed. I almost screamed

Me: "Jesus! I thought you weren't here"

He does not answer and who am I to mind him? I changed to my usual sleeping attire the way I am tired taking a shower is not on the list. I charged my cellphone. As I turned he blocked my way.

Me: "Can you move? I'm tired"

Him: "Where were you? And you smell of alcohol"

Me: "I don't owe you an explanation but I am not looking for a fight I was at Zizi's house"

Him: "Kuyanxwilwa kwa Zininzi? We get drunk and hang over men!?" his voice louder. He cannot be serious now.

Me: "Yes"

Him: "We come back late from Zizi's house and have a man dropping us off while our husbands are waiting for us at home?"

Me: "I need to sleep" he tightened his grip around my wrists.

Him: "I am asking you for the last time Where were you?"

Me: "Are you kidding me..."

I yanked my hands off his grip and I stumbled back as my left cheek burned in response to the hot hard slap that landed! I screamed!

Me: "What are you doing!?"

Him: "You think I'm a fool Bulelwa!" I can hardly hear with my left ear

Him: “Uyondijongisa ngapha! Busy getting drunk and hanging over men fully knowing you a married? Who do you think is doing your wifely duties?”

Me: “What are you talking about?” My cheek felt numb. He moved away and took his cellphone on the pedestal and he showed me a picture of Mawande and Me when he was holding my hands.. The picture is taken at an angle that it might get people to think we are dating. The smile on my face is everything. I give it up to the person who took it.

Him: “What is this!? Isn’t this you hanging over men?”

Me: “Even if I was it doesn’t give you any reasons to be mad. You brought your mistress in our home! You told me straight in the face that you met someone else. It was you who accepted ilahla lihshushu and now uzondixelela ikaka yoba I’m hanging over man? Because of a mere picture you are threatened! Don’t joke here”

Him: “Bulelwa yindodakho leya!”

Me: "Mxm" I attempted to walk to the door but I was pulled by my braids and pushed so hard that I landed in the floor. I screamed loudly.

Him: "Bulelwa are you cheating on me? Are you sleeping with that man!?" His voice echoed loudly on the room my head going all fuzzy.

Me: "Yes I am! Beat me up then! Kill me if you have to Siyabonga!"

I screamed defenseless and then kicks followed. I took it all in every kick and punch; the walls of marriage we had built over the years came tumbling down without making noise. My tears and blood certified my divorce to this man. Each insult slowly pulled him out of my soul. With each time he twisted my arm my heart smiled as it finally got its closure. I took all his beatings lying down defenseless the pain slowly becoming my comfort.

Come tomorrow I am leaving him. I am done with him.
God knows I tried but this is the last straw.

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To be continued...

Eight

I woke up the next morning my body in pain the events of last night flooded my mind. How I went from having the time of my life to having the worst time of my life it is funny and sad. My whole body is pained I could barely feel my left arm. I winced and got up from the bed my ribs giving me a hard time. I slowly made my way to the bathroom took off my clothes and I looked at the reflection of what's supposedly to be me my nose has a faint color of dark I am missing braids my scalp is burning and my left arm is swollen. He didn't do much on my face it is just my nose. My body; he wrecked my left arm and my ribs are sore. My thighs have marks which I can pray they'll fade away in no time. With each step I took pain ran through my body.

I got in the shower and Allowed the water soothe me. After what felt like forever I got out of the shower dried myself lotion and settled for a hoodie and track-pants. I took my cellphone out of the charger and made my way downstairs to the kitchen.

Him: "Hi"

He greeted as I walked in with him already making breakfast. From what I can see it's breakfast for two.

I don't answer him.

Him: "We should talk about what happened last night Bulie"

Me: "And say what?"

Him: "That I am sorry I lost it when Mncina sent me that picture of you with that man and then he dropped you off. I just couldn't hold it"

Me: "You couldn't hold? I can't believe you"

Him: "I am sorry Bulie I am really sorry please find in your heart to forgive me"

Me: “Who is this Mncina you mentioned and what relationship do you all have?”

He looked down

Him: “She is Sisanda’a friend her name is Nwabisa”

Wow. Why didn’t I think of it?

Me: “Wow”

Him: “Again I am sorry. I also found out that the Child Sisanda is carrying is not mine she lied and played me and I fell for it. I am sorry I took my anger out on you. You didn't deserve that”

I just looked at him with pity.

Him: “Please give us another chance so we can work on our marriage”

Me: "How can I know that you won't run to another skirt when I am not here again? How can I be sure that when we try again we can have children? We can work on our marriage but know that my scars are deeper than you think"

Him: "Just forgive me Bulie and we will work on the rest as time goes I promise to be a good husband this time"

I've heard this line many times.

Me: "You know what? I forgive Siyabonga I forgive you for everything that you had done but you should know that I am tired of you I am tired of this marriage too and this is the last straw"

Him: "What do you mean?"

My cellphone rang before I could answer him. An unnamed number.

Me: "Hello"

Him: "Mrs. April"

It's Mawande's voice.

Me: "Yes this is her"

He chuckled on the other end.

Him: "Mr. Dlamini here I would like to know if it would be possible for us to meet today. It's strictly business of course"

Me: "Today you say?"

Him: "Yes the thing is I would like to invest in your gallery"

Me: "You know I'm not the right person to call for that"

Him: "Well you are the the only one I know"

I need to get out of the house anyway.

Me: "Can we do a lunchtime meeting I have to go see the doctor first"

Him: "Okay but if you are not well then we can reschedule maybe tomorrow?"

Me: "No! uhm I can do today"

Him: "Okay I'll send the location to my office I'll see you then"

Me: "Definitely bye."

Him: "Bye"

I hung up and Siyabonga looked at me his eyes inquiring who I was on the call with.

Me: "Can you take me to the doctor? I won't be able to drive myself"

Him: "Dr. Philips does house calls I'll call him for you"

Me: "Okay"

Him: "Who were you on call with?"

Me: "Someone who is interested in investing on the art gallery"

Him: "I didn't know you handled investments"

Me: "I am the owner of the business I handle everything"

Him: "It was just a joke"

He handed me a tray with my breakfast and we ate in silence.

Me: "I'll be in the painting room should the doctor arrive"

Him: "Okay"

I walked from the kitchen to the basement. We have turned it to my art room. This is where the magic happens

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I walked from the kitchen to the basement. We have turned it to my art room. This is where the magic happens every art piece from what I’ve exhibited to what the world hasn’t seen of me. It is filled with color and every time I come here I am reminded of where I come from and where I am heading. It is where I escape reality and create my own.

Dr. Phillips and me go way back He has treated most of my bruises and cuts. Yes it had happened before Siyabonga had laid his hands on me before and it always ends with the Dr. Coming to me. This may be the last time he is doing so.

He arrived an hour later and I moved from the basement to the lounge.

Dr. "When are you leaving him?" He asked randomly as he examined my bruises. He is a 50 year old man with gray hair and his face is showing wrinkles already.

Me: "Anytime from today I am tired"

Dr. "I am too of seeing you like this I pray every time I am called that I don't find you half way dead or already rotting"

Me: "I thank you for that praying for me. I also think that it is now time for me to leave he has caused enough pain and I cannot bare anymore"

Dr. "I thought what happened in Cape Town would've opened your eyes but I am not blaming you love is blind" I felt a shiver down my spine as a memory of what had happened in Cape Town a year ago crossed my mind.

Me: "Can we please not talk about that incident"

Dr. "I understand I am sorry"

We decided to keep quiet and he continued with his examination.

Dr. "No major damage done the bruises will fade as time goes. No broken ribs or broken arm. The swelling on your arm will go down too just drink the pills I gave you and rest you are still young and beautiful Bulelwa you don't

deserve this. I pray this is the last time I treat you for beatings”

I nod

Me: “Thank you very much Dr.”

He smiled packed his equipment and walked out of the house. I drank the pills and laid my head on the couch.

I must’ve passed out because I am woken up by my ringing cellphone it’s Siyabonga.

Me: “Hello”

Him: “Hey the driver is there to drive you to your meeting today”

Me: "Uhm okay that is very thoughtful of you. Thank you very much"

Him: "I'll see you later today"

Me: "Sure"

I hung up and the pills indeed helped with the swelling on my left hand. The pains subsided on my ribs but I can still feel it when I bend over. The plan is to not bend over.

I walked to my room for a change of clothes and did a little make up on my face to hide the fading color of my nose. The driver knew the place as I gave him the coordinates to the location.

We arrived at the building it's just outside the North End and it is a law firm. Wow.

I walked in and I was greeted by a nice receptionist who led me to the office of Mr Dlamini.

I knocked once and entered. There he was looking cute yes he was cute with his glasses on. I smiled.

Him: "Mrs. April welcome" We shook hands as I took my seat.

Me: "You do know that my name is Bulelwa right?"

Him: "Yes"

ME: "Please address me by it then"

Him: "Okay How are you Bulelwa?"

Me: "I am very well thanks how are you?"

Him: "I am okay too" He looked at me like he was reading me

Me: "Uhm you said we were going to discuss to business and not stare at each other"

Him: "I am sorry it's just that there's something on your face"

Me: "What?"

Him: "The makeup what are you hiding?"

Me: "And how is that related to what I am here for"

Him: "It's not at all related but I can't help the tension you are giving away. Madlomo I can sense it all the hurt the pain and the deep scars. This doesn't usually happens

with other people but with you I feel connected and I can't control it"

Me: "I don't have an answer for you but it might be because you are a healer and you ought to sense the kind of things"

Him: "Might be would you like anything to drink? coffee water or..."

Me: "No no I am okay let's just get down to business"
he nodded.

We discussed why he is interested in my gallery and he told me it's for his niece. He was buying a portion for her as a present for her 21st birthday which will be in three months' time. After graduation he will transfer the shares in her name as of now he will hold on to them. Of course he has to I loved the idea that he is actually

looking after her future. Rather than getting her a car but I am not saying there's anything wrong with getting a car for a 21 year old but what he is doing is quite remarkable.

Me: "I will contact my lawyers and draw up a contract and get the shares transferred in your name"

Him: "Awesome I will contact the bank too on my side. Uhm another thing"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "Can we have lunch together? There's this place that just opened and they sell some mean food"

Me: "Lunch? Uhm I don't think..."

Him: "Please Madlomo" he pleaded

Me: "Okay Just lunch"

Him: "Yes just lunch" he smiled revealing his dimple.

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To be continued.

Nine

We found this nice intimate restaurant just across the road from his building and it sells mean food. We seated

on this table that's next to a glass wall which feeds you the view of the beautiful North end. Cars passing and people busy walking up and down running errands others working and most importantly they are minding their own business.

Him: "You seem distracted"

Me: "No I'm just thinking of how everyone seems to be in their own worlds and enjoying life"

Him: "You could be in your own world too you do know that?" I smiled faintly

Me: "I do in fact when I was in Tanzania I lived in my own world yes I had worries but I was so carefree"

Him: "What changed?"

Me: "The geography of the place of course"

He laughed

Him: "Of course Madlomo but what's holding you back from being carefree here again?"

Me: "A lot of things here it's hard to escape reality. I've got to face demons head on!"

Him: "I hear you then you need to face your demons and move on. Get it over and done with and stop delaying the process"

Me: "How do I do that?"

Him: "Forgiveness first"

Me: "I'm not even sure I want that"

Him: "Meaning?"

Me: "It has been holding me back since day one I forgive and then still stay with the same demon"

Him: "That means you don't know how you can move on"

Me: "Exactly that and I feel like when you forgive someone you are accepting what they did as if it was okay rather than forgiving as a way of accepting that it was wrong and that it shouldn't happen again. I don't know it's all confusing"

Him: "I hear you. You should accept that it has happened and that it was not okay. Then you move from it so that it doesn't affect you in the future. I think that is what you should've been doing"

I looked at him and smiled.

Just then the waitress brought the food we ordered to the table. We thanked her.

Him: "How did your appointment with the doctor go?"

Me: "It went okay he helped"

Him: "I'm glad"

Me: "So tell me about you"

Him: "Well what's there to tell about me...? I am a healer a corporate lawyer and a nice person nje"

Me: "You really don't know how to describe yourself?" I laughed

Him: "No just stick around and you will know me"

Me: "I guess I will"

We smiled at each other but I backed out first.

Me: "On other news how do you know Zizi?"

Him: "We met through Luzuko they have a thing and Luzuko's girlfriend would call me to check him since he is my friend. Then this one time they had a clash I had to come in defense of Zizi and claim her to be my girlfriend because Kea is a mental case and Luzuko can't handle her"

I laughed

Me: “Wait what? Zizi didn’t even touch that story!”

Him: “She’s yet to tell you about it it was so hilarious and Kea wasn’t convinced at all. But we managed to get through that day”

Me: “Bethuna! Things have been happening whilst I was away”

We laughed and enjoyed our lunch had a conversation about everything in the world. It was refreshing and great.

Him: "Thank you for the lunch I enjoyed chatting with you"

He said as we walked back to the building parking.

Me: "I must thank you too it was nice indeed"

Him: "So when will I see you again?"

Me: "I don't know about that"

Him: "I guess we will talk on the phone"

Me: "Yes"

We both smiled and he enveloped me in a hug. I inhaled the scent

Sponsored

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We both smiled and he enveloped me in a hug. I inhaled the scent the sage smell and herbs! Comforting and peaceful. I loved it and I held on a little longer taking in his scent and warmth.

We let go at last a smiled formed.

Him: “Take care of yourself Madlomo”

Me: “I will”

We said our goodbyes and I got in the car and the driver drove out of that building back to my house.

A text message came in as I walked in the house through the front door

“Thank you for Lunch I enjoyed it Madlomo.”

I smiled and made a mental note to get back to it. I walked to the kitchen and there he was busy on the stove.

Me: “Hello”

Him: “Hi you are back”

Me: “Yes”

Him: “How did it go?”

He walked to me and gave me a brief hug

Me: "Well Okay"

Him: "Unuki mpepho" (You smell of sage)

Me: "Uhm what are you cooking" I jumped his statement.

Him: "Dinner I hope you are hungry"

Me: "I am" I blatantly lied.

Him: "Good"

There was awkward silence.

Me: "I'm going to go shower"

He just looked at me and said nothing.

As I walked out of the kitchen he called my name

Him: "Bulelwa!"

I turned

Me: "Yeah"

Him: "You were with him weren't you?"

Me: "Uhm..."

Him: "The smell of sage coming back at this time whereas lunchtime has long passed and now you want to take a shower? A shower Bulelwa what for?"

Me: "I am not doing this right now"

Him: "Did you sleep with him?"

Me: "I can't believe you"

I turned and ascended the stairs to my bedroom he walked in right after me.

Him: "Bulelwa" he said ever so calmly

Me: "Yes"

Him: "I need us to work on this marriage thing for that to happen we need to be honest with each other"

Me: "I am tired of trying to work things out! why don't we just divorce?"

Him: "So you opened his legs for him and now you want a divorce?"

Me: "You know what? I have now reached a point where I am tired of fighting with you because it always ends with a doctor coming for a visit. Siyabonga I am tired of you and I am moving out. Not tomorrow but today now!"

I took off my wedding rings and threw them on the floor.

His eyes darkened!

Him: "That is not going to happen Bulelwa" The calmness in his voice made my heart beat faster than normal.

He walked closer to me

Me: "I have his number on speed dial should you try anything! I mean anything one click can end you"

I said in a low voice but stern fully knowing that I was bluffing.

I stepped back and he walked closer until my back was against the wall.

Him: "I loved you took care of you and made you who you are! Today this is the payment I get"

Me: "You didn't make me you don't own me Siyabonga!"

He snatched my cellphone and he threw it aside and it landed on the bed.

Him: "Even with your weight I managed with you with your infertility I loved you. When everyone left you I was there for you now you are spitting all that back to me! You ungrateful little!!"

He cursed and choked me so hard I couldn't breathe my screams became silent cries.

Him: "You smell like him! You slept with him! You lied to me about a meeting yet you know you are going to a booty call" his grip tightened and I tried hard to gasp for air I felt my own soul was leaving me.

He loosened his hand but turned me so quick and twisted my right arm this time my face pinned on the wall. I gasped hard and coughed.

Him: "No man will ever love you like me! No man will put up with your bullshit and definitely no man will want a fat pig like you! You think he likes you by sleeping with you!" his voice loud on my ear.

Me: "Let me go! Please" I begged crying.

Him: "So that you can go to him!? If I am not having you then he is not either!"

After that he pulled my braids and threw me across the room I landed butt flat on the floor coughing and crying. My heart torn. I laid there in pain he walked out of the room and banged the door.

I slowly made my way to the bed pulled my cellphone and called the first number on the dial log.

Me: "I need help!" I said immediately it went through. My voice barely audible.

Him: "Lelwa!"

Me: "He is going to kill me I need help!"

I cried and the door flew open again. I threw the cellphone across the room without ending the call.

Anger was written all over his face. My heart sank! Right there and then my fate was decided as I saw a rope in his hands. I closed my eyes and prayed.

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To be continued...

Ten

Abuse takes all of you it sucks you up slowly and when it pulls the last straw you are left empty and without meaning. It's like a vampire that slowly sucked your blood and left you lifeless. It leaves you with scars that

no one but you can heal. Siyabonga broke me he tore me apart and succeeded at making me feel empty and worthless.

I woke up to a song playing. It was this lovely one from Mariah Carey and Brian McKnight

“I won't ever be too far away to feel you

And I won't hesitate at all

Whenever you call”

It was playing in a not too loud volume but enough to set the mood.

I got up from the bed and walked to the bathroom to pee as I got out Mawande walked in. I should be thankful to this man he saved my life from a monster that wanted to end it. He called the security of the estate to come help me they got there in time before I was hanged. Yes

Siyabonga wanted to hang me and it was bad that I suffered bruises because I fought with him.

It would be a lie to say I am unshaken it was trauma. Mawande only got there after an hour and found me seated on the couch with a throw and shaking. I threw myself at him and he hugged me so tightly I cried in his arms. He took me with and I found myself on this 6th floor two bedroom apartment that is beautiful. I showered and drank painkillers which knocked me instantly and I slept peacefully.

Him: "You are awake"

Me: "Yes" I smiled

Him: “good I cooked something for you I hope you don’t have any allergies”

Me: “No I don’t have any allergies. What did you make?”

Him: “Mutton stew and pap”

Me: “Great! I could do with some warm food” I smiled.

We walked out of the bedroom down a little passage and we were in the kitchen which was an open plan to the dining and the TV area. It’s beautiful. The kitchen door opens to the balcony outside and through the kitchen window you can see the beautiful Port Elizabeth lights.

We sat on the dining table and he dished up for me.

Me: “What time is it?”

Him: "Way past dinner time it is nine o'clock"

Me: "Wow I slept that long!"

Him: "You needed to rest"

We indulged in our food in comfortable silence.

Me: "Why are you doing this?" I asked as we finished washing the dishes and sat on the couch

Him: "Because your mother asked me to" he said it like it was nothing!

Me: "My mother?"

He just smiled and looked at me

Me: "Don't smile man just answer"

Him: "Well she told me to take care of you and I'm doing just that"

I shook my head.

Me: "Okay"

Him: "You'll stay here until you feel the need to move it's not my apartment. They'll bring your clothes tomorrow and you know you can call me anytime right?"

Me: "Okay Thank you. Can you please sleep in just for the night and you know that it's late to drive back to your house now"

I could do with some company. To go crazy is something I don't want.

Him: "That is very thoughtful of you. I will sleep in the other bedroom but I might wake you in the morning. Seeing that the shower is in your room only"

Me: "I don't mind that"

Him: "Okay can we maybe watch something or would you rather we talk?"

Me: "We can do both"

He turned on the TV to the movie channel. A movie 'Sky fall' was playing.

Him: "How are you feeling Madlomo?"

Me: "I don't know empty and exhausted. I'm still shaken but I will get through it"

Him: "Do you want to talk about it?"

Me: "No thank you"

Him: "Well that's okay if you don't want to talk but don't bottle up. I'm always here to listen"

Sponsored

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I nodded and smiled.

Him: “Maybe you can tell me about your family”

Me: “Well I grew up in Grahamstown. Raised by a single mother with me and my two brothers. I am the middle child the young one died after mom the eldest is in Australia pursuing his dreams. We don’t talk often but when we do it be like a reunion”

I smiled as an image of him crossed my mind.

Him: “You miss him?”

Me: “Yes he’s the only person I’m left with in my family. My father well I’ve never met him. I don’t even know if he exists or not”

Him: “You never tried looking for him?”

Me: "I was dismissed harshly whenever I asked about him no one told me anything. Tell me about your side"

Him: "I grew up in King williams town raised by both parents. I'm the first born child followed by two sisters.

My father was not the kindest parent he was an abuser alcoholic and just a dead person walking. My mother endured his abuse for years until she was tired and decided to let go of him we then moved to mom's home in Umthatha and that is where I spent most of my teenage years"

Me: "Mhh and when did you discover you had a calling?"

Him: "Well. I always knew I was different from when I was growing up but my ancestors revealed it when I was doing my final year in varsity. I would have dreams and nightmares some days of me drowning or in a room full of elders singing and beating drums. At first I was in denial even though the signs were there from growing up I just couldn't understand it. Eventually I went to thwasa

and accepted my gift as it is but it was not easy at all. But that's a story for another day"

Me: "Your life has been eventful you survived it all and now you are here strong as ever"

Him: "It's a life of a hustle and survival we all go through things and we come out stronger"

Me: "We do we definitely do" I nodded as I thought about my own situation...

Him: "I want to know more about you yaz there's this thing with you I can't pin it down but you are..." He smiled and looked at me

Me: "What?" I chuckled

Him: "You are easy to talk to and behind this broken lady I see an amazing person"

Me: "I am amazing? I don't think so"

Him: "You just don't see it Lelwa"

Me: "I've been hearing you call me Lelwa whilst everyone calls me Bulie"

Him: "Well I am not everyone am I?"

Me: "No you are not I think I like it"

He smiled and our locked for a while. He backed out this time.

Him: "I should go and sleep"

Me: "You sleep early"

Him: "I have an early meeting with a client tomorrow don't stay up too late try and get some rest okay?"

I nodded as he got up from the couch and I held his hand and looked at him

Me: "Thank you"

He nodded and walked to his bedroom.

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To be continued.

Eleven

A loud knock woke me up I must've fallen asleep on the couch while watching the TV. I got up and went to open the door to my shock Siya walked in.

Him: "So this is where you are hiding huh!" he pushed inside

My heart pounded against my shirt almost breathless

Me: "I am not hiding what do you want here?"

I said shaking.

Him: "I want you"

Me: "I don't want you please leave before I call security"

Him: "You are my wife you are coming back with me"

Me: "No! You don't own me!"

Him: "I paid lobola for you! You are coming back to the house we both live in!"

Me: "Never!"

He forcefully pulled me to go with him I screamed and kicked crying!

From there I jumped as I felt someone shaking me hard! I was dreaming.

“Wake up!”

My heart was beating faster I was crying.

Him: “It was just a dream Madlomo breathe please slowly in and out. You were just dreaming”

He pulled me to his chest and I sobbed lightly as I recovered from the panic.

Him: “You are safe here shh” He re-assured me lightly brushing my back.

Me: “He damaged me” I said after a long pause and silence from the both of us.

Him: “He didn’t do not let him get to you”

Me: "I don't know how I can go on"

Him: "You need to keep pushing know that you have people who care deeply about you"

Me: "It's hard I am tired of living like this"

I removed my self from his embrace and rubbed my face as I got up from the couch.

Me: "I am tired of fear of not being able to live my life again I am tired from the abuse and right now I feel so useless and worthless. I hate how he holds so much power on my life"

I paced up and down and I kept looking at the door.

Him: "He is not going to come here. Lelwa you need to mentally get yourself out of that house"

Me: "This is all draining me" I felt a huge lump down my chest.

Him: "You'll be okay"

Me: "I should go and sleep in the bedroom I'm sorry I woke you"

Him: "It's okay"

He smiled. I walked to my bedroom and got under covers. I was still shaky and thrown off by that dream.

Morning came and everything felt dull and dead. It was drizzling outside and a foul mood already set.

I got up from the bed and went to the bathroom to brush my teeth I stared at the reflection in the mirror. That man messed me up. No I am not talking about my

external bruises but internal scars. His words still echoed in my head! I moved from the mirror and walked back to my bed.

I don't have to do anything today I can getaway with taking a break from everything for the day.

I reached for my cellphone and as I expected I have dozens of messages from Siyabonga. What caught my eye is text message from Mawande and Gcobisa. I read Mwande's first. Nothing much just him letting me know that I was asleep when he left. Gcobisa is the lady who is in-charge of checking how things are going at the artgallery from deliveries to the interior design and to who I am meeting if I am meeting someone essentially everything that happens when I am not in. She is my assistant and she is the best at her work.

I called her back and she told me of my husband who was looking for me asking if I had come in yet. I just felt my stomach turn as she said that.

Me: "Please do not take his calls Gcogco should he call again"

Her: "Okay ma'am I will do just that"

Me: "Thank you"

I ended the call. I logged in to the social networks and there's nothing interesting there either.

I slept on my back and looked at the ceiling and exhaled.

Me: "You have been through a lot Bulelwa" I said and pulled the covers to my face. I need to rest my body we've gone through so much the past few days.

....

I've settled in well in this apartment today is Sunday and I didn't go to church. Not that I was lazy I just did not feel like it.

It has been three days since the whole debacle with Siyabonga and I was still trying to come into terms with what had happened I also had not gone out of the apartment too I had been avoiding everyone and everything. I did not feel like I was ready for the world again I'm too broken for that.

A loud knock made me jump from the couch I was resting in. I lazily got up and went to open the door and I was welcomed by Mawande- this man I had not seen him since that day too.

Him: "Good afternoon Madlomo" His scent filled my nose I smiled faintly.

Me: "Hello uhm come in" I moved out of the way feeling a bit nervous.

Him: "You've been quiet"

Me: "I needed some time away from people"

I led him to the kitchen area and he sat on the high chair.

Him: "How are you?"

Me: "I am getting there fine. How are you?"

Him: "I'm okay I was around the area and I just thought I should come in to check on you"

Me: "That's sweet of you as you can see I am trying to get myself back up. Should I get you anything to drink?"

Him: "Uhm no thank you and I can see you removed the braids too"

Me: "oh yeah I had to" I said touching my kinky afro.

Awkward silence followed.

Him: "Uhm okay I will be on my way then"

Me: "No I mean just stay and I'll go freshen up then I'll prepare lunch. I could do with talking to someone"

Him: "I actually was here for that"

Me: "Okay"

We laughed and I walked to my bedroom

I cleaned the room showered and settled for a dress and sandals I combed my afro and looked myself in the mirror. The bruises were fading.

I walked out of the bedroom feeling a bit more energetic than I was before he got here. To my surprise I combed my afro and looked myself in the mirror. The bruises were fading.

I walked out of the bedroom feeling a bit more energetic than I was before he got here. To my surprise he cleaned the living area everything spotless the windows opened allowing light to come in refreshing. I felt a little guilty.

Him: "You are done"

Me: "Yes and you also cleaned it smells fresh thank you"

Him: "No worries I think you need to do grocery shopping. I couldn't find anything I could cook"

Me: "I've been dreading to do that"

Him: "They should stop delivering food these delivered takeouts are going to kill you"

Me: "Haibo! and anyway it's Sunday now to go to the shops but I do have a beef lasagne I prepared earlier"

I walked to the oven and took it out the warmness was still there.

We sat on the dining table and we had our lunch.

Him: "When did you find that you love art?"

Me: "I've always loved drawing painting and sketching. The love grew even more when I attended high-school. I was bad with math but good with literature and art. From there I just kept on going"

Him: "And you are so good with it oh and I have a little something I want to do with you"

Me: "What is that?"

Him: "Come outside with me"

We walked outside to the balcony and there were two sketchpads and paint brushes pencils and drawing utensils

Me: "What is this?"

I asked amazed.

Him: "We are going to draw Madam"

Me: "We?"

Him: "Yes I can draw you know?"

Me: "Okay what's the inspiration?"

Him: "Just draw whatever"

I chuckled and shook my head. I can't believe this.

Me: "Okay"

We both sat down on our respective chairs and I laughed at how random it was. After an hour of silence we both finished.

Me: "So you go first what did you draw?"

Him: "Why don't you go first Lelwa?"

Me: "Okay" I revealed what I painted. It was just a landscape with golden grass and birds flying. Simple.

Him: "Wow this is beautiful"

Me: "Well thank you show me yours"

Him: "Okay but first I have to confess. I didn't do it myself I got an artist to do it for me well that artist is my niece. But the whole idea was mine"

Me: "I knew it! Show me anyway" we laughed

He revealed it and It was a beautiful portrait of me smiling. The happiness in my eyes and formation of the smile in my lips portrayed contentment.

Him: "This is how I want to see you everyday look how high spirited you are"

Me: "Wow! I had never had a portrait of me done before It's really beautiful. Your niece is talented I have to meet

her” It had her signature beneath

Him: “I am glad you love it Madlomo” The Madlomo always made my heart smile there's this thing that a clan name carries.

Me: “Look at how she did my eyes! And what were you doing for a whole hour whilst I was drawing”

Him: “I was watching you observing your movement from how your eyes twinkle when you draw the curving parts the frowning when you do the detailing oh the movement of your hand? Magical Lelwa”

Me: “You are something else”

I couldn't help but smile at him

He held my chin up making my eyes land on his eyes.

Him: "You see right here? Is what I want to see you in everyday! You are beautiful Madlomo"

He lowered his head and I slightly closed my eyes taking in his scent and warmth our lips met and I was taken to this beautiful world our tongues danced! So soft so lovely and it felt good. For a moment I was in heaven lost in this marvelous world. He pulled me closer to him and my hands found their way to his torso. I was taken by him I could feel the tingling in my stomach the fuzziness in my head. Heavenly.

He pulled back and he looked at me I was confused and taken at the same time.

Him: "I am sorry Lelwa"

I stood there trying to make sense of what I just felt. The air suddenly became thin and all I could breathe was him. And why was he apologizing?

Me: "No!"

Him: "It shouldn't have happened Lelwa uhm I think I should head home. Thank you for lunch" he walked back inside and I followed in too he grabbed his car keys

Me: "Wande wait... listen we are both adults here we are not teenagers who run after a kiss. I enjoyed it as much as you did what we could do is to just be civil with each other and talk"

He smiled! I felt tingles in my stomach. He walked closer to me and held my hands.

Him: "I don't want to mess this whole thing up Madlomo"

Me: "What do you mean?"

Him: "I don't want the broken you right now you are vulnerable and yes I care deeply for you. But you still need to let go and give yourself time before we can do anything together"

He squeezed my hands as reassurance and smiled then left me frozen on the spot. Confused and with mixed feelings.

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To be continued...

TWELVE

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I had felt everything in that kiss it was heated and so welcoming. For a moment there I had forgotten everything it swept me off my feet.

I thought to myself as I was seated outside on the balcony taking in the beautiful sunset of Port Elizabeth so beautiful that it allowed me to think about everything with a clear mind. I took my cellphone and searched for Dr Philips' contact. I dialed and he answered after a few rings

Him: "Dr. Philips here"

Me: "Hello Dr. its Bulelwa"

Him: "Hello Bulelwa how are you?"

Me: "I am okay Dr. I finally left but it wasn't easy"

Him: "Oh thank you Lord! He didn't do any damage? Did you get him arrested?"

Me: "It was not going to go anywhere the police who came were his friends. They just told me that they are going to take him to go clear his mind. But I couldn't careless about him all I needed was me to get out of there"

Him: "I am happy you finally left Bulelwa! It was not doing any good to you. Right now how are you?"

Me: "I would like to think of myself as okay but the problem is that there's another man. Which is why I need you to forward me to any good psychologist I could talk to"

Him: "You know that you still need to give yourself time after going through such hardship. You don't want to find yourself using the man as a rebound"

Me: "Yes that is what I fear too"

Him: "I know a few I'll email you their contacts and then you can decide which one you'll go to"

Me: "Okay thank you doctor"

Him: “All the best in your new life Bulelwa I am proud of you”

I smiled and said my goodbyes after. I actually need to talk to a professional about this. The other one that once helped me relocated to Sweden and I lost all contacts with her.

A message beeped it said I should log-in to the socials they are talking about me.

I quickly logged in and the first thing that came up were pictures of me and Siyabonga and then a picture of me and Mawande I didn't even read the article because I knew what it entails. Someone leaked the pictures another video which is quite disturbing of Siyabonga popped up too! Apparently he suffered a severe seizure last night at a club and according to the people who don't mind their own business I caused him to be like that because I cheated on him! The nerve.

My mentions are going crazy people are calling me all sorts of names dragging my name to the mud! They don't even know half of the things I had endured from that man. It is upsetting how a person could come out of nowhere and insults you without knowing the full story. The direct messages on my page are on another level too mostly journalists who want to know my side of the story. I logged out without even bothering with people who are bored.

I dialed Zininzi's number

Me: "Zizi"

Her: "Bulie how are you?"

Me: "I'm okay darling have you logged into any socials today?"

Her: "No and right now I'm in the car driving back home what is up?"

Me: "My separation with Siya apparently I cheated and last night he had a seizure at a club. That video is trending too quite disturbing I must add"

Her: "Suxoka!!" (don't lie!)

Me: "I'm serious and you know people are already insulting me! The famous artist cheated!"

Her: "And wena friend you are not even famous but your art is!"

I laughed. Zizi and always finding humour in everything.

Me: "You know! I just don't understand all this. I am going through the most right now and media is the last thing I want to deal with"

Her: "By tomorrow people will forget all about it my friend don't even let it get to you"

Me: "I'm trying not to anyway we will talk some other time friend"

Her: "Okay Take care of yourself Madlomo"

Me: "I will Zizi bye"

I ended the call and went back inside I closed all the windows and locked the door. I took a bottle of wine and a glass and placed it on the coffee table as I sat on the couch. I read a scripture from my bible app

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I closed all the windows and locked the door. I took a bottle of wine and a glass and placed it on the coffee table as I sat on the couch. I read a scripture from my bible app said a little prayer and opened the bottle of Dry red wine. I played some music on the player just to get into the vibes.

“To the future Lelwa. Siyabonga’s chapter is closed. We are done with him” I gulped down the glass without pause. It felt so cool against my flaming throat. I sang along to Keyshia Cole’s Trust and believe.

The wine was reaching my head slowly but surely I was feeling hot and smiling a lot. I danced sang along shed tears! I was closing the book I had been writing for over 8 years. Not at all easy. The scars the hurt the nights of torture and I also appreciate the days he had showed his love it was not all bad.

I laughed as I stumbled whilst walking to the bathroom to pee I made my way back and grabbed my cellphone from the table and sat on the couch and dialed his number yes.

It went through right away.

Him: “Madlomo” I smiled like an idiot my body already doing foreign things.

Me: “Uphi?” (Where are you?)

I giggled.

Me: “They say I am with you and now you aren’t even here!”

Him: “I am driving home you need so.... Wait Lelwa?”

Me: “Mhh”

Him: “Did you drink”

Me: “Just a glass” I was halfway the second bottle

Him: "What can I bring to the party?"

Me: "I don't know yourself?"

Him: "You are really drunk I'll be there just now"

I giggled and dropped the call. I went to change into pajamas and came back to the couch and sang along to more old school RnB while enjoying the glasses of the wine.

After some time a knock came to the door and I slowly made my way to the door opened and his scent filled my nostrils. I smiled.

Him: " I am here"

Me: "I can see" I moved out of the way and he walked in and I closed the door. I tripped and almost fell but I held on to him and he laughed

Him: "We are drunk aren't we?"

Me: "I am not drunk"

Him: "Have you eaten?"

Me: "Yes I even prayed"

Him: "Okay let's sit down Madlomo"

Me: "I love it when you call me by my clan name and when you say Lelwa too! It makes me smile"

Him: "Oh is it so?"

I nodded. We sat on the couch.

Me: "But I don't know Wande I am confused with my life at this point. I still need to heal and be whole again at the same time I don't want to lose you I like you and your energy but I am not sure if I am at a space where I could say I really do or maybe It's that you've been good to me so I need someone to lean on"

Him: "You know we don't have to rush into anything we can remain good to each other without expecting anything above or beyond that I want you to fully commit yourself to me trust me completely before we can get into anything. For now Madlomo we are two people who are good to each other"

He pulled me closer and I snuggled closer to him my rested on his chest. Breathing in his earthy herbaceous scent. So cooling.

He burped and excused himself. I just laughed.

Me: "I think idlozi liyavuma"

He laughed too and we remained in that position with me rumbling everything until I felt sleepy.

Him: "Iza Madlomo" He reached for my hands and pulled me to stand up

We walked to the bedroom I went to release a pee in the bathroom first and then walked to the bed he handed me water to drink and I did.

Me: "Can you please sleep next to me or just hold me until I fall asleep"

I was almost drifting to sleep but he got in too and laid my head on his chest and he kissed me goodnight. I felt at home and his warmth was everything I needed.

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To be continued

THIRTEEN

I was awakened by blinding light coming through the window I closed my eyes and then slowly got out of the

bed stretching my arms. My mouth was dry and scurfy
I've got a headache and my stomach was cramping.

I went to the bathroom and did my business then brushed
my teeth. I walked out of the room to the kitchen and
found Mawande preparing breakfast.

Me: "Good Morning"

Him: "Madlomo Uvuka njani?" (How are you?)

Me: "I'm okay just a mild headache and I am hungry" I
reached for the glass and poured water.

Him: "There's soft porridge bread with peanut butter or
apricot jam you choose. I've also made a cup of coffee
for you"

I sat on the dining table and got served with everything.

Me: "Thank you"

Him: "I have to leave for work I am sorry I cannot join you for breakfast but I am inviting you to dinner at my house tonight!"

Me: "I'll be there!"

I smiled.

Him: "Thank you! Ziyanda will be thrilled"

Me: "About yesterday..."

Him: "You were drunk Madlomo I understand"

Me: "No... I want to tell you that I meant every word and Thank you for coming to my comfort"

Him: "It's no problem you should stay away from the alcohol"

I nodded.

Me: "I will no more for me."

Him: "Okay I'll be on my way."

I nodded and smiled. He took his things and then walked out of the apartment. I exhaled a breath I didn't even know I was holding I finished my breakfast cleaned the place and then went to take a shower.

My cellphone rang as I stepped out of the bathroom. I reached for it and it was Zama.

Me: "Zamacirha"

Her: "Bulie how are you?"

Me: "I am okay Zama how are you?"

Her: "I am well I tried calling you last night but your cellphone was off"

Me: "Oh yes it was low on battery. I take it you saw what's happening on the socials too?"

Her: "Yes and that's the reason why I called you Please don't mind it my friend. Don't even entertain it you owe no one explanation"

Me: "But my name Zama I feel like answering every claim and just clear my name"

Her: "The media has a way of twisting your words Bulelwa. Don't even bother doing that. You just need to keep it moving and focus on your work"

Me: "Okay and anyone who wants to work with me will do regardless of the scandal"

Her: "Good! so are you going to go see him?"

Me: "Who?"

Her: "Siya?"

Me: "Hell No"

Her: "That's harsh" She laughed.

Me: "My love I closed his chapter I don't even have to bother"

I pulled my dress shoes and earrings out of the closet.

Her: "Okay anyway I met with Gcobisa on Friday to see if we are ready for lights on the gallery..."

Me: “Yes and what do you think”

Her: “I think we can install them even better news is that it might be ready to open in two months time if that collection is ready

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even better news is that it might be ready to open in two months time if that collection is ready”

These were great news.

Me: “I also think on my side I have been neglecting the gallery Oh! And now is the great time to market it! I think

I'll announce that competition at first I was going to look for young and upcoming artists to feature on the launch but I'll have to ask for those who would like to feature to submit their work"

Her: "With the headlines going on! Everyone will be in anticipation for the opening and they'll forget about the scandal. You are smart!"

Me: "Right and with the upcoming art festival! I can foresee everything going well"

Her: "Everything will go according my friend! Just brace yourself for the busy weeks and sleepless nights"

Me: "I will darling"

Her: "Okay I have to go. We are having lunch at Zizi's place tomorrow! Bless us with your presence please"

Me: "I am definitely going to be there"

Her: "Good take care sisi

Me: "Bye"

I ended the call and dressed up.

I loved the idea of having many artists submitting their work. That way I would also find some that I could get to work with in the future.

I walked out of bedroom to the balcony. I took the portrait Mawande's niece painted for me. I took a picture of it posted it on my page writing a caption of how I am looking for young artists to submit their work and they might get featured on the opening of the gallery. I also recognized and complimented the girl who did the portrait Ziyanda that's her name. Posted and logged out.

I called Gcobisa asking for heads up on everything happening and everything was coming in well. I made

few calls to my other business associates and last person I called was my lawyer whom I discussed filling for the divorce and the transfer of shares to Mawande.

I also checked my email and made an appointment to one of the therapist for next week Monday. I hope I can make it through this week so I can go talk to her.

I went to town and bought groceries and everything that I'll need for the month.

I found my self parked in front of Mawande's office building as I was done with my shopping. I walked in and the receptionist led me to his office again.

There he was focused on the paper he was reading or analyzing his eyes fixed on the inked words written down. I smiled to myself as he did not even feel someone just walked in.

I closed the door and that's when he raised his eyes looking at me and smiled too. He got up from his chair and walked to me.

Him: "To what I owe the world to be blessed with your presence?"

His scent filed my nostrils and I felt that familiar tingle that happens when only he is present.

Me: "I thought I should bring you lunch since you didn't have breakfast and I know it is a little late for Lunch"

He led me to the sofa that situated the corner of his office which had a wooden coffee table.

Him: "It's never too late to have food especially when you are the one who brought it"

We sat down and I placed the takeaway bags on top of the table.

Me: "I'm flattered"

Him: "Oh thank you for what you did for Ziyanda. She was so happy when she called"

Me: "I'm glad"

We had lunch and talked about things mainly me who was talking and him listening. He has that; sitting and listening to you talk without losing focus and making you the center of attention. I liked it.

I do not know how and when but I felt his warm hands caressing my face I slightly pushed myself to him and our lips met yet again I never felt such warmth and peace for someone. He teased and moved back forcing me to look at him. His hands still cupped my face.

Him: "I don't want to push you away but Madlomo it's you! I know I can feel it everyday"

I saw it in his eyes they had opened a door that made me see through him. I sensed it in his aura that it was pure. My fear overpowered me I failed to reciprocate the feeling.

Me: "Wande You know we can't do it"

Him: "With you it feels right I do not know how I can fight it anymore"

He shifts closer and his hand moves from my face to my hands. I felt the warmth and the connection I knew it was him too but I fought it.

Me: "It's too early"

Him: "No! It is never too early for love"

Me: "I feel pressured"

Him: "I am sorry" He let go of my hands and I saw him closing off again as he moved back.

We remained silent for a minute.

Me: "I don't want to give you half of me I want to offer you the full me and before I can do that I need to pick up what had been broken from me and fix it. Please understand"

He nodded we shared a brief hug before I got up and left his office.

I felt like I left a piece of me with him.

I had to do something.

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To be continued

FOURTEEN

“Please leave him alone he has a wife”

The text message read as I laid my back on the bed after a long two days from viewing the dozens of art portfolios sent to me and going from meeting to meeting after I decided to show up at my business in means to forget Mawande. It felt like I haven't spoke to him in years it felt like a part of me was missing and I do know how I can get it back but I'm hesitant. I had called my therapist yesterday and we talked for long hours on the phone I could not wait for Monday any longer.

I replied with a question mark at the text sent by someone who was not on my contact list.

I jumped and sat up as the name popped up gave me chills.

“Mawande” the text read.

I almost choked at my own saliva prior to reading this.

“Who are you?”

I replied in need to know who would send such a text at this time of the day.

“It is you who he talks about everyday. Please leave him alone Bulelwa. I am his Wife.”

I felt my organs flush to my stomach and the ribs compressed my heart in realization that it happened again. I replied with a simple 'Okay' and placed my cellphone on the bed pedestal.

Another disappointment I thought to myself. I failed to believe because it had been so pure and simple with him yes I told myself it was still too early but what I had not notice is that; I had grown so much to his presence that I sometimes feel like I can smell his scent around the house.

I took my cellphone and dialed his number. Meanwhile I got up from the bed and dressed.

I needed answers.

He answered after a few rings...

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "Where are you?"

Him: "At my house do you need something?"

Me: “Yes you!”

I demanded.

Him: “Okay I’ll be there just now”

Me: “No! I am driving to your house”

Him: "Did you see the time? It is very dangerous to drive at this hour Madlomo especially for you"

Me: "How quickly can you get here?"

Him: "Give me half an hour"

I ended the call and changed back to my pajamas. I went to sit on the couch and turned the TV on. I sat for what almost felt like an hour and a knock came to my door. I opened and I was welcomed by his scent it is one thing that no one can ever take away the way he smells just takes a part of me and it is always the herbaceous smell with a touch of naturalistic plants it was refreshing.

I invited him in and we sat on the dining table. With him drinking the water he had asked for. His dreadlocks were neatly tied on his back his red and white cloth made me want to pull it and cover myself too with it so we can be one without any negative force. My hands yearned to run through his body and have him call me by sacred names. I longed for his touch that always made me tingle in places I never thought a touch would.

I smiled to myself as I looked at him.

He was barefoot too. I wondered how did he drive here without shoes or maybe he took them off when he walked out of his car.

Him: "Nkosazana"

Something in me moved I smiled inside.

Me: "I first have to say I am sorry for making you drive all the way here I just received a text message and I could not speak to you through the phone"

Him: "What is it?"

Me: "A woman sent me a text telling me that I should stay away from you because you are married"

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Him: "What is it?"

Me: "A woman sent me a text telling me that I should stay away from you because you are married she actually begged me to leave you alone"

He laughed

Him: "Madlomo I am not married! Yes I was once but a divorce happened and I haven't had any woman since then"

I looked at him a part of me relieved.

Me: "You are not?"

Him: "No! That person who sent you that was playing with you"

My face flushed as I realized how embarrassing this was!
I called him all this way to ask a question I could've
simply asked over the phone.

Me: "Wow uhm Okay"

He chuckled and got up from his chair I thought he was
leaving but he pulled it so he could sit facing me without
any barrier. He rubbed my knees and smiled

Him: "Madlomo" he said my clan name and looked at me
with a grin.

Me: "Why are you smiling like this?"

Him: "Because I cannot believe you called me for a mere text that you could've forwarded to me"

Me: "I am sorry I needed to hear it from you and see you"

He fixed his gaze on me and remained so for a while...

Him: “give me the half of you I am not asking for all of you just the half”

I looked at him for a while trying to process his request...

Me: “Half of me?”

Him: “Yes”

We had been going back and forth with this and I realized that I could lose him I can't afford that.

Me: "Only the half" I whispered as he came closer.

Our lips met again and this time it was different this time it was assurance new chapter and feelings. It had taken me to a space filled with possibilities and love. There was no point in prolonging everything.

I had closed Siyabonga's chapter when I moved out of his house.

I was not giving this man my half but I was giving him the Me that longed for warmth and begged for happiness whilst I healed the hurt Bulelwa: The naïve little girl that had thought it would be forever. I was handing him the 'self' that was ready to be loved and kept away the 'self' that was hesitant and doubtful.

His hands found their way through my bare skin under the clothes and he pulled me up and walked to the bedroom with me. I was placed gently on the middle of the bed and he climbed in too.

Touching and stroking my body in ways that gave my body the tingling sensation. He kissed me again and instead of us having sex right there and then he pulled me to his arms and kissed me again.

Him: "We can sleep now Madlomo"

He whispered on my ear and ran his fingers through my Afro as my head rested on his chest.

It felt okay.

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To be continued.

FIFTEEN

It was time for lunch with Zama and Zizi. They had called me twice already asking where I was they clearly do not understand how traffic gets during the lunch hour in Port Elizabeth.

I finally arrived at Zininzi's house and they were seated on the lounge talking.

Me: "Hello Ladies"

Zama: "Finally you are here!"

Zizi: "Hello Bulie"

I threw myself on the couch and exhaled.

Me: "Yes I am here traffic was something else"

Zizi: "You should've drove out of your house earlier than lunchtime"

Zama: "Exactly! but what matters is that you are here"

Me: "And I am here ladies"

Zizi: "And what is that glow I am seeing on your face! You are gleaming sisi"

Zama: "I thought I was the only one seeing that"

I laughed.

Me: "It is the 'I am finally happy glow!' darlings" I smiled and they laughed.

Zama: "Look at you blushing!"

Zizi: "Uyambona uyamomotheka"

I looked at them with a smile on my face

Me: "No stop please!"

Zama: "Anyway whatever is making you this jolly then keep up with it darling! It looks good on you"

Zizi: "She should keep up with it I love to see you like this"

Zama: "We thought what's trending would affect you but No! we thought wrong"

Me: “Yes it did affect me but I also realized I owe people nothing about what is happening with my life and yeah I am here glowing and happy now!”

Zizi: “And we love to see it”

We then moved the topic around Zizi and her affair with Luzuko to Zama and her coming wedding. Which would be in September a spring wedding she said. I did mention the kiss between Mawande and Me they gasped as we were having the lunch Zizi prepared for us.

Zama: “What do you mean you kissed?” she was half smiling half gasping.

Me: “Exactly that Zama”

Zizi: “You have feels for Mawande?”

Me: "I don't know I cannot tell you how I feel but there's something"

Zama: "Bulelwa don't you think you are rushing it?"

Zizi: "Rushing what? My friend love will always come when you least expect it! Forget about Siyabonga and jump on the ship with Mawande. He is a good person I know"

Me: "I too feel a little guilty Zama but on the other hand Zizi has a point I've closed the chapter with Siyabonga and why wait when God decided to bless me with a person I feel content with almost all times"

Zama: "Do not get me wrong my friend I think you should take a break from everything and just focus on you first. If he loves you he will wait for you"

Zizi: "But Zama why wait when your heart and mind tells you this is the person imagine Bulewa waiting all to come

back from that wait and find him gone? Life is too short for that. Bulelwa take this as another chance in love and run with it! Do not torture yourself with waiting and all that plus we all can see that you are really in with this man

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I smiled.

Zama: “Just make sure you put yourself first in this one! Do not do things that will make you lose yourself you’ve been through hell to do that again. If it feels like it is

taking your all then maybe it is doing just that I wish you nothing but happiness my love”

I smiled and we shared a hug.

I spent the lunchtime with Zama and Zizi talking about work and other unimportant stuff.

My cellphone rang as I was driving to Spar to get a thing I could cook. It was Mawande.

Me: “Hello”

Him: “Madlomo How are you”

Me: “I am well and how are you?”

Him: “I am good what are your plans for this evening?”

Me: "Right now I am driving to get something I will have for dinner and then head home and bury myself on these art portfolio call a few people and then sleep"

I laughed as I finished listing the things I'd do.

Him: "I would love to see you again you should come over to my house this weekend. The last time I invited you for dinner you did not pitch up"

Me: "Don't remind me of that day I was lazy to drive and I am sorry"

That afternoon I arrived at my apartment already tired I showered and got ready but it was too early for me to drive to his house I then decided to take a nap on the couch only to wake up after midnight.

Him: "It's Okay so will you come over on Friday tomorrow let me just say"

Me: "Okay I'll be there"

Him: "Great Ziyanda will also be home I'll also let her know even though she won't believe me"

Me: "Don't tell her let it be a surprise. Just make sure she's in the house too"

Him: "That's great yazi"

Me: "Yes and I think she will be happy"

Him: "She will okay I should head back to work right now we will talk again later okay"

Me: "Okay Bye"

Him: "Take care Madlomo"

I nodded as if he could see me then ended the call.

I smiled to myself and exhaled at least there's that silver lining...

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To be Continued

SIXTEEN

It was as if the universe could not wait for Friday evening. I was wearing an olive green dress with tan sandals. My Afro was washed and styled. A little make up here and there oh I smelt heavenly.

My car was parked at his driveway at KwaMagxaki this is the part of Port Elizabeth known to be the suburban hood. There are children playing in the park and different

aromas coming from the different houses as they prepared dinner. It is full of life as the sunset brought an orange glow to the ending day. I looked myself on the mirror one more time

stepped out of the car holding my purse car keys and cellphone. The yard is clean and filled with beautiful flowers that seem taken care of. I walked up the porch stairs and knocked on the door He opened with a smile already pasted on his face.

Him: "You are here welcome"

He stepped aside and I walked into this beautiful living room which went all the way to the dining area and extending to the lounge that led to the backyard garden. That smell that always comforted me was mixed with the aroma of spices that came from the kitchen.

A song by Thandiswa Mazwai “Ingoma” was playing on the music player it already connected with the in-depths of me.

Me: “Yes I am here”

He closed the door and then enveloped me in a hug a soft kiss landed on my lips. He smiled

Him: “yho! Awusemhle” (You’re so beautiful)

Me: “Enkosi” (Thank you)

He took my things and placed them on the wooden console table on the side which when I looked up I noticed a very familiar painting.

Me: “That piece was so close to my heart you know”

He turned and looked at me as I stood in front of it admiring it.

Him: "I'm honored to have a piece of your heart in my house"

I chuckled. Right there and then a young lady with long dreadlocks came down from the stairs; slim body brown skinned with beautiful hazel eyes which bulged out as she was shocked from seeing me.

Her: "Oh my God!" she was astonished.

Mawande laughed and I smiled.

Him: "This is Ziyanda My niece"

Me: "Hello Ziyanda" I said with a smile as she couldn't hold her excitement.

Her: "Hi... hello Oh my God Malume why didn't you at least give me a heads up"

She extended her hand but instead I welcomed her in a hug

Me: "If he had told you then it wouldn't be a surprise I am so happy to finally meet you. Your uncle here doesn't close his mouth when it comes to you"

Her: "This surprise I love Can I get you anything to read?"

Me: "Water please"

Her: "Coming right up"

She disappeared to the kitchen and Wande led me to dining table.

Me: "I didn't know I had that effect on people!"

I said as I sat down.

Him: "You do she wont stop talking about it ke"

Me: "Oh wow"

I laughed

Him: "Thank you for coming she really is happy"

Me: "I can see that" I smiled

Him: "How was the drive to here"

Me: "It was okay there wasn't any hassle and the traffic was light"

Him: "Great"

Ziyanda came back with the glass of water and we then engaged in a conversation about art and her amazing talent she also told me she had been receiving calls from multiple artists asking to work with her and I was glad I was able to get her that exposure.

She left us in the middle of dinner talked about an event she was attending. Young people and Friday evenings. We cleaned the table and washed the dishes.

Him: "What would you like we do on this Friday night?"

He asked as we walked to the living room with him holding my waist.

Me: "A movie and then talk or the news. I don't know too."

I sat on the couch and he joined too pulling my legs to rest on his lap.

Him: "You should smile more you know your eyes do this little sparkling thing when you smile"

Me: "You notice even the tinniest of things

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Him: "You are easy to read Madlomo"

Me: "Oh really?"

Him: "Yes"

I shook my head as I laughed

Me: "You are something else"

Him: "Tell me about what makes you happy?"

Me: "Well a lot of things make me happy simple things. Us sitting like this talking is what I love painting of course and many other simple things. But never take me to a snake park! I hate those with my everything"

Him: "Okay snakes out of the way"

We laughed.

Me: "And what makes you happy?"

Him: "Everything makes me happy I am a simple person but I come of as intimidating to others and you were unfazed!"

Me: "You are not intimidating sir!"

Him: "Oh really?"

Me: "Yes you are this soft gentle and caring person! I think people are intimidated by your gift rather than you"

Him: "You make me soft with you I feel like I could rest without worriesthat is why I told you that you are for me"

Me: "I am your weakness never let your enemies know that!"

He nodded and we shared eye contact.

I smiled.

Me: "I feel content too with you"

I shifted closer to him and his hands wrapped around me holding me in position.

Me: "I think I know what we can do this evening" I ran my fingers up his arms.

Him: "Are you sure about that?"

I haven't slept with anyone in three full months.
Ofcourse I was thirsty.

I nodded.

Me: "Yes"

I whispered.

I kissed him and He kissed me back. It was passionate slow and heated like we were finally giving each other what we've been looking for. His hands lifted my dress up and I felt that tingling sensation in my stomach the butterflies and vibrations.

He slightly pulled me up and rolled the dress up to my waist my thighs exposed and I felt his hands move up all the way up that I stiffened he broke the kiss and looked at me for a brief moment before reaching for my neck A

moan left my mouth involuntarily I loved the heat it caused between my legs.

Him: "Don't hold back please don't overthink it Madlomo"

He whispered.

I felt that vibration between my legs.

I exhaled and right then he carried me in his arms up the stairs to his bedroom he took off my dress and placed me in the middle of the bed removed his clothing and climbed on top of me. He parted my legs with his knees and slowly kissed his way up.

I could not even get the chance to look around as he was already making me lose my morals with his touches and kisses. I felt the fabric of my panties rip and a moan

followed as he sucked on my bottom lip. I felt his finger teasing over my entrance down there he groaned light at the touch of it and he slid in his forefinger and his thumb rubbing over my clitoral hood my back arched in response to his touch and I moaned even loud in his mouth.

His finger went in an out rubbing my lady part making me want him even more

“Please...” I whispered unable to take the pleasure that was coming over me! His fingers rubbed touched played and flickered with it and I couldn’t hold it anymore I released right there on his his fingers and moaned loud as a wave of pleasure showered me left me trembling!

I heard the wrapper tearing as I was still recovering

He pinned both my hands over my head with his other hand he parted my legs even more he rubbed it on my entrance and I reacted with with a soft moan. He then went all in filled me up in a way I never thought was possible! My legs went over his hips closing him in.

My moans slowly turned to screams of pleasure and his groans on my left ear made me build up faster.

His body rubbed onto mine the heat was something else! He quickened his deep thrust that were slightly painful and pleasurable at the same time. It was without any doubt that he was larger and thicker than my ex husband One more thrust and we both exploded to this new world filled with pleasure and happiness! Heavenly and sweet.

I wanted us to remain in that position for a little while Sleep was taking over me. I don't know when he got up and walked to the bathroom for a warm towel but I felt it when he wiped me clean then joined me on the bed and pulled me to his arms I felt a duvet covering us.

I was taken claimed and chosen for him.

My love.

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To be continued.

Seventeen

“Lelwa Open your legs a bit” he softly whispered as his hand ran through my thighs I felt the tingles and vibrations again.

We had been at it the whole night he had me in the most incredible way ever my lady part was hot and my whole body was floating in a sea of pleasure. I had been devoured and enjoyed in a way I could never describe it was heavenly.

Him: "Lelwa your cellphone has been ringing non-stop"
He said nudging me to wake up

Me: "Who is it?"

I mumbled and pulled the covers off my my face

Him: "It's unnamed"

I sat up and he had already freshened up. Wow this man.

Me: "You are clean already what time it is?"

Him: "Time for breakfast it is past eight Madlomo"

Me: "And you didn't wake me because?"

Him: "You were sleeping peacefully tired and you needed the rest"

He handed me the cellphone and caressed my face planting a soft kiss on my lips. That scent again the one that had taken me the first time we came close to each other.

Him: "I've taken out a few things for you to wear and breakfast is also ready downstairs"

I smiled.

Me: "Thank you even though I was not planning on getting out of this bed"

I said running my fingers down his left arm

Him: "oh really?"

Me: "Yes the weather is also allowing"

I could see the rain through the opened curtains it was one of those famous windy and rainy days of Port Elizabeth.

He laughed and kissed me

Him: "let's first feed you and then we can be in each other's arms the whole day"

Me: "Mhh Okay. I really enjoyed last night"

Him: "I did too Madlomo every second of it"

He kissed me again.

Me: "I should get up and go freshen up" I removed the blanket and my cellphone rang as I got up and walked to the bathroom. I answered the call as I stepped in and closed the door.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Bulelwa mntanam"

I recognized the voice it was Siyabonga's mother. I sat on the toilet and urinated.

Me: "Eweke Ma"

Her: "Unjani sanalwam" (How are you?)

Me: "Kuyaphileka Mama unjani wena?" (I'm well mother how are you?)

Her: "I'm well mntanami I will not make this longer Madlomo please will you come see me"

Me: "Come and see you? Where Enceberha?"

Her: "I'm in Port Elizabeth sisi I have something very important to discuss with you"

Me: "Uhm I don't know"

Her: "Please my child

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please you have to know this before I can accept you being out of the April household”

Me: “I will try and see when I can come”

Her: “It would be better if you’d come today sisi this is really important”

Me: “Okay I will be there”

Her: “Thank you sanalwam I’ll see you then”

Me: “Okay”

I ended the call and got up from the toilet seat I was about to flush when I noticed blood my lady part was a bit sore from the all night sex but to get my periods early is something else.

I flushed then walked to the shower to freshen up.

Some parts in my body were sore as I bent and applied body lotion especially my legs.

I walked out with a towel wrapped around my body.

Wande was changing the bedding.

Me: "I stained them too?"

Him: "We did Madlomo"

Me: "No I mean with the other thing..."

Him: "Yes and check on top of the dresser Ziyanda unfortunately uses the other type of these things you guys use"

I laughed

Me: "What other things Wande?"

Him: "You know what I am talking about"

He meant the tampons.

Me: "You can't even say them" I laughed and he just shook his head and continued with making the bed as I got my self ready for breakfast.

We went downstairs and I was met by this beautiful thick lady who was light in complexion and had long straight hair. She was setting the table and was introduced to me as Nelisiwe a family member.

Me: "Nice to meet you sisi"

Her: "Same here"

I could tell she did not like me one bit. I sat on the dining table and Wande handed me a cup

Him: "Drink it'll help with the pains and cramps"

Me: "What is it?"

Him: "Milk and some herbs it's not bitter at all"

I was hesitant

He took a sip and then gave it to me again

Me: "You better not kill me" he chuckled and sat next to me

I drank the cup and it was tasteless

Him: "If I wanted to kill you I'd have done it a long time ago"

We had our breakfast under a light conversation. My mind kept on drifting to what is it that Siya's mother needed to say urgently to me.

I told Wande the Woman wanted to see me and he said I should just go and hear her out.

Me: "I really do not want to go to that house"

Him: "But you do want to hear what she has to say?"

Me: "Unfortunately"

Him: "Then you should go and hear her out"

Me: "Those weren't the plans I had for this weekend you know"

Him: "Sometimes things don't always go according to our plans"

Me: "I'll go see her tomorrow or Monday and the weather is bad anyway"

Him: "Okay just make sure you go see her"

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I cannot believe the weekend went by that fast I enjoyed every second I spent in that house. My body has experienced things I never thought it would. My soul intertwined with his and we also had a moment where we sat down with him burning the sage.

I got to connect with me and face the spiritual side of me it had been so different and at first scary I almost

went out of breath but I recovered and let him guide me to connecting with my God. He told me kukuphahla and it helps with connecting with your spiritual self and getting rid of all bad omens.

It had been such a great experience and rewarding because I felt like I am even more connected to God and can communicate with him without any doubt. He also said something about me holding something so powerful within me but I did not even mind it.

I was now parked in the driveway of the house that I almost left with a coffin. The man; from what I have heard was still hospitalized. I said a little prayer and stepped out of my car bracing myself of whatever will be said there.

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To be continued.

EIGHTEEN

The cold breeze and a familiar scent filled with good and bad memories hit my nostrils as I walked in the house.

I walked in and I was welcomed by Nontlantla she is Siya's relative.

Me: "Good morning sisi"

Her: "Good morning mama has been waiting for you all weekend"

Me: "I had gone somewhere for the weekend and I could not come and see her at the time"

We walked in and she offered me something to drink I politely declined.

I went and sat on that same sofa that used to be my favorite. The house has not changed not that I had expected it to but for it to still be the same is something that amazed me.

Our wedding pictures were still hanging from the wall. I wanted to puke as I saw them. A sound of cough pulled me back from that train of thought as I looked up to see this old woman.

She was looking her age but filled with more life in her. We shared a brief hug and sat down with her looking at me like I sinned.

Her: “Unjani sisi?” –how are you?

Me: “Ndisaphila ma unjani wena” –I am well ma how are you?

Her: “Ndiyacenga sanalwam khawundichazele kwenzeke ntoni?” –I am well too tell me what happened?

Me: "A lot happened mama a lot that made me realize I could not go on anymore?"

Her: "Couldn't you report the matter to us and then deal with it as a family?"

Me: "I couldn't I was tired of fighting and dealing with matters"

Her: "tsi! Bamosha oSiyabonga I hear you sisi"

I nodded and she sipped on her tea

Her: "I called you here sisi because we have an important matter to discuss"

Me: "Ndimamele"

Her: "I do not know how I can let you know this sanalwam. I do not even know where I can start"

Me: "You can just say it out ma"

Her: "eh Bulelwa we had done a terrible thing to you. As the family; we thought it was best for you and Siyabonga"

Me; "I am listening"

Her: "let me just start by saying; we are so sorry had we known better we wouldn't have done it"

Me: "What Ma?"

Her: "As Siyabonga's mother I thought you not having a child was something I had to do to protect my son. We as the family thought It would be best to protect his assets without the worry that one day he will have a child"

Me: "please get to the point" I was getting impatient.

Her: "Bulelwa... we had someone tie your womb so you and Siyabonga never get any children"

I laughed and then immediately stopped as I realized that she was serious. My heart started beating fast.

Me: "What do you mean?"

Her: "Enceberha when you were getting married something was poured on your bed. I went to this herbalist and got you tied so you never conceive"

She was shaking as she said this it seemed as if she was being forced to talk.

Me: "Nandivala isibeleko?" –You tied my womb?

I was still trying to make sense of what she said.

Her: "We are sorry Madlomo that is why I am asking you to come with us and we can perform a ritual that'll solve all this now that you have left my son. It wasn't by bad means sixolele mtanam"

I kept on shaking my head. This was unbelievable!

Me: "You did something evil! I hope you all rot and burn in hell!"

Her: "Forgive us sisi it wasn't something we wanted to do but what was needed during that time. I am old Bulelwa and as the family we have decided to let you go and for that to happen we need you to agree and perform this ritual so we can untie you womb and let you go in peace"

Me: "Do another ceremony so you can do more of your evils? I'd rather die rhaa! Nithakatha kangaka!"

Her: "We did it for you sisi! Susithuka when all we did was help you!"

Her voice was getting loud

I furiously got up from the couch and walked out of the house.

Nontlantla walked out of the house too trying to talk to me but I couldn't stay another minute I got in my car and drove back to my apartment.

I needed to rest I was tired.

My cellphone rang as I threw my body on the couch it was Wande.

Me: "Hi

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Him: “How did it go?”

Me: “I heard some really disturbing news”

I sighed.

Him: “Where are you now?”

Me: “At my apartment”

Him: “I’m on my lunch break I’ll be there just now”

I didn’t answer back.

I laid my head on the arm rest. I couldn't cry nor feel the pain. I was just numb like I've disconnected my soul from the body.

His scent hit my nostrils first before I felt him taking my legs to rest on his lap

Him "How are you?"

Me: "I'm numb no pain or anything just numbness and confusion. No I'm not angry or anything like that"

Him: "What did she tell you?"

Me: "That my womb was tied when I got married to her son and to reverse the curse I have to let them do some ceremony for me which I'll not be part of"

Him: "That's all?"

Me: "Yes was there anything else?"

He plainly looked at me

Him: "You don't have to perform any ritual with them have the periods subsided?"

Me: "No"

Him: "you are bleeding not on your periods I knew you were tied but it was not my place to tell you. I just had to make sure it doesn't affect us"

Me: "What did you do?"

Him: "I had sex with you"

I chuckled

Me: 'Stop speaking hear and there Wande"

Him: "You won't understand it but as a healer I noticed it Madlomo you are tied with him and not me whatever they did to you was for the benefit of their own son. When I had sex with you I broke it. It might sound superstitious or magical but it is true and the bleeding you are experiencing is to show me that whatever they put in you was now out"

Me: "So your penis was the answer" He laughed

Him: "You are so raw but you can take it like that. And the herbs I gave you that morning helped with cleaning you the spiritual connection we did was for you to strengthen your faith and trust"

Me: "There's still more to come isn't?"

Him: "You are stronger than everything that will come"

Me: "Why are you doing this for me?"

Him: "Because I love you and the elders chose you for me"

I smiled and looked at him

Him: "I should get going"

He got up and pulled me to stand too his arms wrapped around my waist

Him: "take care of yourself okay"

I nodded

Me: "I will"

Him: "I'll come fetch you later today"

Me: "I have to go to the gallery tomorrow and look how things are going"

Him: "Okay I'll come check on you then"

Me: "I'll cook"

He smiled and then we hugged. I didn't want to let go I wanted to hold on forever.

Me: "I love you" I whispered

He let go looked at me with a smile and a kiss followed.

Him: "I'll see you later okay"

I nodded and smiled.

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To be continued

NINETEEN

A knock hit my office door as I was busy on the computer checking the portfolios sent by everyone around the country. The talent was on another level.

Me: "Come in"

Gcobisa walked in followed by a lady whose face was very familiar I had seen her somewhere.

Gcobisa: "Morning Bulie lady here insisted on seeing you I had to let her in as she was disrupting the guys at the front"

Me: "Uhm Thank you Gcobisa I'll take it from here"

Gcobisa: "Okay sisi"

Gcobisa walked.

As soon as I gave her a second glance I remembered her name; Nelisiwe.

Me: "Morning uhm please take a sit I am sorry my office is a bit clustered up with things"

Her: "I am not staying Bulelwa I just came here to warn you about the man you're involved with. My husband"

I almost choked.

Me: "What do you mean your husband?"

Her: "Mawande he is my husband"

I shook my head

Me: "I'm not following"

Her: "We are married I am not some family member sisi. And he is definitely not who you think he is! He is an evil person! A murderer at that!"

I was confused my jaw hanging.

Me: "I don't understand."

She pulled the chair and sat down

Her: "I know right now you are confused and shocked. Mawande and I are married I am not some family member from somewhere he is a manipulator who hides behind love and manipulation! He'll make you drink things you don't know and then make you his doormat. He is not the person you think he is sisi!"

I still shook my head!

Her: "Don't be naïve sisi run while you still have time. That man is not a saint he uses human blood and remains for his things! runaway from him Bulelwa"

Me: “But you are still with him you stay with him. Why?”

Her: “Because I have no way out! Leave that man whilst you are still alive. You don’t want to be one of them!”

She walked out leaving me puzzled with lots of question.

What a start to a Tuesday morning!

I couldn’t work for the rest of the morning! I needed answers and there was one person who could give them to me.

I dialed his work number. The receptionist directed my call to his office phone.

Him: "Good morning"

My heart started beating fast

Me: "Dlamini"

My voice was firm

Him: "Madlomo how are you?"

Me: "I am okay can you talk?"

Him: "Yes my first client just left"

Me: "I had an unexpected visitor this morning"

Him: "Who?"

Me: "Nelisiwe"

He sighed

Him: "I'll be there just now"

Me: "Okay"

My anticipation was short lived as he arrived at my office and the space suddenly felt small.

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "Hello"

He pulled the chair and sat down.

Him: "Are you mad at me you seem uneasy"

My palms were starting to sweat

Me: "What is there to be mad about?"

Him: "I'll take it as you are"

Before I could utter another word Gcobisa came budging in the office

Her: "Oh sorry to have interrupted you Bulie we have someone very important on call right now! Mrs Banda would like you to quickly get to her office right now"

Me: "Uhm okay can I finish here first..."

Him: "You can go Lelwa I'll wait for you"

Me: "Okay please do."

I walked out with Gcobisa and down the passage to Mrs Banda's office.

Gcobisa: “We have the Chieneka family on conference call they would like to invest in the art gallery and like you to auction some of the paintings you’ve done the one that are your ‘rough work’ as they call it. If we close this deal we might be able to take even more of those young fine arts graduates to showcase their work in the opening. It looks promising”

Me: “Oh great! Finally some good news.”

I was excited.

We got to Banda’s office.

Zikhona Banda; she takes care of the communication aspect of the gallery she knows people in high and low places. The team member who makes sure we get sponsorship and everything runs smoothly.

The meeting with the Chieneka family went really well they are the family that own multiple art galleries across Africa they are from Nigeria and it is every painter's dream to get their work exhibited on their galleries

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oh Leonardo da Vinci might beg to differ anyway they are the A-list of Africa.

The deal was an investment in the art gallery me selling a few of my 'old' paintings at one of the Auctions they will be part of in France the coming year. They will come to the launch of this gallery too. Everything will be big.

At least Something positive came out of the dreadful day.

By the time I was out of that office; 2 hours had already passed and Mawande had left a message saying he'll see me after work.

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The day went on smoothly calling business partners left and right. As much as painting is the main thing; the business is the backbone of it.

I drove from work to the apartment after knock off time.

Approximately thirty minutes later a knock hit my door I walked to the door and I tried smiling as he walked in.

Me: "Hey"

He came in

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "I was about to cook"

I said as I closed the door and he took a sit on the couch.

Him: "I won't be staying the night"

That stung a bit.

Me: "Okay"

I sat opposite him and he looked at me his eyes piercing me.

I held the gaze and backed out first he released a chuckle.

Him: "Bulelwa what did she tell you?"

Me: "I do not want to repeat the things she said"

Him: "When you look at me what do you see"

I looked at him and I saw a man I fell in love with blindly a man who has been good to me.

Me: "I see the man I bumped into at a shopping mall unknown to that you'd play such a role and love me"

Him: "When I look at you I see a woman I love without any doubts. I know we agreed on you giving me a half of you but what you've been is more than that half. Bulelwa I am not my past"

I exhaled loudly

Me: "What do you mean?"

Him: “come sit next to me and I’ll tell you everything”

Me: “You know you don’t have to tel me anything”

I didn't move from the the couch.

Him: “Either way you have to know”

Me: “Okay”

Him: “Nelisiwe and I were once married but that didn’t last long because I was abusive towards her I was obsessed and when I found her with a man in our bedroom things went south they took a sharp curve and I lost myself in the process. I forgave her and it was around the time I was still ithwasa the man who was to train me used my gift for his own benefit he used my powers for only bad things we started by using dead bodies to make some medicine then moved on to using blood as that was not enough we needed warm or hot

blood! He had a snake to feed and it enjoyed new born baby blood so we started taking new born babies even unborn ones. I was lost and that changed me for the worst. Nelisiwe got pregnant around the time things were falling apart to add on the abuse... I also killed my first child and that damaged Nelisiwe even more.

When the trainer's house got burnt down! I lost everything too and I went back home. I was down and out my ancestors had turned their back on me. When I went back to the village I would sleep by the river because I would hear someone calling me the sound of drums and music sent me there. Months after I was taken by another spiritual leader who helped me with everything. I was the trained well I did multiple ceremonies to appease the ancestors I finally found my peace and I became a better person”

What a reveal!! My body was cold and I felt no emotions I was glued to the seat with no movement.

Him: “After getting myself back together I worked on being me again. I received therapy from my spiritual leaders I connected with my roots and found myself again. Unfortunately it was not the same with Nelisiwe she’s still battling with anger issues. I re-united with her again last year January she was down and out. Life had hit her with the worst. I took her back and we tried again but it did not work we divorced and agreed to her staying with me until she finds her feet again.

You are the first woman I brought to my house in her presence that is why she came to you and said what she said”

I didn’t know how to react to the bombs he just dropped!

I remained in that same position for a moment

I felt his warm hands touch my knees he had knelt before me and then moved His hands to touch mine

Him: "Please say something" he begged

I couldn't I was frozen. I was shocked and confused.

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To be continued

TWENTY

I had nothing to say to Wande I had a lot inside me but the words failed me.

He was still kneeling with his head buried on my hands I thought I felt something wet on my hands. It confused me on why would he cry? But then again he told me some of his deep darkest stuff.

At church we always preached about forgiveness and not being judgmental as we are not God and this man needed me not to be judgmental and accept him with all his flaws.

At the same time I could not help but be scared. His past is terrifying.

Him: "I am not that monster anymore Nkosazana"

Me: "I don't know what to say"

I became still for a minute and then he got up and took his keys that were on the table.

he looked at me in the eye

Him: "This is me naked. I am not a perfect man Madlomo I am far from it and now I have told you everything there is to know because I love you and I trust you"

I remained quiet for a second and returned the gaze

Me: "Can you stay for the night?"

Him: "I cannot I have to go home"

Me: "Do not go please"

I stood up and faced him

Me: "I do not like that you are staying with her but I think it is good what you are doing for her. My only problem lies with her. I won't lie and say your past isn't terrifying but who am I to judge you? I love that you were honest and trusted me with your deep stuff"

Him: "I am sure I can work something out for her. I just don't want you to be uncomfortable with me Madlomo I am no longer that man okay?"

Me: "I understand please stay the night. I've even stopped bleeding you know"

I saw a little smile forming in his lips.

Him: "I have to..."

I did not wait for him to say anymore word I tiptoed reaching for his lips. He gladly accepted me and we went in slowly and sweet. It was a kiss of acceptance a kiss of welcome.

My clothes were all over the room and he had buried himself deeper and thrusting in and out of me my moans were too loud -I'm sure the neighbors could hear the noise

It was deep fast then slow and then rough! My arms were behind my waist my face laying flat on the bedroom floor my butt high up and my knees were hurting but the pleasure suppressed it. The high pitch I reached with my moan; the deeper and more intense the thrusts were.

It was majestic yet commanding and I had submitted to his sex. For a moment everything had stopped there were no worries just two of us banging and melting into this world we had created for each other.

In no time I felt the warmness of his shoots inside me and he was groaning as he released more and more holding and pinning my face even more on the floor.

I cried in frustration as I couldn't reach my climax in time
I felt him go soft inside me my knees weakened and I laid
with my stomach on the floor as my body loosened too.

His hand cupped my lady part I tried shifting

Me: "It's okay love" I whispered

Him: "I'll take care of it Let me"

He slipped his other hand underneath and made me raise
my butt.

His soft feathery kisses down my back buried me in
ecstasy it's like he had studied my body and now it was
his temple. He knew which parts to touch and stimulate I
no longer belonged to the real world but to this world of
him and I devouring and connecting even deeper.

He used his fingers and palms in making this moment last even longer for my self I knew it was about me as his whispers of ungodly things that sent me straight to a quick heaven

"Ahhhhh!! mhhh!"

I screamed as a wave of pleasure showered me I felt the warm salty liquid down my face he went in again using his forefinger and the second wave made me release my tears and cries

Cries of fully handing my self to this man cries of euphoria and bliss.

Tears of attachment and submission.

He turned me and looked me in the eye a wave of light fear of losing this man came and I shook my head.

Him: "You are so beautiful Madlomo" he smiled

My ice cold heart melted and I fully handed it to him.

He pulled me to the bed laid on his back asked me to be on top of him.

I chuckled at his request

Me: "I have never done it before"

He smiled

Him: "Just follow my lead okay"

I nodded and he slightly sat up using the continental pillows for his comfort and support.

He held my waist up and then I slowly took in his full erection filling me up in ways that hardened my nipples and my stomach went in sudden vibration of pleasure.

I exhaled as I took in all of it my eyes closed enjoying the feeling of him being completely in

Him: "Don't think too much about it enjoy and let your hips guide you okay?"

Me: "Mhh"

Him: "Slowly move with me sweetie"

I went into circular motion first slowly then forward and back allowing the hips to sway and the pleasure to lead he held on my waist and followed my rhythm. A lot of trust taking charge and full responsibility.

We went in again getting lost in our own world The heavy breathing groaning and moaning being fully in charge and changing from sweet and slow to fast and feisty it went on for some time and I released a loud moan as I came even hard leaving my legs shaking and my face colliding with his chest as he held my butt up and worked from his side until he shoots his warmness inside again....

Him: "We need to get a morning after pill"

He said right after our shower session the two of us tangled up under the covers.

Me: "I'll get them tomorrow when I'm going to the gallery"

We remained quiet for a while listening to each other breathe.

Me: "I am thinking of visiting Grahamstown one of these days I haven't been there for a while"

Him: "When are you thinking of going?"

Me: "I first have to try and make sure things are okay at work and then I can go but it will be a week visit"

Him: "Don't do it because you feel like you have to move from me"

How could I after the connection we had that left me not wanting to even shift from him

Me: "No! Don't think it like that it's something that has been on my mind the last few days"

Him: "Bulelwa I want you to communicate with me okay? If there's something you do not like please let me know please"

Me: "I understand"

....

I thought scaring Bulelwa will make her move away from Mawande with all the shit that man has put me through I still have feelings for him I love him deeply and it will always be like that I Just have to make sure this relationship of theirs go nowhere.

My cellphone rang it's my friend.

Me: "Hello"

Her: "We are outside the gate you're ready?"

Me: "Yes I will just grab my coat and I'll be there okay"

Her: "Time is not on our side Nelly Bongani is waiting for us"

Me: "Nwabisa chill I'll be there just now"

Her: "Hurry"

I took my coat and purse. Passed by the big mirror on the passage and I looked hot tight dress make up hair on point even the red bottoms shoes made me look even cute.

Ziyanda was resting on the couch watching T.V next time she'll be curled up like that; would be on a container that'll ship her far away from home.

The clock on the wall as I walked by read 09:15 pm I am not surprised that her uncle stayed out today too. He has been doing a lot of that.

I walked out and spotted the red VW Polo Nwabisa got out too looking too plain for my liking.

Her: “Finally

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you decided to brace us with your presence get in the car the guests won't be pleased with you arriving this late”

Me: “Good things come to those who wait where’s Melissa?”

Her: “Already at the club serving drinks that is what she does best”

Me: "Okay"

The drive to central was filled with nothing but laughs and preps for the night. The driver stopped at one of long streets filled with clubs the vibe is everything.

We were welcomed in the club by warm steam with strippers all over the red and green lights people dancing their sorrows away. Drinking and smoking their freedom away! We walked to the bar and Melissa was with Bongani. Whom was not looking very pleased?

Me: "I am here"

Melissa: "Oh you are looking hot"

Bongani: "You are late the team isn't happy at all"

Me: "Thank you Melz They'll be happy with what I'll propose"

Bonngani: "You love wasting time let's go"

Me: "I'll see you just now my friend"

We went up the stairs to the quiet section of the club there are different booths here walk in the wrong one and you'd regret it forever. The smell is a bit hygienic up here and quieter with sweet smoke all over the lights are dim only the ultraviolet lights give color to the skin.

We walked into Bongani's office and my eyes were feasted to four gentlemen. I scanned and there was Beast Addi Lukka and Mr Isaac Brown. The team.

Isaac: "We've been waiting for you"

I put on my sexiest smile and took off my fur coat hanging it on the chair.

Me: "I am here now and that is all that matters"

Bongani: "Gentleman this is the diamond of our club
Madam Black"

I pulled my chair and joined the round poker table.

Bongani: "Let us get down to business"

Lukka: "We only need twenty girls from the auction the
best in the business will be a bonus"

Addi: "My friends half a million is what we are bringing to
the table for this Auction"

Isaac: "And make sure you get your best girls 16-25 is our
best here"

Bongani: “The twenty girls you gentlemen need are worth more than the money you are offering”

Me: “Including a virgin or two that is a whole lot of money you'll make from this”

Addi: “If it pleases the table I would like the two virgins for myself”

Isaac: “We would have to talk on splitting there Addi my man”

Beast was the quiet one he observed and talked less.

Lukka: “if half a million is not what Bongs here needs how much are we talking about?”

Me: “Taking that the operation is very risky and transporting...”

Isaac: "As the minister of transport in this country leave the transportation issue aside"

Me: "I love to see you take charge 20M in Rand is what we need"

Beast: "That is a lot of money Nelly"

My head quickly turned to his side I was shocked on the way he gently said my name. He winked and maintained eye contact. In this operation; no one should know your name and this man called me by my real name.

Me: "What do you mean?"

Beast: "You will need to clean the money and that will not be easy"

Me: "Gentlemen you will make a lot of money from these girls and a million each girl is what we are offering it is not even a quarter of what you will make"

Isaac: "Beast here is telling the truth it is a lot of money because we are not sure if this Auction might even happen"

Lukka: "Gentlemen do not be stingy they are rating in rand not in dollars that is not a lot of money" his Russian accent ever so strong.

Bongani: "We have our own way of cleaning the money beast we are not moving from that 20M"

Lukka: "Addi what you say?"

Addi: "We take it the 20 Million rand is not what we can complain about"

Isaac: "I think we will take it"

Me: "Wise decision gentleman everyone is happy?"

The all nodded and agreed. Beast could not take his dark eyes off me. I felt it even when my eyes looked at the other direction.

Me: "I think this is us finishing the meeting Thank you gentleman for making time the VIP booth is all ready for you to go enjoy and a private show from our girls"

Bongani got up too and shook hands with the men I stood up and felt a warm hand on my back the dress is a bare back.

He held on tightly on my waist and whispered to my left ear

"I would love a private show from you Nelly"

Me: "I no longer do private shows Beast"

Him: "come on! It will be worth your while. Sanctuary hotel room 111 top floor"

He grabbed my butt so hard I squirmed a bit and he slipped something on the pocket of my coat before he gently moved me to the side and walked to shake hands with Bongani.

They all waked out and Bongani gave me a death stare as soon as he closed the door.

Me: "Don't even dare!"

Him: "Stay away from beast"

Me: "You will not tell me what to do"

Him: “Keep that attitude and you’ll find yourself in a fruit truck crossing borders without your knowledge”

Me: “Fuck-off Bongani”

Him: “Who are the two virgins I did not think we have them here”

Me: “Oh wait you'll see for yourselves”

I pulled my coat from the chair and took out the envelope with picture

I ripped it open and gave him the pictures his jaw dropped

Him: “Nelly you are not serious!”

Me: “I am dead serious”

Him: "This is Minister Mthiya Daughter and what! Your ex's niece? Are you kidding!"

Me: "Ziyanda and Khanya are our showstoppers! We are going to cash in a lot from the two"

Him: "Does Isaac know you want to sell his wife's daughter?"

Me: "He was the one who suggested it"

Him: "And that Sangoma of yours? I bet he is not aware of this"

Me: "No! This is payback for him killing my child. I would say we should also take that girlfriend of his but we don't want to risk it with her. She's April's acquaintance"

Him: "Ex-acquaintance she's divorcing him"

Me: “What? When did you hear that? That cannot happen”

Him: “From Her lawyer he was telling April about it that’s what sent the big boss to the ER”

Me: “He will be okay let me go check on Melissa keep those photos”

Him: “Sure”

I held my coat on my hands and walked back to the bar. I fumbled in the pockets to take out what Beast slipped in and it was the hotel room access card. I smiled.

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To be continued.

TWENTY ONE

Nothing can ever measure that feeling of waking up tangled to the person you love dearly despite his flaws. I inhaled and exhaled him throughout the night I felt as a part of him as my legs were closed in with his.

I kissed his neck a few times and he wrapped his arms tightly I felt the vibrations again in my stomach

“I love you”

I murmured as I buried my head in him. I could hear the rain outside it was a heavy one that had a cold weather too. The room was chilly but in this bed; it was warm.

Him: “Are you going to work today?”

Me: “I don’t think I want to move from here are you?”

Him: "It is my off day but I have to go to one of the graduation ceremony of the other initiates"

Me: "When is it?"

Him: "Later today"

Me: "Okay... I would love to come with you"

Him: "You cannot my love this one is strictly reserved for family and other healers that were invited"

Me: "Mhh anyway I love it when you wear the full attire"

He laughed I smiled and inhaled him again.

Me: "Serious you hold this power and it's fascinating! I fall even deeper for you"

Him: "You want to know when I fall deeper for you"

Me: "Tell me"

Him: "Every minute I fall deeper" I

smiled and closed my eyes.

I felt loved and my heart taken care of. I still had fear of his past somewhere in me.

Later in the day after he left I cleaned the apartment and called my friends over for lunch.

We hardly talked everyone was busy.

I prepared food and they arrived right after I turned off the stove

Me: "Hello ladies" I gave them a hug as I welcomed them inside

Zama: "What a nice place you have in here"

Zizi: "kanti this is where you're hiding yourself"

Me: "Welcome welcome"

We laughed as they walked and threw their heavy selves of the couches. Poor furniture.

Zama: "Why would you call us over so random in the day?"

Me: "Oh Now I need a reason to call my friends over"

Zizi: "Sisi you've been hiding yourself from us so we have to be concerned"

Zama: "Are you sick or dying? So you need someone who'll inherit your paintings"

I laughed and walked to the kitchen area to get their drinks.

Me: "Ladies I am fine never been better"

I rinsed the glasses and poured juice

Zizi: "The man must be taking good care of you you're brightening up sana"

Me: "Oh yes he is I have never been this happy. Actually everything is just good but except for one thing"

Zama: "tell us about the one thing we will deal with it!"

We laughed as I placed their drinks on the coffee table

Me: "He's living with his ex-wife"

"What!"

The both shouted.

Zizi: "But Luzuko said to me he is not married how?"

I pulled my cellphone and paged through the pictures I had found on her facebook page. Yes I had stalked her right after wande left. I had to...

Me: "He was married mntase it's actually a long story that I really do not have time to tell you about. But to sum it up this lady (I handed the phone to Zizi) stays with him"

Zama: "Bulie! Are they...?"

Me: "According to him; she's there to..." Zizi cut me

Zizi: “I know her I’ve seen her multiple times. Mawande used to complain about her a lot- well he’d complain to Luzuko and he would tell me about it. They have some kind of dark history but I don’t think she’s someone you have to worry about. She’s also friends with Nwabisa- the lady who was all over him at the braai?”

Me: “Oh! How can she want to be with her friend’s ex though?”

Zizi: “She’s weird like that and you should check her Instagram account she goes to all these creepy night clubs in central”

Zama: “She’s a hooker?”

Zizi: “No! Well I don’t know but she doesn’t miss a good weekend to a club”

Me: “If you say she’s at all these clubs you mean to say she’s just using Wande as her shelter and food person?”

Zizi: “I wouldn’t put it past her”

Zama: “We can disagree on many things but she’s hot!”

Me: “I know right? And she had the audacity to come my office and tell me to stay away from Wande”

Zizi: "The Liver! I think she's still up for him. But don't even worry about that my friend"

Zama: "That man loves you Bulie She won't take chance"

Me: "You say?"

Zama: "Yes he called me the other day asking..."

She placed her hand on her month realizing she said too much

Me: "Mawande called you? When? And what did he want?"

Zama: "I am really not supposed to tell you this Madlomo"

Zizi: "Hayike Tell us sisi"

Me: "He really did call you" I laughed

Zama: "He just needed a little information on you

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” I laughed

Zama: “He just needed a little information on you nje random things man”

Me: “Random things?”

Zama: “I won’t spoil it any further chommie just know that he called to know random things about you” She took a sip of her juice and handed my cellphone.

Throughout the lunch I couldn’t stop thinking about what wande called her about. We laughed and talked about everything. It was nice to relax and catch up with my friends about things.

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The mixture of the different aromas of evening food hit my nostrils as I closed the door of the uber and walked in the house finding Ziyanda and her uncle sitting on the couch watching some documentary I couldn’t care less about.

Me: “Molweni”

Him: "Where have you been?"

Me: "I do not report to you"

Him: "Nelisiwe you live in my house"

Me: "So? I am not a teenager please"

Him: "Go freshen up and come back here"

Me: "mxm"

He mumbled something under his teeth as I walked to my room

I took off the tight dress and grabbed my toiletry bag and towels

Walked down the hallway and took warm shower letting the water calm my nerves and cleanse me. I had an amazing time with Beast I wouldn't have come back to this house but I had to. I need a place to stay my money is still not enough to buy me a good place and maintain me.

I finished and walked back to bedroom and was startled by this man sitting comfortably on my bed I tightened my towel – not that I had to.

Me: “Shouldn’t you be calling your girlfriend or with her?”

Him: “Andithi wena you went to her and told her stuff that she wasn’t supposed to hear from you. Nelisiwe what were you thinking!?” His voice scolded

Me: “Don’t shout at me I had to do what I had to”

Him: “This jealousy of yours that I don’t know where it comes from has to end!”

I bowed my head and played with my fingers

Me: “You don’t understand and that’s your problem”

Him: “What don’t I understand?”

Me: “That I am hurting too! That I still haven’t healed. No matter how hard I try to move in I can’t. I still see her tiny face in my dreams”

We had named her Nkwenkwezi she was our... my star. I spent only a week with her but her face is still as clear as daylight. I thought over the years the memory would fade away but it hasn’t.

Me: "I sometimes hear her crying it's hard for me to forget her. And seeing you with that lady; I feel like you have forgotten about us and what we've gone through over the years"

Him: "Siwe I thought we had agreed to moving on with our lives my relationship with Bulelwa doesn't mean I have forgotten about what happened I am moving on with my life. Can you at least respect that?"

Me: "I am sorry I will find another place to stay this week and leave you" I was still looking down and the crocodile tears left my eyes I sobbed a little.

Him: "You don't have to do that I will find a place for you... please wipe your tears"

I felt him standing in front of me his hand held my chin and I looked at him

Him: "It'll mess with your eyes"

I reacted to his touch. No matter how bad things are; his touch will always be my weakness.

My hand held on his waist and pulled my-self closer.

I looked at him and he pierced to my soul with his eyes
he pushed himself closer and our lips met...

Our tongues slowly danced in the rhythm of our souls I
felt welcomed back at home

He broke the kiss midway and left me catching my breath
“Lelwa” I heard him whisper and he tried to take a step
back

Me: “She’s not here please”

My was voice low... almost begging.

Him: “This is the last time something like this ever
happens Siwe I will make sure you move in to your new
place by the end of the week”

Me: “Let it be the last time please let’s do it one more
time and I promise I will never again. Just touch me for
the last time Dlamini... please”

I moved closer to him and my hands unbuttoned his shirt

Him: "No! I have moved on Siwe this has to end"

Me: "She is not here Zizi forget about her Zitha and just touch me one last time"

His lips smashed unto mine and soon the room was filled with heat as I called him by name I was close and he stopped! I cried

Me: "What the fuck? I am so close Please don't stop!"

He looked at me and rammed in so rough I came hard instantly!

Me: "With you it will always be good"

I said as he rolled off taking the condom off and cleaning himself.

He pulled the duvet and covered me.

Me: "You are not joining me?"

Him: "No I cannot Siwe! I have to be somewhere"

Me: "With her?"

Him: "Yes" he pulled his trousers up

Me: "Fuck you Mawande"

He walked out and slammed the door as he walked out I pulled my pillows for cuddle and dosed off to sleep.

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To be continued

TWENTY TWO

He was shocked as he saw me seated on the couch with Ziyanda his face was not expecting me.

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "Hey" I smiled and he smiled faintly back.

Him: "Why didn't you call? I would've fetched you"

Me: "No I wanted to surprise you"

Him: "And what a nice surprise" He walked and gave me a perk.

Me: "I can't stay away from you for a long time"

Ziyanda: "That's my cue to leave" Her
uncle looked at her.

Him: "Are you not sleeping over?"

Her: "I have to be on campus early tomorrow and waking
up here is a No No!"

Me: "I would've loved if you would stay too"

Her: "uhh I really cannot"

Me: "Then who's driving you?"

Her: "My friend is here to fetch me"

Him: "That friend of yours better be not a boy"

Me: "Wande" I laughed and Ziyanda joined

Her: "I'm driving with a girl uncle I will see you when I
visit again."

They shared a hug and she gave me one too.

She walked out and he smiled at me pulling me up to
stand on my feet and he hugged me. Taking deep breaths
as he did.

I smiled as he broke the hug the scent was mixed sweet
and herbaceous.

Him: "I missed you too Madlomo"

Me: "Can we go to your bedroom?"

Him: "Have you eaten?"

Me: "Yes don't worry I am full"

With each step we took up to his bedroom I could still hear her moaning his name and calling his clans. I heard the cry she did when she climaxed. I didn't stand for too long to hear him cum.

Her bedroom is downstairs I was looking for the bathroom Ziyanda directed me to when I had voices moaning.

I closed the bedroom and threw my bag on the bed I had no rage inside me it was numbness and disappointment. I should've known it was a bit too good to be true.

Me: "I need to take a shower first can I borrow one of your shirts?"

Him: "I will join too I'll take out a few you can choose from" He smiled...

We showered together he gave me a few kisses here and there they were kisses guilt I know. Siyabonga used to do the same too.

We got out of the shower I tied my hair in knots and wore his t-shirt. I smelt his real scent the undiluted one that reminds me of herbs.

I brought an overnight bag but it remained in the car.

I got under the covers and he turned on the TV and threw the remote my side the rain outside poured again as he closed the curtain and switched off the light making the only light in the room the one given by the TV.

He got in the too and my head rested on his chest

Me: "How was your day?"

Him: "It was okay the graduation went really well. And yours?"

Me: "It was good Zama and Zizi came over for lunch and we spent the day talking and catching up"

Him: "Great! It's good to know that you're still keeping up with your friends" Me: "Right and it did me good"

The silence sat on the room.

Me: "How's Nelisiwe?"

He tensed up

Him: "She's okay moving out this weekend"

Me: “mhh-mhh”

We remained silent and I felt myself drifting to sleep nicely.

Me: “I heard you two...” I said absentmindedly

Him: “You heard who?”

Me: “You and she the two of you were having sex”

He suddenly shifted

Him: “What are you saying Lelwa?” Why did he have to move?

Me: “Lie down please I was resting” He did.

I placed my head on his chest again. His heart beat had changed.

Me: “I do not want to fight right now I came here to be in your warmth and not fight don’t ruin it for me

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I took in his scent inhaled it and his warmth. I blocked everything just to enjoy this one last moment with him. I had no regrets over how we started this relationship my mind blocked everything and I couldn't even react to anything even if I wanted.

I held on to him for the night taking in his scent and feeling his warmth.

the next morning he was lightly brushing my arms and caressing my face.

Him: “Good morning”

Me: “Morning” I sat up

Him: “How did you sleep?”

Me: “Like a baby you?”

Him: “Hardly”

Me: “Oh Sorry.”

I looked at him and I felt my emotions coming to play”

Him: “I am sorry from the bottom of my heart Madlomo”

Me: “I am not hurt you know I am numb at everything and it is weird because I am the kind of person that yells and shouts at people but now it’s different.

Him: “Allow yourself to feel”

Me: “I think it is better this way because I am able to talk”

Him: “Can I explain?”

Me: “No! Please do not. Tell me this; was it ever real with me or you were just sorry for me?”

Him: “As real as it can be Madlomo still is”

Me: “Thank you so much for the couple of weeks showing me what love really is about. I appreciate it very much Dlamini.”

Him “Lelwa...”

Me: "No don't say anything okay I am leaving Port Elizabeth for a few weeks. Whatever we shared together will always have a special place in my heart what I heard yesterday was a reality of things I am letting myself go"

Him: "No! Madlomo it was a huge mistake please try let me explain"

I got up from the bed and went straight for my clothes. I wore them and untied the knots.

Me: "That's where the problem lies sthadowa I don't want you to explain anything"

He got up from the bed and walked to where I was standing

Him: "Madlomo"

I shook my head

Me: "You have an unfinished business with her! For the fact that you easily got under her thighs right after you told me straight in the face that nothing between the two of you was happening! You need to deal with it and

unfortunately I cannot be here for that whatever we had; it ends here”

Him: “Sthandwa sam please last night was the last time and she is moving out this weekend. Madlomo please don’t do this”

Me: “I have to go”

Him: “At least sit with me for breakfast you can’t drive on an empty stomach”

I chuckled! I held his hand and he pulled me for an embrace I inhaled for the last time and broke the hug.

Me: “We don’t have to fight bye”

He shook his head and tried to hold me

Him: “No! Lelwa don’t do this to me”

I turned and yanked my arm off him

Me: “I am leaving your house without causing any fights with you! Let me leave in peace our chapter here is closed. You disappointed me I feel nothing I am numb and... and right now what you can do is just leave me alone please. Do not come to my house nor do any sort of communication with me. Let me be”

Him: "Can't we talk? Madlomo I swear it was a mistake!
None of it meant anything please!"

I wore my shoes and took my purse. I walked down the stairs and he kept calling my name behind me. I felt the tears slowly burning my eyes my vision became blur and I kept going. I opened the front door and walked out to the drive way.

My chest felt like something was pressing it I took a second and did the breathing exercise. I started my car to warm and placed my head on the steering the tears left my eyes... I revved my car and drove off to my apartment.

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To be continued

TWENTY THREE

I managed through the morning traffic walked in and locked the door. Dropped on the couch and everything came back I cried... The anger the disappointment and the hurt.

I had expected far better from him I thought he was different and I was playing myself.

After what felt like forever

I switched my cellphone on and got up from the couch to my closet.

I packed all my clothes and the necessary things I will need for this trip I have to get away from this town it's causing a heartache.

My cellphone rang just as I was about to take a shower an unnamed number.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Bulie"

My body went into amber mode instantly! I froze on the spot as his voice registered on my mind.

Me: "April what do you want?"

Him: "Auw baby you are not going to ask how I am"

Me: "I don't care how you are"

Him: "Mhh-hh-hh you've gotten feisty after you let him in your pants"

Me: "Mxm go kill yourself"

Him: "Bulie I need you back my love. That jerk came here delivering those papers and I didn't sign them. I know you wouldn't do that to me I love you baby please come back home"

I felt like vomiting I ended the call and went to take a shower.

I fixed myself and got ready for the trip.

Everything was ready as I heard a knock on my door. I went to open and his scent hit my nostrils first. His eyes were bloodshot red! He looked horrible for someone I saw in the morning.

Him: "Can I come in?"

Me: "What do you want?"

Him: "Can I come in please?"

I moved away and he got in I crossed my arms and looked at him as he leaned on the couch

Me: "Mawande what do you want?" My voice grew a little louder but it was delivered as more of a cry than a question.

Him: "I cannot do it anymore I messed up but please give me another chance"

Me: "I know that song it has been replayed time in and time out I'm no longer interested"

Him: "I am not him and I will never be! Please stop comparing me to him"

Me: "Mawande I don't need this find your way out please"

I went back to my bedroom and did the last bits and pieces of things. I fixed my hair and did a little make-up. I made the bed and closed the windows checked the taps and everything I used during my stay here.

Everything was okay in the bedroom.

I pulled my suitcase and other bags out of the room and he was still seated on the couch

Him: "You're leaving?"

Me: "Yes"

I checked the kitchen and everything was Okay.

I grabbed my keys and looked at him

Me: "Please leave"

Him: "Bulelwa... I love you and I will always will. I am sorry for what you heard last night it was a huge mistake and it meant nothing! I will respect your decision and I am sorry again for hurting you"

He walked closer and I stepped back I could not bring myself to him because his touch will send me to a place I don't want.

My back hit the wall and I knew it over for me

He held my hand and looked at me with his stressed eyes
I saw him vulnerable and weak...

His touch first made me let out a deep breath

Him: "You don't have to leave"

My eyes closed as I tried blocking him out of my thoughts

I felt his lips on my neck ever so soft

He pushed himself even closer to me I felt his bulge and I instantly reacted

Me: "We can't" I whispered

Him: “Yes we can...” he said too close to my ear and damn me for wearing a dress.

His hand pulled it up and softly rubbed over my underwear and my arms went around his shoulders as a moan escaped my mouth.

His lips smashed against mine and he kept rubbing lightly making me moan in the kiss I felt hot and he ripped the piece of clothing

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I felt hot and he ripped the piece of clothing his hand rubbed against my clit.

One... two... three.... Four... as I was about to hit my climax he moved his fingers to my behind I cried in frustration!

“No... I am close”

I cried and held on to him.

Him: “Don’t go please”

Me: “I have to”

He sucked on my neck and made me go crazy he knows that it’s my weak spot.

I tried humping but he wouldn’t budge!

I unzipped his pants and it came out to play hitting my skin warmly I almost exploded.

His hands unzipped my dress and it went over my head straight to the floor.

I moaned and held on to him as my legs went over his waist and he immediately let himself in my cookie I gasped hard at the fullness of it.

He went in so fast and rough I was bouncing up and down I held on tightly on his back as I enjoyed the pleasure! My head fell back as he went in and out hard and hitting the right spot

I cried as I came in a way I had never before! I felt the anger as he continued shooting himself warm inside of me.

Tears left my eyes as my body was weak and my limbs couldn't move

"I love you I love you Lelwa"

He was still inside

I buried my face in his neck and cried wetting his t-shirt

He walked with me to the couch and held me in his arms whilst rubbing my back

Me: "You see how you're hurting me"

Him: "I can see sthandwa sam and I will never again!"

Me: "I need some time away from you"

Him: "I understand just know that I love you and I will never stop okay"

Me: "I do not know about that"

Him: "Why do you feel the need to move?"

Me: "Because I realized that I haven't gave time for myself ever since I came back from Tanzania I need to find me again and that means being away from people especially you"

Him: "That's a bit harsh"

Me: "What's hash is you sleeping with someone I thought you were over and done with! But I've been the biggest fool of all time" He remained silent

Him: "You know we don't have much time together? These weeks you're going to be away from me will hurt"

His eyes have changed to a faint color of red they were slightly getting clearer.

Me: "What do you mean we don't have much time?"

Him: "Exactly that. I love you never forget that"

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Me: "I called her earlier today mother and she still doesn't want anything to do with me"

Her: "Siyabonga you have to do something we cannot lose that girl"

Me: "Then you should've thought of that when you went to tell her she was tied"

Her: "Do not tell me what I should've thought! What's done is done! Wena find a way to get back to her"

She paced up and down the hospital ward

Me: "What's Dlamangwe saying?"

Her: "That useless man said that Bulelwa is protected she is now seeing that Sangoma and she's no longer tied to us. Nothing will work unless you revoke her feelings yourself"

Me: "I still don't understand why we should be doing this when we could easily kidnap her and take her to the village"

Her: "She's of royalty mntanami and we need her for you to take on the spot of being a King!" Me: "And how do you know that?"

Her: "Umuncu kanene! You think her marriage with you was only nje because she loved you? No Dlamangwe worked to soften her cold heart! So you could be the

next king of that place! King yabathembu is one rich man! And all that richness will fall to you! Bulelwa's time has come for her to take the throne as she is the first born daughter and in my knowledge the king has no sons!"

Me: "So Bulelwa will be queen and every kingdom needs a king?"

Her: "And that is where you come in my child!"

Me: "Wow! That would be great"

Her: "Find a way to lure her back in ke nyana" Me:

"We'll need to cross the Crocodile River for that!" A smile emerged from her mouth in agreement.

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To be continued

TWENTY FOUR

It has been four months since I last saw Wande and in those months it has been nothing but a bumpy ride I am always tired and I don't like certain smells. I threw up the other day at work as they were painting the walls of the gallery. I threw out most of my perfumes and shower gels because the scent was too much for me to handle.

At first I suspected pregnancy but when I had my periods and the home test came back negative I relaxed.

My thoughts would be I am sick because I have not seen him for a long time but that would be childish.

I moved from the apartment two weeks after I got back from my mother's house in Grahamstown. I got a cute house in Algoa Park not much of a yard but the big kitchen sitting area lounge and three bedrooms two baths sold me. The rates aren't much higher and the

neighborhood isn't filled with much noise as the town apartment did. Things are much better this side.

April has also been a nerve I had to block his contacts from everything. I can never go back to that jerk.

Mentally; things have been rough but coping is the deal. Emotionally; strong but there are days.

The grand opening of my gallery is tonight I cannot help but be happy and joyful of everything we had been through the past few months as the team.

My cellphone rang as David –hairstylist- was busy making my nappy hair look cute and ready for the big night.

I answered

Me: "Zamacirha"

Her: "Sthandwa everything is ready for the opening journalists and photographers are ready covering the things that happen before how far are you?"

Me: "Well Dave is doing my hair and then he'll help me in my dress we should be there in an hour or so"

Her: "Okay baby I cannot wait to see you how's the sickness?"

Me: "I still feel cramps in my lower abdomen but I am there"

Her: "Babe you are pregnant! Don't take any pain killers! It'll die down"

Me: "Zama the pregnancy test came back negative my stomach is still flat and nje things are still okay"

Her: "Your stomach isn't flat! Your brain is messing with you"

Me: "Zama I'll see you in an hour"

Her: "I cannot wait! Drink water and take care of my baby there"

Me: "Dave can take care of himself"

Her: "Oh no darling I am talking about the one in your womb! Bye Madlomo"

I laughed

Me: "Bye sthandwa"

I ended the call and looked at Dave through the mirror.

Me: "David be honest with me; do you think I'm pregnant?"

Him: "Well sweetie you've gained some kilos and I wouldn't be surprised if you were I mean look at you with your obsession with unscented things!"

Me: "So you do think I'm pregnant?"

Him: "Bulie don't put words in my mouth darling wena tomorrow go visit the doctor and see for yourself"

I took a deep breath and kept quite as he finished with my hair.

Half an hour down everything was ready.

My dress looking all good with the pencil heel that complemented the dress my afro was styled well and make up looking great!

The jewelry was not too much I looked elegant classy and arty.

My driver arrived and thank God my house is a single story no need for stairs.

I took my purse and Dave helped with locking the doors and making sure the alarm is set.

In no time we were at the venue announcing the opening everyone happy and jolly...

I saw him right after the doors opened and everybody walked in gasping at the beauty of the gallery admiring the paintings and some already putting down a price.

He was wearing his well ironed trousers with a t-shirt and his Sangoma cloth over his head and over his body the beads came out to play too and I couldn't help myself but smile at his presence I inhaled his scent from a distance and my eyes closed. Opening to see Ziyanda behind him looking gorgeous with that body hugging long dress accompanied by stilettos and her makeup well done her dreadlocks styled perfectly.

I moved from where I was standing as I saw him
approaching I mingled through that crowd only to feel
warm hands stopping me

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it was Gcobisa.

Her: "Slow down you might fall!"

Me: "Sorry!"

Her: "Half of the paintings from the young artists are sold
out we had to add others to display yours and
Ziyandawe'll need to have an auction because there are
fights!"

Me: "You mean they are in demand?"

Her: “Yes! Your collaboration with her is much appreciated by people and oh here she is; you can tell her this yourself”

As I turned his herbaceous scent hit my nostrils first! I could’ve sworn something in my stomach moved

Me: “Hello”

Ziyanda: “Sis Bulie I heard the news and all I can say is we make a mean team!”

Me: “And it is all because of you young lady! Mrs Mbatha in the national arts festival would like you to display some of your work there!”

Ziyanda: “Mrs Mbata? As In thee Lulu Mbata?” Her eyes were sparkling in excitement”

Me: “Yes darling you should expect her call tomorrow”

I smiled as she jumped up and hugging me

Ziyanda: “Thank you very much sis Bulie”

Me: “you deserve it babey”

Wande: “Ziyanda won’t you please get me something to drink”

She looked at him then me and then back to him and nodded as she pulled Gcobisa with her leaving the two of us looking at each other.

Him: "You look beautiful"

Me: "Thank you. You aren't too bad yourself"

Him: "Oh don't play with me congratulations on pulling this off too"

Me: "We all played our roles for the success of this gallery"

We remained silent for a moment our eyes wondering off in the crowd.

He walked closer to me and my eyes slightly closed as I took in his scent again! I missed him so much I felt like hugging him.

Him: "How have you been?"

Me: "Good" it came out more of a plea than an actual answer of 'good'

Him: "I've been coping I can't get over how beautiful you look"

Me: "Well thank you"

Him: "Okay let me leave you then and check out the rest of the gallery"

He smiled and revealed that dimple I did not want him to move but I avoided awkwardness.

Zama walked to me holding a glass of water.

Her: "here for my child"

Me: "You should stop hallucinating I am not pregnant"

Her "Wait until you go to the doctor!"

Me: "You love dreaming wena! And the lighting you did here came out perfect my friend where's Zininzi? She disappeared on me"

Her: "Probably shagging Luzuko in the toilets they've been tongue and the mouth these days"

Me: "But isn't Luzuko here with his girlfriend?"

Her: "Her girlfriend is not the type that vibes in galleries she left the scene"

Me: "Umhlola! Hay as long as people are enjoying themselves! Then everything is good"

The night went really well the event was more than I had expected! People came out to play with their gowns and wallets and right now going to the nearest club for the after part of the gallery.

Unfortunately for me; I felt sick again with the mixed sweet and sour scents of many people! Funny enough I couldn't stay too far away from Wande his scent was always trying to lure me in.

April also came but I was sick with him the moment he walked in I wanted to vomit.

I got in my house and went straight to the bath I had a warm long one. Got into my pajamas and slept immediately my head hit the pillow.

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To be continued.

TWENTY FIVE

“I am taking your ass to the doctor! There’s no way in hell you can be sick like this!”

Zama’s voice echoed as I couldn’t even move from the sleepiness and the pains in my back she’s also been part of the ‘Bulie is pregnant’ gang and I cannot believe them.

Me: “Zininzi I am sick like everyone I am not pregnant! And what are you doing in my house so early in the morning?”

Her: “You don’t remember calling me saying I should come you are scared and in pain? And I am Zama not Zininzi!”

Yes last night I felt the pains but not to a point I could take my cellphone and call her.

Me: “No!”

Her: “Then your problems are many you’re even forgetful!”

Me: “Zama I am okay. Just tired let me sleep please!”

Her: “It’s either I drag you to the doctor in your gown or you get up from there and go freshen up! I’ll make porridge for you since it’s the only thing you can stomach”

Me: “I am feeling really sleepy right now okay”

Her: “Zininzi will check on you later she’s been busy with Bayolise”

Me: “Okay”

I went to the bathroom and took a shower I wore my casual clothes. Made my bed and walked to the kitchen to find Zama dishing up for me.

Her: “Good!”

Me: "I so want to sleep right now"

Her: "The doctor's appointment is in an hour better hurry sthandwa sam"

Me: "My purse is on top of the bed pedestal and my cellphone too what time is it vele?"

Her: "08:45 am we are leaving at nine the traffic is a nightmare this side"

Me: "Okay"

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"Congratulations Bulelwa you are 13 weeks pregnant!"

Dr. December's voice said joyfully I sat there on the bed looking at her my mind trying to register what she just said.

Zama: "I knew it! Doctor can you do a scan?"

Her: "Yes of course Bulelwa please lie down on the bed and be comfortable"

I did as told still in shock of the news said by the doctor I came to realize as I laid back that my stomach was indeed more hard and round the line down my stomach was more visible than usual.

She pressed on this cold gel and a remote like thing over it.

She made me look at this little screen next to me and I saw a tiny thing in my womb then a sound came. A beautiful sound thumbing like little feet stomping. My heart melted.

Dr. "That's the heart beat there"

Zama: "Oh God my friend!! Dr. can you print pictures?"

Dr. "Yes of course congratulations again Bulelwa. You're going to enjoy this! Try booking monthly check ups with your doctor I've taken your blood for testing. I've recorded everything in your health book he or she should find it easy to continue with the rest. Try eating healthy exercise. Do not stress and enjoy the period mommy"

A smile formed as I wiped the gel off me and got up from the bed

Zama: "Zininzi is going to be so happy. Uhh doctor another thing; Bulelwa has been getting sick a lot also forgetful at times"

Dr. "The first trimester is very tricky there's a lot of unusual things that may happen for instance the mild pains of the womb stretching sleeping a lot because of

development purposes. A lot of things happen and sometimes the pain comes with being a little forgetful hence the stress is something we must try and limit her from”

Me: “And I can’t stomach anything except fruits and porridge”

Dr. “As I’ve said things get a lot tricky I will prescribe some multivitamins for you and it is essential for you to start those checkups with your doctor or go to your nearest clinic. For first time pregnancy try mingling with other moms and attend antenatal classes okay”

I nodded

Zama: “Thank you very much doctor”

Dr. “Congratulations once again Bulie”

I smiled and we walked out of the surgery passed by the chemist for the pills and the head straight to my house.

Zama hugged me as soon as we walked in

Her: “You should let him know”

Me: “I am not sure”

Her: “He deserves to know baby”

A wave of fear showered me as memories of his past came to my mind...

Me: "No!" I said in a rather too loud tone and she looked at me

Her: "Is there something I am missing? You also never said what happened between the two of you"

Me: "I really need to rest Zama my whole body is tired"

Zama: "I'll make you fruit pieces at least you can have something in your stomach so you can take your pills"

Me: "Thank you very much Zama"

I laid my head on the couch and instantly dosed off!

I woke up to an annoying noise of the alarm I got up from the couch and took my cellphone and switched off the annoying sound.

Zama left a note saying my fruits are in the fridge because by the time she was done

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I was already gone and she just set the alarm so that I wake up after half an hour.

I moved from the couch to the kitchen opened my fridge and indulged.

I drank the pills and went to take a warm bath that soothed my body.

I wore track pants with kicks a long sleeved vest and a warm coat the weather isn't fair in PE.

I took the envelope with picture and car keys.

I drove my car to his house the sun was starting to set. Winter season doesn't wait for anything at four o'clock its already dusk.

I parked on his drive way and knocked on the door.

Ziyanda opened smiling and then enveloped me in a hug.

Her: "Sis Bulie"

Me: "Hello Baby how are you?"

Her: "I am okay how are you?"

I walked in as she closed the door.

Me: "I am trying is he in?"

Her: "Yes his bedroom"

Me: "Okay uhh..."

Her: "Sis Bulie you can walk up to the bedroom I'm busy cooking too"

I smiled and she laughed

Me: "Thank you baby"

Her: "I hope you'll join us for dinner right?"

Me: "Most definitely"

Her: "Great! Let me go back before I burn the food"

She quickly disappeared to the kitchen up the stairs

I walked.

I didn't bother knocking on the door I walked right in and there he was on the bed slowly focused on what he's typing away on his laptop

Me: "Hi"

I said and he looked up smiled as my face registered on his mind.

Him: "Lelwa"

Me: "Hey" I walked in and he closed his laptop and placed it on aside.

Him: "Wow this is a surprise how are you?"

Me: "Okay... can we talk"

Him: "Yes sure"

We sat on the bed and I handed him the envelope.

Him: "What is this?"

Me: "Open and see for yourself"

I took off the coat and he smiled at me not even bothering with opening the envelope.

Me: "You knew didn't you?"

Him: "Yesterday; the dress sold you I had my suspicions but I wasn't sure"

Me: "Great"

Him: "You don't seem too happy"

I remained quiet for a moment...

Me: "I want to... I want to terminate I am not ready"

Him: "You are not ready? What do you mean?" His voice almost shouted.

Me: "You see how complicated both our lives are? Do you think we are ready for a child?"

Him: "I don't know about the complications you are talking about! But I won't have you terminating this pregnancy because you are so selfish to let me in to your life again! The months we've been apart have been nothing but hell to me!"

My blood boiled

Me: "Selfish? Mawande I am selfish now when you were the one who slept with that girl whilst you had just confessed your love to me? You basically cheated and you think that is easy to take while you had me drowned in your love! You think I'm selfish by staying away from you? I shouldn't have even came here"

Him: "How many times can I say I am sorry Lelwa? I know it was wrong of me but trust me I have learnt my lesson and I need you back! We need each other Madlomo." I paced up and down the room trying to keep calm.

For a while silence sat on the room.

I stood and looked at him he pulled me to stand in front of him and he was seated on the bed.

He pulled my vest up and rubbed my stomach

Me: "It's still a tiny thing you won't feel any movement yet..."

Him: "I need you back in my life Madlomo we need each other. Look at this magic we've created together"

Several kisses landed on my tummy. Me: "Don't call my pregnancy magic wena" He laughed.

Him: "So what do you say? Should we try again I promise you this time it's for real"

I nodded and he smiled. He pulled me to sit on his lap.

Him: "What happened with Nelisiwe was a huge mistake a moment of weakness and fear of being too much for you. I can assure you that these months we've been apart; a lot has changed. I have let go of her not because

I was doing it for you – well in some way I was too but it also made me take a step back and look closely at my mistakes I am over and done that book is closed forever. I'm with you now"

Me: "You'll never be too much for me. And what did you mean we don't have much time together?"

He shifted uncomfortably holding me in position.

Him: "You'll soon find out it is not my place to tell you"

Me: "You're worrying me how much time do we have?"

Him: "Don't worry about it let's just enjoy the time we have now and forget about the rest okay?"

I nodded and his hands caressed my face and our lips kissed passionately and sweet.

His hand kept on brushing my tummy.

Him: "We will make great parents"

I laughed

Me: "I think so too"

Him: "Thank you sthandwa sam for this chance again"

I smiled and in no time I was sent to heaven and back with multiple orgasms and sweet love making. The

steamy sessions were back and I was in his hold and warmth again.

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To be continued

TWENTY SIX

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“We need to go down for breakfast mother wants to see the person who was making noise all night”

He laughed and I cringed under the covers.

He pulled the duvet off my face.

He didn't even mention that he was expecting his mother how could I get up and gather the strength face an elder woman right after I screamed his son's name all night long!

Me: "No!"

Him: "What do you mean no?"

Me: "I'll have to miss breakfast I cannot and it's actually the first time I'm meeting your mother what kind of a person meets his partner's mother the morning after such noise! Wande you didn't even warn me"

I shook my head and gave him the stare.

Him: "Majola probably heard nothing she arrived whilst you were sleeping nje"

Her: "But still we were too loud"

Him: "Bulelwa this is my house. Anyone who comes visit here must expect anything now stop being a baby and get up"

He said removing the duvet and pulling me to get up Me: "I should've gone back to my house last night yazi"

Him: "I'm glad you did not and she's a very nice lady you'll love her"

Me: "I don't know about her loving me"

Him: "She loves you already"

He told her about me? Doesn't sit well with me.

Me: "Wow"

Him: "Go Bath I'll make the bed"

I dragged myself to the bathroom.

Elderly women are known to see pregnancy very early I hope she doesn't notice mine well who am I fooling the lady probably smelt pregnancy the minute she walked in the house...

Him: "Stop feeling so anxious loosen up"

He said leading me to the dining table for breakfast

Me: "You're making me anxious"

Him: "I would leave if you want"

Me: "You wouldn't dare"

He laughed as we placed the plates on the table his mother and this other lady – told to me to be someone who takes care of Wande's mother appeared with their loud voices laughing at something I don't know.

I looked at his mother she's like a version of him she's aging well and her face tells she was the most beautiful lady in her times- still is but not he same.

She smiled in my direction and I nervously returned it too.

Her: “Molo sisi”

Me: “Eweke Ma”

She smiled and offered her hand I took it and she gratefully pulled me in a hug. This family and warm hugs-

Her: “How are you?”

Me: “I am good how are you Ma?”

Her: “Ndiyacenga nam sisi” – I’m getting there.

Him: “Can we sit down and eat?”

He broke the moment we laughed and sat around the table.

Her: "I am happy to finally meet you Bulelwa sisi hayi he doesn't shut his mouth when it comes to you but I can't help but wonder where I have seen you your face is so familiar"

Him: "You probably saw her on TV she's famous

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she's famous"

He said it absentmindedly and couldn't help but chuckle his mother gave him the look-

Her: "Inenee it is true sisi?" she turned to me

Me: "Not entirely but yes my art work does get media exposure and I sometimes do the interviews but I am not always in the limelight"

Her: "Ohh I hear you sisi but no man Thotyiswa doesn't this girl look familiar?"

The lady turned her direction to and smiled weird...

Thotyiswa: "Hayi sisi what I see is just beauty tyhini intle lentombi Mawande"

Him: "She is beautiful Makazi"

I noticed very strange brief eye contact between Wande and his mother.

I shifted nervously that look could mean a lot of things but I hope it is not disapproval..

Ziyanda walked in high spirited.

Ziyanda: “Molweni Makhulu” she hugged the two ladies that responded with the same energy as her. The table felt warm being surrounded by the matriarchs of the family.

Ziyanda: ‘Sis Bulie Kunjani?’

Me: “ I am good baby how are you?”

Ziyanda: “I can’t complain” She smiled and sat down

Wande: "So you don’t ask me how I am?”

Ziyanda: "If Sis Bulie is okay then so are you"

Laughter erupted around the table.

We had breakfast under a light conversation. With the mother asking about my background and where I come from. Hard thing to talk about but we live and move with the waters.

"Tyhini Mawande unzima nje lomntana" – Mawande she's pregnant

I heard the mother whisper as I walked back the dining room but I remained positioned on the passage making sure they don't notice me.

Him: "She is"

Her: "Does she know?"

Him: "Yes she went to the doctor yesterday and they..."
she cut him halfway

Her: "Nxaa marn I'm not talking about that!"

He remained quite for a moment...

Her: "Thiza akayazi!" –My goodness she doesn't know

Him: "She will soon know Ma just let me enjoy this time
with her"

Her: "I don't like this Dlamini! It is not gonna end well for
the both of you especially now that she's expecting your
child! Hayi nawe I knew she looked familiar"

I frowned as a wave of worry shadowed me.

Him: "Just don't say anything to her"

Her: "I don't like this at all" silence fell after and then a chair shifted

I moved back to the kitchen and stood by the sink to wash my hands act like I was...

His scent welcomed him first as I felt his hands sneak behind me holding my waist.

He wrapped them around me as I closed the tap and dried my hands.

Him: "You have work today?"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "Don't go"

Me: "What?"

I turned and looked at him placing my hands on his torso

Him: "People are there to take care of things and they'll call you if something comes up"

Me: "I just opened the Gallery and you're already deciding things anyway I have to go back to my house I'm expecting people"

Him: Okay...so.. Mother knows simithisene"

Me: "Elders see everything it was expected"

Really not surprised...

he chuckled and I flinched at the sudden sharp pain below my abdomen I pushed him aside and almost screamed.

Him: "Lelwa!"

I rubbed as I bent over...

He brushed my head and held me for balance as the stabbing sharp pain sent me straight to the floor

I pushed him again and winced at the intense abdominal pain

My surrounding began to fade and I felt being pulled away from reality and my legs began to cramp.

I cried and tried praying as everything drifted far and far until I could not feel anything anymore...

I fell into unconsciousness.

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To be continued...

TWENTY EIGHT

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My cellphone rang as I finished dishing up.

Me: "Hello"

Him: "Madlomo unjani?"

Me: "I'm still okay"

Him: "Haven't experienced any pains?"

Me: "No after the milk none"

Him: "Good Okay. I was just checking how you are"

Me: "Wena Unjani?" –How are you?

Him: "I am good Madlomo"

His voice was firm-

Me: "Okay Thulani is home- my big brother"

Him: "Oh really?"

He didn't sound convincing...

Me: "You knew didn't you?"

Him: "Lelwa..."

I felt betrayed... and how do they even know each other?
I have never introduced them to each other.

Me: "And how do you... actually I don't want to hear it"

Him: "Don't be like that Madlomo"

Me: "Like what? Feeling lied to?"

Him: “Don’t get mad yes we know each other because... it’s actually a long story”

Me: “Mxm”

Him: “Bulelwa!!” his voice warned.

Me: “What?”

I heard him sigh on the other side

Him: “I will call you later”

I dropped the call without even saying goodbye I switched it off and placed it roughly on the counter as Thulani walked in.

I’m fuming at this point! How dare he?

Thulani: “And now?”

I looked at him

Him: "I don't want to hear it just snap out of it"

He placed bunch of devices on the table

Me: "What are these?"

Him: "Trackers listening devices and some other devices you won't know about! But someone has been keeping tabs on you I found two under your tires"

Me: "What! How when?"

April better pray we don't cross paths. I wouldn't hesitate to kill him any day...

Him: "They had time too! They weren't planted in a hurry"

Me: "I don't even have visitors around here! I just recently moved in here a few months ago"

Him: "They probably planted them whilst you were putting in the house offer"

Crazy to know that all these months they were listening to my conversations spying on me!

Me: "What does he want from me?"

Him: "I don't know but I'll soon find out"

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spying on me!

Me: "What does he want from me?"

Him: "I don't know but I'll soon find out"

Me: "Okay I'm going to sleep"

I hate these men doing me like this treating me like an egg that will break and not be able to take whatever news they have to tell me.

Him: "Who upset you?"

Me: "All of these man in my life"

He gave me a look and then pulled his tray of food

Him: "Thank you sisi you can go rest then"

I shook my head and walked to my bedroom and called Mawande.

He doesn't pick up.

I tried two times more and still the same. Ndiyalingwa...

I laid my head on the pillow as I drifted to sleep...

"Let him help you stick with him in every way ntombi"

I heard the voice but I cannot see the face I know the voice- my mother.

I turned my head and the surroundings are foreign it's a waterfall the banks are muddy and I'm just standing looking for someone

"I'm over here"

I turned my head and she was wearing a white dress with a white headscarf her eyes gleamed with happiness and a joy filled my heart.

I opened my mouth to speak but words couldn't form
"I'm saying do not let him go and I am here at this river if you want to see me I know you will come here. Don't look for me in the graveyard that place is not pure.
Phahla mntanam.

She placed her warm hand on my cheek and slowly went down to touch my tummy.

“This one will protect you I communicate with you through them. Don’t let anything happen to them”

I looked down to where her hand is and I felt something warm between my legs

I pulled the dress up and blood filled my legs a stab in my heart caused tears in my face. I couldn’t speak nor move I felt paralyzed and forced my voice to open but my mouth was heavy! I looked up and I was no longer in that space I had been. It was now dark and my dress was filled with blood. I felt someone pull me hard by my stomach and I kicked and screamed as my body loosened.

“Bulelwa!!”

I jumped from the bed and took deep breaths

Him: “You were screaming and kicking! What’s wrong?”

I looked at him and I couldn't say anything but held my tummy and sat up.

Me: "I had a bad dream! So bad that..."

Him: "You need water? I thought someone came in It was just dream sisi don't worry"

It felt so real

My cellphone rang and let it be I can't talk to anyone at this point.

Me: "I will get up once I cannot sleep again"

Him: "Okay I also need to talk to you sisi"

Me: "About?"

Him: "Our family and it is important for you to know this. It has been long overdue"

Me: "Okay..."

I guess everything is unfolding itself now...

I sat down on the couch with my glass of water and he sat on the one opposite me evident that it was time for confessions and confrontations. Never have I ever been this fearful of what someone's is about to say to me except for the time I was in that doctors office waiting for bad news to be delivered about the death of my mother and brother. Dark time.

Now with Thulani; the exact same atmosphere transpired in the room.

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To be continued...

TWENTY NINE

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“This is weird”

I said fixing the cushion on top of me.

Him: "It's serious Bulie"

He said looking at me I shifted and gave him my attention.

Me: "Okay"

Him: "I don't know how to say this"

Me: "Just say it"

Him; 'Well Remember when you used to ask about father and we would brush it off at home?"

I nodded...

Him: "Well right now you have to know now because It will affect you now that you've divorced or divorcing that piece of trash"

I nodded again following him.

Him: "Well the man is alive he has been alive it's just that... family happened. See... He is a King back home at the village. Where mom originates from they met while they were still young and they were very much in love but mom being not of royalty their love was tested back and forth mother fell pregnant at a very young age and that was a shame in the village! There was a belief that if someone with royal blood got you pregnant and you are a commoner that is nothing but shame and bad luck and it could result in being banished and worst case; killed. They were trying to control the royal blood line"

I listened attentively my mind taking in the story that is made up and waiting for when He will say 'It's a joke.'

Him: “So grandmother took mother to one of her friend e Mission outside the village but the friend then moved to Grahamstown with her that’s where she found peace. Father again; he was still being groomed to be king traveled from the Transkei to Grahamstown for his lover they lived in a bubble again and she got pregnant with twins...”

I gasped! The story becoming more and more interesting I decided to play along. Surely this is a joke because the lady who raised us was a single parent with no help or whatsoever from the family. Well the friend he’s talking about in his story might be the woman who’d stay with us when mom had to work night shifts at the hospital.

If mother gave birth to twins then...

Me: “Does that mean...?”

Him: “Yes you’re a twin Bulie I was four years then and the image of him is quite blur but mom said he would come every now and then checking her and even staying with her at times but his father was against this arrangement as he found out that his son had children unfortunately the other twin died when she was a year old because of heart issues. Mother never went into detail into what happened after that death but they stopped seeing each other with our father. Mother then met Mazande’s father who was also involved in a mysterious car accident years after Mazande’s birth”

The story being told by Thulani has an element of truth Mother was devastated after that man’s death and after that she never got herself involved with anyone ever

again. She did an awesome job at raising three children
the story being told by Thulani- is hard to take in.

Me: "Is what you're saying true?"

Him: "Every single word"

How could she hide such a big thing from me her only girl
child... the river she told me about how?

My mind went into full investigation trying to join the
pieces of this huge puzzle.

Me: "How could she be so selfish... she told me I'll meet her at the village river if I want to talk to her because the graveyard is full of evil spirits"

Him: "She means back at the village where she came from"

Me: "I will never go there"

Him: "You have to the thing is father -as I've heard is on his deathbed the kingdom is falling and he's calling for you because you are holding things. Major drought struck the village and livestock is dying. His wives are fighting and you are the one needed"

Me: "Kukunya ke oko!" –That's bullshit

Him: "Bulelwa!"

Me: “What!? I am not the one to save some falling kingdom! Let it fall I don’t even care! Why even care for people who never even bothered to reach out to us! And you are all selfish marn. Why tell me this now? Of all times now? Now that I am at the peak of my career have someone that finally loves me and I am now expecting my own child. I am not a savior they can all die for all I care

Sponsored

”

Him: “Madlomo calm down!”

Me: “I’ve been calm my entire life! Maybe had you and your mother told me about this earlier in life then maybe just maybe we could’ve tried and resolved issues. Now I am old what bond do I need with that man?
Mandingagezelwa rha!!”

Him: “I don’t know what more to say to you. I’ll leave you to think about all this on your own”

He got up from the couch and left me pissed off.

I heard his engine roar as he drove off the yard...

Now that someone is in dire need of my help I must jump at their tune! They can all go hang themselves and die. I do not care at all about them whether they are dying of starvation they should. I am not one of their own nxaa. I threw the cushion on the other side of the room.

The pain hit hard in my lower abdomen again this time even more tense than before.

I screamed and got off the couch only to fall on my knees as my feet felt like they were landing on hot coal.

I cried and crawled slowly to the direction of my bedroom.

It became tense with every movement I made the pain unbearable as my vision became blur and blur! My voice no longer had sound.

I laid flat on the cold tiled floor and listened to the pain as it took all of me like something was sucking every organ in my body...

Minutes later the pain subsided but my legs felt numb and swollen a scary feeling because I couldn't move them as if someone placed a bag of cement.

I felt the moaning sound of something like the wind and the breaking sound of a glass... my head getting lighter and lighter. I could feel the warm tears down my face but I couldn't move a limb as that temporal paralysis took over me.

It took all of me to wince and call out to God! It seemed to not work as the intense pain took over again that I couldn't do anything but give in and stop fighting...

After what felt like forever my body loosened up and gave me room to breathe I pulled myself up but my head started spinning and my whole body aching.

I slowly walked to my bedroom balancing by the wall...

I reached for my cellphone and laid on the bed as I dialed his number.

He answered immediately

Him: "Madlomo"

I sniffed and cried

Him: "Sthandwa sam"

Me: "It happened again"

It took all of me to reply to him my voice scratchy and low.

Him: "Where's Thulani?"

Me: "He left... I am scared"

Him: "How long can you keep on the line?"

Me: "I don't know"

Him: "I'll be there just now..."

I only moved the cellphone away from my ear and the flood gates opened as tears soaked my pillow...

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I felt his warm hands pulling me closer to him I've been crying that I didn't even notice anyone coming in. my

head rested on his lap. His smell giving me a sense of hope and warmth

Me: "What can I do?"

I said after silence fell in the room my voice telling my tiredness.

Him: "I'm sorry"

He's losing me...

Me: "About?"

Him: "What you are going through it will be over soon"

I remained silent for a while...

Me: "It will happen again right?"

Him: "...Yes"

My heart sank I can't take more pain like this!

Me: "Until when?"

Him: "We... you fight it... It's complicated Madlomo"

Me: "When I didn't know I was pregnant none of this happened but now... no wait (I moved my head and looked at him) you did something?"

He moved his eyes from me.

Him: "I only thanked my elders and... well they are visiting you and you can't handle it not you but you are carrying one of their own"

I shook my head! Impossible I don't even-

Wait...

How could I be stupid!

Me: "We had sex..."

I threw my head on the pillow and looked at the ceiling.

Sigh...

Him: "I am sorry I got over excited with getting you back and I..."

Me: "Talk to them I don't want this"

I cut him short.

Him: "You have to communicate with them allow them in you so that you won't feel the pain"

Me: "I don't even worsh- I'm a prayer woman wande!"

Him: "Well it is up to you how you want to do this it is either you work with them or not"

Me: "I don't like this at all I don't. I'm even having Bad dreams! Why does it feel like all this will be hard for me?"

Tears formed again and I let them slide down my face he pulled me to his lap again and brushed my back.

Him: "I am sorry for it all sthandwa"

Me: "So nothing will help?"

I asked sniffing

Him: "The only way is to allow them"

Me: "How do I know they are present?"

Him: "You'll sense their presence with this pregnancy; you'll attract some bad omens you'll have to be strong in your spiritual faith and them coming to you is a way of communication with the soul you are carrying they chose you for me Madlomo you are joined with them even though you may not know. It will be over before you know.."

I only nodded and he kept on brushing my back and assuring me everything will be okay.

I fell into deep sleep again....

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To be continued...

THIRTY

“Thulani told me about my paternal family” I said to him as we sat on the table having supper Thulani still not back from wherever he went to.

Him: “How do you feel about it?”

Me: “Honestly I don’t know but I know I am angry at Thulani for not telling me about this my mother and nje everyone who didn’t even bother”

Him: “So now what are you going to do about it?”

Me: “I won’t do anything I’m not obliged to help a falling kingdom I didn’t know anything about”

Him: “But you do know it will somehow affect you?”

I kept quiet and just went on with eating my food.

What they don't understand is that I don't care about a man who never cared about me what bond could we possibly have now that he's on his deathbed? What more is needed of me if he didn't bother with me while I was growing up? This sudden entitlement to my help is what I don't fuck with. They can all go to hell and burn...

Him: "I think you have to let go of the anger"

Me: "You're not my therapist Wande"

I snapped

He should stop acting like the Dr Phil of my life...

Him: "I was just saying it will damage you"

Me: "Nothing will ever damage me again I've been through a lot worse"

He looked at me then back to the fruits he's having.

we remained silent for a while...

Me: "Thulani found listening devices around the house tracker in my car and bugs I don't know about"

Him: "He told me"

I looked at him.

Unbelievable.

Me: "Is there anything you don't know?"

He chuckled

Me: “No actually I’m serious!”

My voice grew loud...

Him: “It is nowhere near something like that He called to ask if I knew anything about trackers in your house and I told him I don’t see- uhm Nelisiwe is involved with some bad people and when I say bad I mean bad! One of my colleagues at the firm had a case of human trafficking to deal with and she was representing this man –Bongani who is somehow close to Nelisiwe. So in the past months something happened and it had to do with girls being auctioned right the boss of this whole operation is your ex-husband I knew all this because Thulani and his team found a list of names and pictures of these girls that are to be sold and Ziyanda was one of them”

I gasped!

Me: “What!”

Him: "Yes and they used Nelisiwe and April as a way of getting close to you knowing that you're always with Ziyanda and me"

Me: "This is bigger than I thought"

Him: "It is and you need to make sure you're always aware of your surroundings"

The thought of always looking over my back sent chills down my spine I already have a lot to deal with on my plate and things like these add to the stress I don't need.

I exhaled-

Me: "Dlamini"

He looked at me as I sat back on the chair tilting my head back.

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "How do I do this? Tell me how should I deal with everything? How can I be strong enough to deal with everything thrown my way?"

At this point my heart is slowly giving pieces of hurt my head feels light and the idea of having to fight demons and angels for my life is one I cannot digest. The dreams and what's to come scares me.

Him: "I wish I had an answer but you should know that I'll always be here for you"

I nodded and looked at him

Me: "I had a dream today mother visited me and told me she's at the village river but it quickly changed to me being dragged to this dark room I saw blood between my legs and it was scary because I felt someone pulling me. I woke up right after"

He frowned and maintained the eye contact

Me: "Does it mean I might lose my child?"

Him: "No it is nowhere near that"

His cellphone rang disturbing our conversation I got up and took the plates to the kitchen giving him space.

My head is going through a lot from trying to stomach the father whose kingdom is in hot waters to the bugs and now a list on top of the whole cake these ancestral visitations that are weird and painful.

My life is nowhere close to getting back to normal it will only be hectic and challenging.

I thought to myself as I washed the dishes my mind zoning out and forgetting I am in the house with someone.

I felt warm hands sneaking around my waist with him pulling me closer to his warmth. I laid my head back on his chest as I dried my hands. I joined his with mine and we stood there feeling his heart against my back his scent causing butterflies in my stomach. The soft touch of his hands against my tummy...

I appreciate God for this man.

Him: "I love you have I ever told you that?"

My heart melted and a smile formed

Me: "You tell me every chance you get"

Him: "You should know it everyday I love you so much
Madlomo"

I turned and looked at him smiling my eyes probably
gleaming with tears.

Me: "I love you too Dlamini and... Thank you for always
caring for me yes you did some crazy things that hurt me
but overall the content times with you are the ones I
value the most and for that... I'm looking forward to have
you father my... our baby"

He smiled like a crazy person his dimple ever so visible
Him: "I love you for choosing me as I am or loving me and
giving me the world's most precious gift. Madlomo I
cannot describe how lucky I am to have you in my life I
promise you we will be the best parents ever"

I chuckled he joined in and held my jaw with his hand
and his lips pressed against mine in a kiss.

I felt my body temperature rising as our tongues danced
in the tune played by our souls he pushed himself closer
as I hit the sink I felt his bulge against me. I wrapped my
arms around his body and held on his back as the kiss
went deeper my insides getting hot and a new Victoria
Falls down there.

He pulled me up and my legs wrapped around his waist
he turned and my butt met the counter as I slowly
humped against his bulging groin the heat was too much
and I needed to feel something.

His hand moved to my thighs brushing them against the light pajama pants.

“You shouldn’t wear pants”

He whispered as I pulled myself up and he removed the pants.

He brushed my already wet lady part I felt the heat even more as his kisses trailed down my neck slowly to my stomach and thighs

He parted my legs ripped off the tiny fabric and went straight in with his tongue I gasped in amazement.

My legs started feeling numb as he devoured my body in all sorts of tingles as the wave of pleasure started taking over me

“Wande... Aahhh... I won’t last long”

I cried in pleasure and his warm hands held on my thighs for dear life he played with his tongue on my lady part licking flicking and teasing it was too much I screamed and exploded right there and then

His lips moved from my lady part to my lips and I could taste myself in his mouth he rubbed his fingers on my entrance but it was not enough I needed to feel him inside of me.

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To be continued...

THIRTY ONE

I woke up light headed no one next to me... My heart sank as I had thought he would stay over

I remained in bed for another hour thinking about my life and how everything seemed to fold out like a new chapter I neve thought was in the book of my life.

I felt the vibration of an unfamiliar wave and the mild pains started.

My heart went into an adrenaline rush as I quickly grabbed my cellphone on the pedestal and dialed his number.

It went straight to voicemail as my soul felt like it was moving out of my body I held my breath but the shivering didn't stop.

I know they've arrived. They are here...

I dialed again and the call went through this time

Me: "I'm scared I think..."

Him: "You're feeling the pains?"

Me: "They are not as tense but I could feel the presence and I'm shit scared!!"

Him: “You shouldn’t be on your phone Madlomo communicate with your elders. Pray or something”

He ended the call before I could even answer back.

I laid back and closed my eyes and blocked everything out as they would tell us when meditating. I felt the deep silence and I could’ve sworn to God I saw my mother and brother smiling in that mist of time

The pain was mild and it only lasted a few minutes and my body let loose again as the knock hit my door.

It was Thulani

Him: “I thought you were dead or something”

I shook my head as he walked in with a tray of food

I sat up as he placed the tray with a bowl of oats cup of tea and buttered bread and fruit pieces.

Me: "Good morning to you" he hugged and sat next to me.

Him: "How did you sleep?"

Me: "I slept okay didn't get any weird dreams"

Him: "Okay those bugs we found came of great help for the investigation"

Me: "What are you investigating?"

Him: "Drugs and human trafficking related things and taking down this drug lord together with your husband"

Me; “Ex-husband”

Him: “Whatever but it’s unfortunate that we’re still looking for more of the girls they abducted”

Me: “What! So you mean to tell me all this is happening now?”

He looked at me like I am stupid

Him: “Sisi it happens everyday”

I looked at him as he totally missed the point of what I’m saying

Me: “Wande told me of a list y'all found and I thought they were yet to do this auction of theirs”

Him: “Oh! No they did their auction and many girls are missing including the Minister’s daughter it’s just that the

list was found before their auction Ziyada is one of the five girls that were lucky but they are smart with this so damn smart I had to go undercover as one of them I'm still trying to narrow everything down but I am not in any rush as it may mess the assignment"

I nodded as I took the tray of food and placed it on my lap

Me: "That is hectic! Thank you for breakfast"

Him: "It's only a pleasure have you placed some thought on what I told you?"

I exhaled...

Me: "I... I don't know what to do with all the information you gave me but what I am sure about is that I am never going to that village to save someone's ass"

Him: "I won't force you sisi"

Me: "Thank you"

I said as I indulged in the breakfast

We talked and reminisced about the past and things I have missed in his life... Nothing much has been happening except that his work has been keeping him busy going undercover at all these drug syndicates. He's very reserved about his love life... his life is work and family...

Me: "Do you find rural chiefs or kings on google?"

I asked Thulani as I was washing the dishes in the kitchen... he did quite a mess...

Him: "I'll give you his files you don't have to search google"

Me: "Okay"

Him: "You're considering this?"

Me: "I'm curious to know"

Him: "Okay"

Me: "You've met them before?"

Him: "Yes that was way back and... let me just say I'm good"

Me: "Why is that?"

Him: "I'm not like you Sisi I don't... how can I say this I'm not what they are looking for. Can we drop it please?"

Me: "Fine"

Him: "Sorry it's just that a lot of things happened that I don't want to re-visit"

Me: "Okay"

I finished cleaning my kitchen and went to sit on the couch checking my emails with a glass of water next to me...

Him: "I'm going out Bulie I'll be back later on today"

Me: "Okay cool"

He walked out as my cell phone rang

I took it and answered the unnamed number

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Hello Bulelwa this is Mawande's mother here"

Me: "Oh hello Ma kunjani?"

Her: "We are good sana lwam ehh are you busy?"

Me: "Not after an hour"

Her: "Okay sis

Sponsored

I don't know how to say this but can you please come to the house preferably after lunchtime?"

Me: "Okay is there something I should worry about?"

Her: Tuu sana lwam I just need to talk to you about something important"

Me; "Okay I will be there Ma"

Her: "Thank you sis bye"

I ended the call and dialed Wande's number he answered

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "Your mother just called she wants to see me and I cannot drive in the state I'm in"

Him: "Okay did she say about what? When can I pick you up?"

Me: "She just said we will talk. Come Lunchtime I'll get ready so long"

Him: "Mhh Okay I'll be there"

Me: "Bring me something sweet please"

I chuckled

Him: "I will sthandwa"

Me: "Okay bye"

Him: "I love you and Bye"

I smiled and schucked

Me: "I love you too bye"

I ended the call. Checked my work things and then went to bathe.

I got myself ready for the meeting or the talk...

....

“Do you know what she wants to talk to me about?”

I asked as we stopped at the fill up station with me crunching on chips and fruits.

Him: “She didn’t say anything to me”

Me: “I wonder and I am feeling sleepy yho”

I yawned and stretched my legs

Him: "You'll sleep at the house how are the pains?"

Me: "Bearable"

Him: "We should go to a doctor to check if the falling didn't do much damage"

Me: "You'll come too?"

He chuckled at my childishness.

Him: "Yes I will come this time"

He took my hand and kissed the palm

Me: "Okay... Something is bothering you?"

He wasn't his bubbly self... he seemed down with a smile.

Him: “Nothing I can’t handle don’t worry yourself”

My heart sank I felt it rip.. Something is bothering him and he doesn’t want to even tell me...

My eyes were burning with tears

I remained silent as the car went back to the road

Him: “Madlomo”

His arm went to hold my knee I looked out the window and the tears were streaming down my face.

Him: “Sthandwa are you crying?”

I shook my head and he immediately pulled the car over and held my chin to look at him.

I wiped the tears and avoided looking at him

Him: "Why are we crying now Madlomo?"

I sniffed and rolled my eyes I caught a smile on his face

Him: "Nkosazana"

Me: "Don't call me that!"

I snapped.

Him: "Why are you mad at me sthandwa? What did I do?"

Does he really want to know?

Me: "You never tell me anything every time I ask what's bothering you all you do is dismiss me like I don't deserve to know how you feel! Why won't you open up

to me? Or maybe there's someone you're already telling your thing!"

I knew it came as a shocker to him...

Him: "Lelwa there's no one okay it's only you sthandwa sam. It's wrong of me to not tell you everything"

He wiped my tears and leaned to kiss me didn't return it... he chuckled and went for my neck and a moan escaped my mouth...

He held my face and smiled at me

Him: "I'm okay sthandwa"

Me: "No! You're not like this when you're okay something is worrying you I can feel it uyandisinda"

He slightly closed his eyes and Exhaled

Him: "I... I'm worried about us you... I love you so much Madlomo I don't want to lose you in any way. I would go mad if I do."

Me: "What makes you think that?"

Him: "We will talk about it later okay"

He held my chin and then planted a soft kiss on my forehead

The car got on the road again... I must have fallen asleep because In not time he was tapping on my thighs waking me up..

"Wake up we are here"

He said as I opened my eyes and adjusted to the light.

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To be continued...

THIRTY TWO

“I’m feeling nauseous and dizzy”

I said as we walked in the house through the kitchen door. I felt like vomiting.

Him: “I’ll get you a glass of water”

I sat down as I listened to the spinning of my head

He handed me the water and I drank it and sat for a while gathering the strength.

Him: "Are you feeling better?"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "You are getting me worried"

Me: "It's probably the drive here I am okay really"

A woman whose face was unfamiliar walked in and gasped as she saw me her jaw dropped. Eyes all out and I sat there confused...

I turned to wand and he just gave me a "You're a woman deal with her" look and walked out of the kitchen

Me: “Molo Ma”

She shook her head

Her: “Boniswa!! Boniswa!!”

She shouted and another woman appeared already
pissed from being called this harshly.

Boniswa: “Yintoni Nozukile!”

She looked at me and gasped but she didn’t freeze on me

Boniswa: “Molo sisi”

Me: “Eweke Ma”

Boniswa: “Unjani?”

Me: “I am well just confused by the what’s happening”

Her: “Uhm You will find out now sisi come to the front”

She turned to Nozukile who was still starstruck

Boniswa: “Bring water for Bukiwe marn uyeke ube uzijongisa”

Wande walked back in holding a toddler who couldn’t stop babbling as both ladies walked out

Me: “Umithisile?” – did you impregnate someone

He laughed and shook his head.

Him: “The boy couldn’t keep his hands off me come to the front the people here came to you”

Me: “What?”

Him: “Yes come see for yourself Madlomo”

We walked out of the kitchen down the little passage and as soon as I appeared they all looked at me like I’m some meat.

There’s about six people

The ladies I met at the kitchen an old man and another female but she was outside on a phone call Her back visible through the sliding door. Wande’s mother and Thotyiswa.

I greeted them and they all greeted back I took my seat and the only sound was from the babbling toddler in wande’s arms. He took a seat next to his mother.

The old man broke the dreading silence

Him: "You are probably wondering who we are"

I nodded because this was a rhetorical question

Him: "We are your father's family"

I looked at him then looked at Wande whose mind wasn't even here his mother avoided eye contact too.

Me: "I don't have a father"

Him: "I know it will come as a shocker mntwanam but we are. You are King Jongikhaya's daughter. I am his brother"

Boniswa: "I am your father's second wife sisi igama ngu Boniswa. This is Nozukile she's the wife of the old man here"

Wande's mother looked at me with a weak smile I felt...
backstabbed.

Her: "I couldn't live with the guilt of knowing your
whereabouts child without informing them"

I took in a deep breath and let it out slowly

Nozukile: "Unangaphi?"

Me: "31"

Boniswa: "Nguye she even has the birthmark below her
right ear"

Old Man: "I am sure you would like to know why we are
here."

I nodded again.

The lady who was outside decided to bless us with her presence as she closed the sliding door

Sponsored

as she closed the sliding door I gasped!

How could someone look like a clone of me like this! She stood still for a minute before walking I have an Identical twin! How could? Thulani said she died what's this now?

My eyes went to Wande and he was still not paying attention to anything except for the boy.

She smiled...

Her: "Hello"

She extended her hand and I reluctantly took it

Me: "Hi"

I said confused her nose is a little narrower and her hair is straightened but she looks exactly like me.

Her: "Am I allowed to hug you?"

Her eyes teary as I was confused!

I stood up and we shared a hug

The old man started reciting clan names which was awkward considering how things are.

The hug was warm it felt I had reconnected with something I had lost before.

She broke the hug sat down next to me and folded her arms looking at the elders with attitude.

Her: “We need explanations”

Fierce... the straight talker who doesn't sugarcoat.

Boniswa: “I still remember that day like it was yesterday each and every detail... your mother -Nobuhle she was my best friend. We used to work together at the hospital.

This day my other friend-MaMokoena went to check on her it was right after our day shift at the hospital. We got to her house and well we talked about everything. When it was around seven Nobuhle cried saying she's feeling pains on her lower abdomen.. singahoyi because we thought they were just minor contractions the pains became intense she couldn't even hold it she went into

labour... her water broke as we were preparing to take her to the hospital. MaMokoena told me that it would be too late and so we prepared for home birth.

She paused and drank her glass of water

Boniswa: “The delivery was a success but your mother was in trouble giving birth to triplets at the time when she was abandoned by her own family we knew we had to come up with a plan. We named you guys Busisiwe she came first and then you followed Bulelwa and Bukiwe here came last. After hard thinking Nobuhle gave up Bukiwe and then years later Busisiwe died of complications. It was the right thing to do at the time and that is how you were separated”

I exhaled...

Me: “And how did you become a royal wife of your friend’s lover?”

She looked at me with a smile

Her: “When I took Bukiwe as mine I had to go back to the village because things were bad for me as I am of royalty too. It worked both in your mother and father’s favour. I had to protect Nobuhle and told them that all the time I wasn’t home it was because I was hiding that the newly appointed king had impregnated me. The child wafaniswa and the elders agreed it was indeed his anyway the plan worked for the both of us. I was taken as the second wife”

Thotyiswa walked in with refreshments lighting the mood in the room. We thanked her as she served everyone. Mawande was still in his own world with the kid.

Nozukile: “Aren’t you married?”

She asked with an attitude.

Bukiwe: “You have no business asking her that!”

She said pissed off.

Old man: “Zibambe Nozukile!”

Nozukile: “Tyhini bathembu! I was only asking!”

Me: “I’m not married No”

I felt his eyes to me but I didn’t dare look his way..

Boniswa: “You didn’t have to tell us sisi you don’t owe us anything. It is us who have to be humble towards you”

Nozukile: “Haysuka! Soon you’ll be kissing her feet iyafana”

I shot my gaze to her and she was sipping her tea dramatically

Bukiwe: “Okusalayo we are not here for that Mancini!”

She laughed... Was I intimidating her?

I looked at Wande and he just smiled at me... faintly

Old man: “Sisi what we are here for is to humbly request you to come see your father he’s not in a very good space and we would appreciate it if you could bless us with your presence at the royal house”

Boniswa: “the most important part is to apologies dearly for the confusion we’ve caused yes we would have loved to reach out to you earlier but it was close to impossible as I didn’t know where to start your father was getting worse each and everyday and everything is falling apart”

Nozukile: “Let me not bore you with all the sugarcoated things! Your brother; Thulani is not the chosen one to lead the kingdom! What they are not telling you is that

you hold the power to that royal house! The ancestors want you undiluted sisi and to what I'm seeing now is that you don't have the guts!"

I looked at her and she immediately moved her eyes elsewhere. How rude...

Bukiwe: "If you didn't want your son to badly take over the throne then you wouldn't have been this bitter! Your evil ways have now caught up with you that you can't even look Bulelwa in the eye!"

This family needs a reality show! Angekhe.

Boniswa: "This is not the time nor the place bethuna!! Hold yourselves yhini! What we are here for is to meet this child and humble ourselves to her as we all here elders have robbed both of these children their right! This fighting and talking as if Jongisizwe is dead already must end! Hold yourselves Bathembu. Bulelwa I am deeply sorry for this attitude you're getting. We don't need you to answer all our requests now as we believe

you need time to process everything. Thulani has been running away from us since your mother's ceremony with you we want to take things slowly even though I should add that your father doesn't have much time. But please we are not rushing anything"

What ceremony? So Thulani knew these people all along...

Bukiwe: "The problem starts when you talk to her as if she's obliged to do everything you ask of her as if you know her and you've been part of her life. Stop that attitude"

Old man: "All I've heard is you talking and talking not even giving this child a chance Bulelwa please tell us how would you like to handle this situation?"

Finally time to voice out...

Me: "I'm honestly baffled by all this I don't want to lie. It is a shocker and it explains a lot of things. Right now I am still going through a lot of things which I think failed to prepare me for this moment. My only concern is why should I help him? He knew about me all these years and my place of birth but still didn't bother also my own mother was not honest with me and there are a lot of things unexplained"

Nozukile: "It's because they lost touch with you... your elders and everything that connects you to your paternal family was tied"

Me: "By whom?"

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To be continued.

THIRTY THREE

The room fell into silence as Nozukile prepared to tell the story of how the elders couldn't find me... Boniswa: "We don't have time Nozukile"

Nozukile: "There was always conflict between the two families it goes way back sisi we don't have time to tell that story. But the family you were married to knew you were of royalty and you hold this power within you power that could gain them our land and wealth. When the third wife of the king -Majwarha was brought to the royal house it was a way of two families sorting their differences little did we know she was sent there to milk information. They found that Bukiwe had a twin their initial plan was to kidnap Bukiwe but they changed and

decided to do you since you were at a vulnerable place and not in the safety of royal guardians. So Daluxolo was sent for the mission which he failed because they later found that Nobuhle got pregnant and he had fallen in love with her. He was then killed in a car accident. They then kept you under their watch and when you were old enough Siyabonga was used and you fell into their trap they tied you so you cannot have a child as you'll be more aware of things when you get pregnant. I assume you are now as we are here... finally found you..."

Bukiwe: "And you know all this because you also were part of the plan why aren't you telling that part huh?"

They don't see eye to eye.. That is evident.

Nozukile: "Don't start with me ntombazana!"

she warned and the old man exhaled...

Old man: "Umfazi unzulu!"

Boniswa: “I would like to think we have said enough for the day”

Bukiwe: “Yes I hope what was said here shed light to most of your unanswered questions I would love to know you better as a twin which is awkward because I feel like I’ve known you my whole life”

I smiled and I had nothing to say to any of the things told here. All I wanted was to have time with Bukiwe and talk to her all night and day. The rest of the people here I don’t care about and I believe Siyabonga’s family will pay for everything they’ve done to me...

Wande got up from his seat and moved to where I was he handed me the toddler he was playing with the whole time.

He just smiled and the little boy babbled a lot of things giggling in the process... it warmed my heart. I kissed his cheek

He babbled louder throwing his head like he was telling some happy story jumping too.

Me: "What's his name?"

I asked smiling at this beautiful soul in my arms.

Bukiwe: "Bathembu"

I chuckled.

Me: "I'm starting to think names in this family have to start with a "B'"

Bukiwe: "Now that you're mentioning it"

She laughed

Me: "Exactly"

Old Man: "Thank you very much Majola for leading us to this child we'll forever be indebted to you and to your son for showing us the way too. Uhm and I think we should be leaving right now the drive will be long"

Boniswa: "Ewe we thank you for it all sisi"

Wande's mother smiled and nodded

Old man: "And thank you Bulelwa for not backing down but remained seated and listened to us thank you because you don't owe us anything. Uhm we should get going right now."

They all agreed and stood up from their seats

The child in my hands was still babbling Wande held my waist as we walked out of the house to Bukiwe's car.

Me: "You have a handsome young man here"

Bukiwe: "Thank you sisi he's my miracle baby"

I smiled and handed her the boy who didn't want to move from my hold

Wande: "Look at him not wanting to go"

Bukiwe: "And he's going to cry iyho"

Me: "Ahwuu"

Wande: "Say goodbye Madlomo so that he knows"

I chuckled kissed him goodbye and he loosened

Wande: "There you have it"

He smiled and held me next to him. I knew what it meant... he couldn't wait for our own baby.

I smiled and could feel tears near as bukiwe strapped him in.

Bukiwe: "I hope we'll keep in touch hey"

She smiles as she closed the passenger door.

I nodded.

Me: "Yes...uhm I would also love that."

The thought of having a sister made me happy

Sponsored

I would also love that.”

The thought of having a sister made me happy afterall I am not alone...

We shared a hug and said our goodbyes.

Wande: “How are you feeling?”

He asked as we walked back in the house

Happy sad angry bitter and hopeful.

Me: "I am having mixed emotions I look forward to having a relationship with Bukiwe however I cannot say the same about the rest of the family mad at Thulani and I don't know what to do with myself moving forward"

Wande: "It was expected my love for you to have all these emotions. I am sorry for throwing the whole thing in your face"

Me: "It's okay I am glad you did too because I was going to wonder anyway"

He nodded

I felt the sudden pain down my spine I almost fell but Wande held me

Him: "The pains again?"

Me: "Not the usual ones it's my back"

It shot again I screamed as I shook my head and my vision going blurry

Him: “Madlomo!!”

My body felt as if it was in war with something! I had never felt such heat in me as I felt at this moment I was fighting something and could smell blood it was too strong

I hit something and everything went blank...

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“It’s not working Ndlovukazi! Akavumi it’s too much!”

Dlamangwe told Siyabonga’s mother that the muthi was not working and there was nothing he could do anymore.

Her: “Dlamangwe! I don’t pay you to tell it’s not working!”

She was furious as her plan was failing. Nozukile had called her earlier to tell her the family found Bulelwa and she tried everything to stop them but they wouldn't budge. It was time..

Dlamangwe: “Her elders found her”

Her: “Tell me something I don’t know!”

She shouted as Dlamangwe continued to blow into a bottle that didn’t bother bubbling anymore evident that it no longer had any effects

Him: “Don’t shout at me woman! This girl is more powerful now!”

Her: “Is it because of that man she’s with!?”

Him: “No!!” Dlamangwe shouted and groaned as he hit the glass it shattered on the cement floor

Her: “What is happening!!”

Him: “She’s protected! There’s royal blood around her and Shlahla wants him shlahla wants royal blood”

His teeth shattered shlahla was his snake the one he fed blood and human remains. It helped him with all the dirty work he does.

Her: “We have no more blood to give if we cannot see the results”

Him: "Uzalisiwe!"

Her: "Stop speaking in riddles!"

Him: "The princess is pregnant! The ties were broken and she's more powerful you don't want to mess with her now even shalala won't stand a chance"

Her: "We need solutions"

Dlamangwe laughed

Him: "Don't worry wait and see. The sun shall not rise as the moon will turn red and that will be the downfall of Abathembu! More is yet to come and we will sit and watch them break each other. The death of the first grandson will be our time to strike. The king will help us"

Her: "Are you saying what I think you are?"

Him: "I don't repeat myself mfazi! Do not interfere with anything all will fall in place and you'll reap the fruits of their fight!"

She smiled and nodded at what she heard from Dlamngwe took out money to pay him

Him: "Ebomvu ingakhali"- Fifty rands only no coins

Her: "Still the same Dlamangwe I know"

She placed the stack of fifty rand on the mat got up and walked out of there in a happy mood. Dlamangwe laughed as he took the money

"The royal ancestors are still brewing the lightning that will strike you. You never mess with royal blood and get away with it. There will be consequences!"

Dlamangwe said his last words as he pulled the bag of money under the cupboards. Unfortunately She had already gone out of the yard to hear his last words.

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To be continued

THIRTY FOUR

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What I had gone through the past hours is something I had never prepared myself for Had I been told carrying a human being would bring these many complications in my life I would have passed as stupid as it sounds. I do not think we could ever prepare ourselves for this thing called life.

I could hear there were people in the room but my body remained motionless and I didn't fight anything. I just layed there with my eyes closed.

“When are you going to tell her?”

I heard Wande’s mother’s voice speak it was raspy and low... the old woman shouldn’t have come. I could tell I was in the hospital because of the smell the noisy beeps and hospital noise of machines in the maternity wing. Which hospital I was in is what I couldn’t tell.

He doesn’t answer the question but sighs deeply.

Her: "Nyana you know that this will only put her life in danger if... if it continues"

She begged.

Him: "I will find a way to sort it all out mother just... let's just let it be for now"

Her: "You don't have time"

He remained quiet after that... a cell phone rang and I still remained stuck on the bed with all the pipes in my face. I couldn't feel any pain I was numb... it hit that it's the numbness that made my body not respond to anything. I let it be and drifted off to sleep again.

I woke up with a pounding head the lights were dim and the bed I was in was no longer stiff but soft too soft... My eyes adjusted to the dim light I was in my bedroom in my house and alone in bed.

How could it be possible?

I moved and turned the side lamp on the smell of impepho was strong. I walked to the bathroom and emptied my bladder.

How did I get in here? And where is wande what happened at the hospital after that cellphone rang?

All these questions ran through my head as I walked out of the room down the little passage to the front. The lights were on and it was pitch black outside.

My eyes moved to Thulani who was seated on the couch watching something on the TV.

I cleared my throat and he turned his attention to me.

Him: "You are up?"

Me: "Yes"

Him: "Are you hungry?"

I nodded and he got up from the couch we both walked to the kitchen and he handed me a bottle of water.

Silence fell as he prepared what I made out to be a sandwich.

Him: "I am sure you are confused as hell"

I nodded again and he looked at me plainly then back to what he was doing.

Me: "What happened?"

Him: "A lot what do you last remember?"

Me: "Quite a few things I remember falling after the meeting and then waking up at what I made out to be

hospital my body all numb and motionless... And now waking up with a headache in a dark room smelling of impepho”

Him: “That all?”

He seemed shocked kanti what happened there?

Me: “Yes that’s all... is there more?”

Him: “All I can say is you owe that man of yours everything. No matter what you do keep him by your side”

Me: “Mawande?”

Him: “Yes he saved you. I know as a big brother I am supposed to hate every man in your life but I guess he’s an exception. Keep him by your side”

Me: “You are confusing me even more and where is he?”

He gave me the look.

Him: "He has his own house"

He handed me a plate of sandwiches and a glass of juice.

Me: "Thank you don't you know where my cellphone is?"

Him: "He will bring your things tomorrow only your car is here"

I nodded.

Me: "I met the royal family today"

I saw him tensing up.

Him: "I was told did they say anything new?"

Me: “They shed light on many things I could highlight being a triplet and not a twin. The other sister is still alive and well you wouldn’t be able to part us. Also things that led to mom leaving the village the whole history”

He nodded...

Him: “Bukiwe is her name right?”

Me: “Yes have you met her?”

He kept quiet and I sighed... I wouldn’t bother with asking for a further explanation.

Him: “Buli...”

I held my hand in air as a gesture for ‘I don’t wanna hear it’

He sighed and rubbed his forehead

Him: "I am sorry for keeping things from you but it was for the best"

Me: "Meaning?"

Him: "You were safe not knowing the royal family"

I was conflicted.

Him: "They are not good people your father included! It was for the best of your future to not let you know them"

Me: "I seem to have been told another version explain"

Him: "Bulelwa you are the chosen one to lead the royal family you have the ancestral power and that gift is dangerous! It places you in a spot of vulnerability and they could kill you"

What was this ancestral power everyone seemed to say I had!?

Me: "I do not understand!"

He chuckled

Him: "Look at how you paint your art! You think just anyone could paint the way you do! Bulelwa your paintings tell the story of what's to become!"

That is absurd...

I laughed!

Me: "You must be joking! I am not some Rafiki Thulani. My paintings are just what the world needs and nothing more nothing less. This is real life not some supernatural mystery"

He sighed and shook his head.

Him: "You see the paintings that you said you dreamt?"

Me: "Yah"

Him: "Go back to them that's not just a talent sisi your ancestors communicate to you through those! They use your imagination as a way of telling you a story. Your paintings aren't just a learnt talent they convey a far deeper meaning and that is a blessing and a curse! You are the only one who can read them"

Me: "That's just stupid!"

His cell phone rang just as he was about to talk...

He took it out of his pocket and walked out of the kitchen leaving me confused.

How I could have missed all this in my painting was what confused me even more. It all did not make sense

because I could have picked it up on the way or maybe people who buy these paintings should have somehow noticed.

How could I paint a future? Yes I had been told that I tell stories through the art and that is why everyone loves my art but to be Rafiki? How's that even possible?

He walked back and handed me the cellphone

Him: "He wants to talk to you"

Me: "Who?"

He just plainly looked at me and gave me the phone

Him: "I'm going out I'll be back before breakfast"

I nodded as he walked out...

Me: "Hello"

Him: "Madlomo"

His voice husky and low My heart smiled..

Me: "Dlamini"

Him: "How are you feeling sthandwa?"

Me: "I am okay just a minor headache"

Him: "Drink water it will be good"

I smiled.

Me: "Okay Wande what happened?"

He remained silent for a dreading second..

Him: "It's better if you don't know"

Me: "What do you mean?"

Him: "Exactly that you shouldn't worry about it"

Me: "Wande don't start please! I was off for hours and you tell me I shouldn't worry about it!"

He sighed...

Him: "A lot happened Madlomo it is not what we can discuss over the phone"

Me: "I hate this Mawande! This thing of people hiding things from me. Expecting me to just move from it and accept whatever. To find that later these things catch up with me and none of you is affected nxa marn!"

I got up from the chair and placed the plate and glass in the sink... proceeded to the couch.

Him: "Because these things are more complicated than you think Bulelwa! We do not like to hide things from you we do so to protect you"

He argued!

Me: "Well then stop this protection! I don't need people to put me in a bubble like someone who cannot think and act for herself! I am a grown woman haibo!"

He sighed deeply on his end... I could sense frustration.

Him: "Well how would you have protected yourself from people working on you? Would you have stopped those people you call doctors from terminating a pregnancy because you were unresponsive!? I think you are being unfair at this point!"

I gasped! Was this us fighting?

Me: "What do you mean?"

Him: "I love you Lelwa and I would do anything to make sure you are happy and at peace I will tell you everything you need to know tomorrow..."

Me: "Wande..."

Him: "Madlomo"

Me: "What do you mean the doctors were going to terminate my... our pregnancy?"

Him: "They were... you were not breathing and not responding to any of their works and out of the blue I was told to give consent for the termination of the pregnancy... A lot happened I will tell you about it tomorrow"

Me: "I do not understand how a minor fall leads to termination?"

Him: "It's more than that and I will explain it to you in person. Take care of yourself and rest"

Me: "Okay I will"

Him: "Bye and... I love you Madlomo and I mean it!"

I smiled and nodded as if he could see me.

Me: "I love you too"

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“Boss it didn’t work the doctors couldn’t do it because of that man! He was there the entire time and that fucking brother of hers”

That seemed to upset April as he banged the table and threw the glass of whisky across the room causing it to smash on the wall and spill all over the carpet.

“What the fuck do you mean Bongani? Everything was planned very well how could you botch it up like that?”

He said in anger.

“Boss this thing is not easy as you think Madam is now surrounded the sedative worked but unfortunately the doctors had to go by the protocol and ask for the father’s consent”

Bongani defended on the other side.

“Since when do we follow rules? We make them not follow them! You fucked up Bongani and you and your deadbeat guys will pay for it! Couldn’t do a single Job. Useless bunch of fools!”

He dropped the phone call and punched the cellphone hard on the wooden table as frustration and anger had him.

They had planned everything well with his mother Nozukile and Thotyiswa.

They paid people for everything to go according to plan only for it to blow up in their faces.

Dlamangwe told them he could no longer help them with the princess as things will fall accordingly in the near future but finding that she was carrying and even more open to know things they had to get to her out of the way. No.. get the pregnancy out of the way.

Thotyiswa told them Bulelwa's health was already in question and she could pull through by making sure she lands at a hospital then they can take care of things on that side.

April bribed a few doctors in the maternal wing and with the help of his contacts and Bongani's people that owed him the plan was going to be smooth.

The doctor would sedate Bulelwa and then claim her as being unresponsive they would then fake results and say the only thing that could help is terminating the pregnancy but things went south in the hospital as Thulani threatened the whole medical team if they do anything that will harm his sister's pregnancy he'll sue the whole hospital.

The door flew open and Siyabonga jumped at the sight of Thulani walking in his study...

"Mthembu!"

He knew him he's the one responsible for his drug syndicate falling out he is the reason no one wants to work with him and the ministers took their businesses somewhere else.

"I thought I made myself clear the last time to stay the fuck away from my family"

He laughed as Thulani walked in and closed the door. He pulled the drawer on his side to take out the gun but Thulani warned him against it.

"Don't even think about it April!"

April chuckled again looking at how his mate had grown so fast there no longer was the submissive Thulani he met those years back..

"I love how you've grown over the years I didn't think you would taking that you were such a good boy"

They had met years before way before Siyabonga met Bulelwa. Way way before when they were still boys. Siyabonga had moved to Grahamstown at the Age of 15 him and Thulani were only a few months apart making April the elder one.

“Don’t fuck with me Siyabonga!”

Siyabonga laughed again seeing that he had hit a nerve

“I used to fuck you remember! I tamed your demons boy and we would do it with the pastor! Don’t you miss those days? I made you tough and now you are kicking doors in my house!”

That furied Thulani even more he pulled out his gun and aimed directly at April's head!

April knew he had him right where he wanted...

“Siyabonga stay the fuck away from my sister! Stay away from my family because things will only get worse for you and your family!”

He said tilting his head to the side and not backing down.

“You know Thotyiswa was such an easy person to recruit! She’s the one who made sure Bulie is taken straight to the hospital I had in mind! We had planned everything well... all I wanted was for her to lose the pregnancy come back to me and leave that stupid man of his who doesn’t even know how to treat a woman!”

Thulani walked even closer to him but Siyabonga laid back on his chair and watched the boy who once shared sheets aim him with a gun the boy who enjoyed licking his sweat and the touch of both him and the pastor of the local church.

“You wouldn’t pull that trigger Thulani! I know you remember I once lived in you! I once licked and learnt how you respond to my touch. I was 15 but knew which places to touch you. The pastor trained me well- no wait.. he trained us well but you chose to be the submissive one... I still yearn for you some days you know how tight you felt and I hope you still are”

He laughed and Thulani pulled the trigger but missed his head deliberately.

“That was only a warning shoot! You utter that nonsense again and It would land between your eyes njandini!”

“Sit down and let’s just talk like men!”

April backed down as he saw that anger in thulani he knows how he gets when he’s angry! He doesn’t think twice. He had seen the Anger before when he stabbed the pastor to death that fateful night at the pastor’s house. They had gone to such an extreme that the boy was tired of everything. The pastor had introduced whip

to the boys and that night the pastor did not only whip the boys but fought with Thulani as he was not obedient and had threatened to tell the congregation of what the pastor does to the boys in church... it never went well as the knife that was used to cut off the ropes the boys were tied with pierced through the pastor's stomach... The anger that the boy had was too much that he stabbed him to death.

And now that same anger was evident in Thulani's eyes and April knew better than to keep on pestering the man!

"I only need your sister to help my family help remove the curse and bind the two families again much damage has been caused and I am losing everything I have worked for"

He said his voice low...

"Unganya kwedini! No sister of mine will help you after the years of abuse she has endured from you and this

family! She's now at a happy place and I would be damned to risk all that for you stupid cunt face!"

Thulani roared

"Well we both know she won't survive at that royal house so either way you are damned. Remember I know how she paints this very moment right here was once in one of her portraits! We both know that. You won't kill me Thulani because you need me! You need me to remove the tie in her womb! You need me to appease your ancestors! You need me!!"

April roared

Thulani seemed to go into remembrance again! His head was blurring with the mention of 'need' he felt the flashbacks of those days he would be cuffed in bed with the Pastor telling him 'Boy you need me' . the images vividly playing in his head and the dizziness slightly washing him he was going into panic and April went over

to his side he knew the panics because he also had the same episodes the trauma was heavy on both men.

“Thulani breathe!”

He shouted as Thulani let go of the gun held on to the table and he breathed heavily like an animal in pain! Everything was coming back strongly. His therapist in Australia had warned him about bottling up he was bound to have this episode!

His chest closed up as April continued to hold his shoulders shouting at him to breathe! He couldn't let him go.

Thulani's knees hit the ground as air seemed to leave him...

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To be continued.

THIRTY FIVE

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“You need to come to the hospital now! It’s your brother”

“What happened? Is he okay? Which hospital?”

He harshly said the hospital name as I kicked the blankets off and rushed to the shower why would Thulani get sick and why would I be called by Siyabonga?

All these questions were rushing in my mind as I got out of the shower and dressed up in warm clothes. I grabbed the cellphone car keys as I rushed out of the house and drove straight to the hospital. Port Elizabeth traffic not helping too!

“What happened and what are you doing here?”

I asked as I reached the bench outside the ward where the nurse directed me. My stomach was already in knots seeing him there.

Him: “Anxiety Attack he will be okay the doctors are still busy with him”

He said looking up at me with pained eyes.

I sat down next to him that scent again... I remembered how it used to trigger me and send shivers of fear down my spine. I pulled the cellphone and sent Wade a text letting him know my whereabouts.

Me: "What were you doing with him?"

Him: "He came over to my house to talk about business"

Me: "Business? What business? Thulani cannot stand your guts! I am sure you did something and now you feel guilty"

I said pissed off. He just looked at me and went back to staring at the wall.

I tapped my foot on the floor nervously and kept checking time on the cellphone.

After what felt like forever he looked at me.

Him: "I heard you are pregnant guess I was the problem this entire time"

Me: "Of-course you were"

Him: "You do not have to be cold you know that?"

Me: "You don't tell me how to react"

The cellphone rang I got up from the bench and answered the call

Me: "Hello"

Him: "Is it something serious I was in a meeting when you sent the SMS"

Me: "No uhm.. They're saying it was an anxiety attack he should be fine but doctors are still busy on him"

Him: "Okay do let me know how it goes I have back-to-back meetings and I cannot leave now"

Me: "It's okay uhm.. I'll manage"

Him: "Okay How are you? You know you should be resting?"

Me: "I am okay never been better"

Him: "No pains?"

Me: "None"

Him: "Okay make sure you eat something and... I have to go sthandwa my next meeting starts in a minute"

Me: "Okay bye"

Him: "Take care I love you"

Me: "I love you too"

He dropped the call and April cleared his throat I turned and he was standing his hands in his pockets.

Him: "Uyaythanda nhe le Bhokhwe yakho?"

I chuckled at his statement...

Me: "What makes you think I'll answer the rubbish you're asking?"

Him: "You don't have to it was rhetorical"

He got up from the bench and stood in front of me.

Him: "Where did we go wrong Mamthembu?"

He cannot be doing this! He cannot!

Me: "Move back please"

He was too close to me one would think we were about to kiss his hands were still in his pocket but fed my nostrils his scent.

I took a step back and he chuckled I avoided his eyes.

Thanked God we were in a corridor rather than a room
Had I hit a wall things would have gone south.

Me: "I need you to stay the hell away from me Siyabonga
had this not been a hospital I would've caused a scene!
You are fucking asking me where we went wrong when

you know! I do not want anything to do with you don't even think you can try."

Him: "I was actually being nice yazi it's not like he will treat you any better than me. We men are all the same. We'll always treasure the first months and then after we show the real us. Just know you are now with a master manipulator Bulelwa"

I chuckled and looked at him in the eye

Me: "The problem starts when you place every man living out there in the same bag as you. Not all men are like you Siyabonga! And the one I am with right now is definitely not in your level so please Bhuti

Sponsored

khawume kancinci!”

Him: “You’ll regret ever leaving me”

Me: “Clearly you are sick!”

I moved as a nurse walked out of the ward

Me: ‘Nurse How is he?’”

Her: “Are you related to him?”

Me: “Yes I’m his sister?”

Her: “Okay he is responding well to the medication the doctor will see you know”

That's all she said as she rushly walked down the passage.

.....

Never in my years of living have I thought I would ever revisit the past I buried I never thought my brain would betray me and replay images I had worked hard to forget... the death of another human being in my arms.

He was known as Pastor Joshua in the Mission he was a leader of the local church alongside his wife whom we called Sister Anna and she was a very nice lady. She would always invite boys to her house for some odd job and sometimes would make jam sandwiches. Every boy in the area loved the pastor's wife she was a very warm lady who amongst other white people in the mission was the only one who was seen as human beings rather than primitives. There were always rumors that the pastor was sleeping with other men but his wife kept it a secret that is why she had boys coming in and out of her house. By my logic it was to satisfy her man's needs. What didn't

make sense in the area was that; no man boy cried rape or sexual assault I guess he never touched them in the presence of his wife but I know after Sister Anna's death- the pervert pastor showed himself. Or rather he did sexually harass them but because he was a master manipulator no boy dared to say anything like me and Siyabonga.

We were his victims he raped us repetitively and made sure we kept quiet we never said anything too. No one in the Mission would believe two black boys are being raped by the pastor who was held in such high esteem by the community the color of his skin worked in his favor alongside the privileges of being born a male.

How Siyabonga ended up staying with the man was; the local school didn't have a hostel for boys. When his family decided to move back to the rural areas the headmaster his father and the pastor decided that he would remain in the care of the pastor. Not only the church leader was a widower he never had any children

with Sister Anna rumor had it that Sister Anna had a baby girl who was healthy but a week later she drowned her in the bathtub. As much as she was a nice person she carried a dark aura with her. So April was groomed by the man when we became friends the man would look at me in uncomfortable ways months later in his office church my anus felt like it caught fire... that's where it started in his church office then later in his house and proceeded to him forcing the two of us to do it while he watched. It was the most traumatic thing. He was a man of God on the outside but inside a monster was living unfortunately I had to see that monster come to life.

Things changed from then I became this submissive boy who was raging with anger. I would get into fights with means of numbing the pain.. For months and months I resented the man! I hated everything he forced us into... it went on until that fateful night.

He had tied us with a rope and was whipping us me to be precise as I wanted out and had threatened to tell the congregation on Sunday about what he did to us. April

had feared for his life as he knew the pastor being exposed will only bring problems for him.

He said “You are black and I am white No one will believe you boy so don’t even dare try!” and he meant every word. When he untied the rope with the knife and told us to suck his manhood I knew I had reached my point. The anger in me had me releasing a loud groan with tears already flowing down my face I was the submissive and so deemed weak! My pride and Ego was bruised and so I reached for that knife. With all the strength I had in me it went straight to his stomach. Rage filled me and I stabbed him multiple times what was going through my mind was “Kill him!” It was as if a voice was shouting and cheering me on... it was only after I saw the pool of blood I jumped off him April stood frozen with his eyes bulged out. My shirt was full of blood and so was the floor.

The number of blacks in the mission protected me with their all it was my mother who found us first. The days before the killing Bulelwa had used her crayons to draw a pool of blood with a man down she was only 10 then and

mother knew Bulelwa was not like the rest of the children. She was a special child with a gift her gift being to draw what the ancestors showed her in her dreams. So when she saw that drawing before the night she knew it meant something bloody was to happen. Finding two boys standing over a lifeless body she never said anything. She told us to go to the shower and clean ourselves. To this day I wouldn't tell what she did as when we got out of the shower the house was spotless and not a single drop of blood was present. There was the housekeeper two men who cleaned the church and the lady who worked with mother at the hospital.

The pastor was given a dignified send-off we never uttered words about that incident nor did we talk about what led to me killing the man. Months after I was taken to the rural areas for cleansing. Life became a lot more bearable without the fear of a vulture. Even so the after effects remained with me.

For years I struggled with post traumatic depression I attended therapy in Australia it never helped. I decided to stuff away the pain and forget about it unfortunately

bottling up has caused me to have panic attacks anxiety attacks every now and then.

“Thulani!”

I heard her soft voice from afar I couldn't respond to her because I was severely sedated. She placed her warm hands on my arms and God knows I wanted to respond and assure her I am okay. For sure she has questions about how I ended up here with her ex-husband.

“We should probably let him rest Bulie”

April said to her and silence fell in the room. I could hear her resisting but they eventually walked out and left me.

Explaining all this to Bulelwa will be challenging....

THIRTY SIX

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“Have you gone through your paintings?”

Wande asked as we were seated on the floor in my bedroom. I leaned on the wall as I looked at him resting his head on the floor placing his palms over for support.

Me: “I haven’t I don’t even believe in that”

It has been three days since that incident Thulani was discharged the next day and we sat down and talked about everything that has led him to falling out. My heart broke when I learnt the things he had gone through in his childhood. I was stunned at learning the real reason the pastor died.

Him: "Why don't you?"

Me: "Huh?"

Him: "Why don't you believe that your paintings tell the future?"

Me: "Because that's outrageous"

Him: "I think you're in denial"

Me: "I could be"

We remained silent for a while...

Me: "You still haven't told me about what happened at the hospital"

He has been shying away from that! Either changing the subject or distracting me with kisses. He sighed.

Him: "It has passed now and you don't have to worry about it my love"

He said ever so calm. I took a deep breath and let it out slowly. It felt as he had sliced a piece of my heart the way it stung as he dismissed me again.

Me: "Why do you keep on doing this?"

Him: "What? Protecting you?"

I looked at him and shook my head.

I hate what he keeps doing.

My cellphone rang as I was about to talk some sense into his big head.

I pulled it out of my pocket and answered.

Me: "Hello"

"Hey it's Bukiwe. Can you talk?"

Haven't talked to her since that day of the meeting.

Me: "Yes I can. Something's wrong?"

She was whispering

Her: "I am driving out of the royal house now I need to talk to you urgently"

I shifted and sat up straight

Me: "Yes"

Her: "I mean face-to-face. I am leaving the village and I might arrive in P.E in 4 hours or so depending on the traffic on the way. Can I please drive straight to your house I will book a b&b after. I first need to talk to you"

Me: "Oh okay Uhm I will prepare the spare room there's no need for you to book a b&b when you arrive in P.E let me know"

Her: "Okay thank you. I will see you then"

Me: "Sure"

Her: Bye"

She dropped the call and Wande looked at me with questioning eyes...

Me “Bukiwe is driving here there’s something she urgently need to talk to me about”

I filled him in before he could ask.

Him: “Oh you look worried”

Me: “I just wonder what it is about I hope it’s nothing bad. Anyway I do not like what you keep doing Wande”

I looked at him as I placed the cellphone back in my pocket.

Him: “Sthandwa sam trust me I want to tell you these things but It’s not easy Madlomo.”

Me: “What are you scared of Mawande?”

For a moment he looked as if his ancestors raised their hands on some “Boy you’re alone”

He cleared his throat and I glanced at him

Him: "Of losing you"

The sincerity in his eyes couldn't be missed.

I chuckled as he sat up and pulled my legs to cross over his.

Me: "Why would you lose me?"

Him: "Some things I have to keep away from you so I can protect your peace. What happened at that hospital is something I don't want you to bother about. Ever. It is better if you don't know. Please Madlomo trust me on this"

He looked so sincere... maybe I shouldn't bother.

Me: "If you say so"

He brushed my legs with his warm hands.

Him: "We haven't talked about what you plan to do with the whole royalty situation"

I haven't had much thought of it too...

Me: "I am not sure if I want to go there. The whole royal family thing to me seems like a lot of work my life is less complicated without them. I do not want to go to a family that will not accept me or plot against me. Many things are involved here and with me being pregnant places me in a spot of vulnerability"

He nodded while he kept on brushing and moving up to my thighs.

Him: "What will happen when your father dies without you knowing him remember he's on his deathbed and is asking for you? Your ancestors keep searching for you what will you do about that?"

He has shifted closer to me and my legs are parted making it easier for him to brush the area between my thighs.

He's looking at me with eyes filled with lust his smile is unmissed as I keep on losing my breathing pattern because of his touch.

Me: "I honestly do not care about the man the ancestors might have to understand that I have my own life to live and stop teasing me with your hand please"

He smirked.

Him: "Is it working?"

I smiled

Me: "Well yes..."

I moved closer to him and positioned myself on his lap my arms holding on his shoulders as I straddled him. My fingers kept twisting his long dreadlocks. His hands held on my waist as we smiled at each other. The heat exchanged was way too high.

Him: "Madlomo wam"

I couldn't help but blush as he smiled his eyes gleaming with love.

Me: "Sthandwa sam"

This was it! The moment I want to treasure my whole life. His hand caressed my face as he smiled.

Him: "Umntu Wam yazi the elders chose you for me. The most beautiful lady there is I love you Madlomo. So much that I wish to put you in a glass and admire you my whole life"

My cheeks were heated

Me: "I too believe the elders came together and decided we belong together remember how we randomly met"

I laughed as memories of the first day played in my mind.

Him: "I do remember and how clumsy you were. Ayy uBulelwa. Actually that wasn't the first time meeting you the very first time was in my dreams of course and then the time you were in Tanzania I went there with Ziya and when we saw you at that hotel I knew I had seen my partner"

He smiled...

Me: "I can't believe you saw me first and decided to wait until months later"

I playfully rolled my eyes

Him: "It's not like you'd have taken me serious take off the hoodie"

I raised my hands and he pulled it off my body leaving the T-shirt

Me: "I would have like I did at the party"

He laughed and pulled the T-shirt too leaving me naked with only the underwear.

Him: "Your skin is so soft my love"

He brushed his forehead onto my chest as I unbuttoned his shirt He moved from my chest and took it off and I ran my hands on his torso. Trailing on the faded scars below his left nipple.

Me: "What happened here?" I asked as my fingers traced on the faded scars

Him: "Being a Thwasa came with its challenges I was scratched by something I don't even know till this day the other ones are from a fight I got into years back"

Me: "You've been around I see"

I unbuttoned his trousers and he kept on touching my body. I balanced on my knees and he took off the trousers.

Him: "Way longer than you have been"

He chuckled I smiled.

Our foreheads met and I took the moment to gracefully appreciate him.

Me: "I love you"

Him: "I love you too Madlomo"

I placed my arms over his shoulders he pulled me even closer and held on bum giving it a light squeeze. Our lips met so warm and inviting.

I felt his hard bulge against my warm thighs his hands moved to caressing my body moving slowly up and down my back to grabbing the side of my boobs.

I was drenched as the kiss deepened. I slowly humped against his hard on I needed to feel him.

His hand reached for my panties giving my lady part a brush I moaned at his electrifying touch

The lace fabric ripped...

“That’s like the 100th underwear you’re ripping”

I whispered as he rubbed my open core teasing my clitoris.

“Nawe you should stop wearing these things!”

I giggled as his fingers flickered with my clit causing me to throw my head back and moan loudly. My body vibrated and I held onto him. He went for my neck and the combo sent me to heaven and back my hips moved a bit to meet his fingers...

“Babe...” I moaned

“I need to feel your warmth Madlomo”

I moaned as I felt my body jerking up to respond to the coming orgasm. He pulled out his finger and I cried...

“I’m close”

Before I could complain any further he raised my butt up and I positioned myself as he entered me my walls clenching at the warmth of his hard on.

I gasped as he filled me up.

“Now rock with me baby” he whispered and moved my hips slowly his hands on my waist guiding my pace.

My hips swayed back and forth side by side... how he filled me up like never before. His groans filled the room the temperature in the room was high as we sweetly made love claiming each other and stamping our love.

He flipped me over and my back met the plush carpet he held my legs up on his shoulders. His deep penetration fastened with each pounding.

The pleasure was too much he went in twice thrice four times and I let out a loud scream as I came for him. My

legs felt wobbly as he took my thighs to his hold and went in harder and harder I built up again.

His pace was quicker and within a minute he let out a loud groan as he shattered inside me. He placed my legs over his waistline and came to suck on my neck making me jerk up and let out a moan as I reached my climax again.

I felt him going soft inside. I wrapped my arms around him not minding his heavy weight on top of me.

“Can you reach for the duvet?”

I whispered as we held on to each other

“We should sleep move to the bed you’re pregnant remember”

Oh shit!

He rolled over as I loosened my hold.

He got up and walked to the bathroom leaving me looking like a dead cow on the floor. My limbs seemed to not function because of the pleasure..

He came back with a warm towel and wiped me clean then pulled me to bed.

“Bhabha”

I called him.

“Mhh-hh”

He answered climbing on the bed spooning me our warm bodies met.

“I love you”

I truly do.

“I know sthandwa and I love you too”

He kissed my shoulder as he pulled the duvet to cover us.

I was content.

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THIRTY SEVEN

“How will me going to the village solve anything? Will he recover and be well? Andiyiva tu le into niyithethayo”

I said pacing up and down...

Bukiwe arrived last night at around 9pm. She was too tired for us to talk. We ate she bathed Bathembu and we decided we'd talk in the morning with Thulani too.

Mawande slept over but left before breakfast.

Now we were seated on the dining table with Thulani as she told me about the falling apart of the kingdom my father being sick and everything not working the way it was supposed to. Her and Thulani joined forces in begging me to reconsider my decision.

Thulani: "Bulelwa I know all this is freaking you out"

Me: "Damn well it is"

Him: "You need to calm down and think about this how will it affect you going on"

Me: "I don't know man..."

I rubbed my hands in frustration...

Him: "Talk some sense into her Bukiwe. Your twin is just stubborn"

He got up from his seat

Me: "And now? Where are you going?"

Him: "To sleep"

He walked past me and disappeared in the passage. I sat down and looked at Bukiwe

Me: "I am most scared of losing my life and baby the things I heard in that meeting got to me. There's so much spiritual fights in that royal house and the fear of me not coming out alive still hovers around me"

I sighed

Her: "That is understandable but you are the most protected twin. No one will try anything funny with you there because they need your help. I... I consulted the royal seer before I came here she gave me good and bad news"

Me: "Start with the bad"

She cleared her throat and sat up straight fixing her posture

Her: "Bad news is if you do not present yourself in the royal house bad things may happen. Which include you losing your most precious gift... A storm is brewing your husband saved you the first time and he might not be able to next time such a thing happens and I'll assume you know. Good news well unfortunately I'm not a bearer of good news... There aren't any"

Wait... Wait ...wait

Me: “I am divorced Bukiwe how did my husband save me from whatever you’re talking about”

Her: “Mawande the seer meant him and not that douche-bag. He saved you from...”

She stopped halfway as I looked at her clueless

“He untied your womb sisi”

I nodded she meant that!

Me: “And how in the hell do royal ancestors know about my existence what I mean is how am I even connected with them....”

Such a stupid question because I was untied I am carrying a child and my eye is more open to knowing these things. They are also bound to know a missing child.

Her: "You held Bathembu he connected you back to your elders"

What does that mean?

Me: "Bukiwe you are messing with my head explain!"

Her: "Bathembu is a special child he connects with the royal ancestors... don't give me the look I also found out before I came here. When he held you and started with all the jumping and happiness in your arms he was kind of taking in your scent... the seer explained all this in riddles Bulie. The night after the meeting Bathembu would cry non-stop he'd only stop when he's in... In... Father's hut and next to the kraal. Father said I should beg you to come home the seer said the same thing as father but she elaborated more that the child picked up your scent in which the elders connected to you again"

That explains why he was so clinging on Wande that day of the meeting.

Me: "How old is Bathembu?"

Her: "2 years his speech is impaired that's why he babbles all the time"

I nodded. we remained silent for a few minutes. everything is at stake here refusing might cause harm to my children and relationship with Wande. there so much spiritual fights with Mother's spirit being back at the village.

After years of feeling empty and not having a family Time is precious and I am the only one trusted to do all this work and rectifying mistakes done by the past generation. From all this I might find a family.

Me: "Can you stay two more days I will fix things at work and then we'll drive to the village together you can get everyone to prepare things"

I looked at her she was smiling and nodding.

Her: "I'll call Boniswa and let her know"

I nodded...

Me: "I'll go lie down. You don't mind clearing the table for me right?"

Her: "No not at all sis"

I smiled and got up from my seat. Before I could disappear in the passage she called my name.

Me: "Mhh-mhh"

Her: "Thank you for doing this I know you don't know anyone but when you wake up I'll fill you in on the details about the family. We are quite a huge one"

I nodded and smiled

Me: "I would love that Sis"

I smiled and proceeded to walk to my bedroom. I closed the door and threw myself on the bed.

I reached for my cellphone on the pedestal and called him.

"Lelwa"

Me: "Are you busy?"

Him: "I just got out of my first meeting

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I'm free for the next hour. What is it?"

Me: "I'll be going to the village this Friday"

Him: "You are!?"

He sounded surprised.

Me: "Yes I think I have to do this and just get it over and done with"

Him: "Thulani will be coming with you?"

Me: "I doubt though I haven't asked him"

Him: "He'll have to I can't come with you and someone has to be there to look over things"

Me: "You mean babysit me"

Him: "You'll be entering a dangerous territory Madlomo you already have people hating on you without having seen your face and I do not want to test waters with you. Day before you leave come sleep at my house"

He cares.. So cute.

Me: "My prayers will carry me"

Him: "I know! And that is why you need to come sleep over at my house so we can phahla and pray together before the journey. Bukiwe and Bathembu too. Thulani is strong he takes care of himself"

Wow...

Me: "You never mentioned that Bathembu is a special child"

Him: "It must've slipped my mind he is but still too young to understand anything"

Me: "Mhh-hh let me take a nap ke will I see you today?"

Him: "I'll come over for dinner"

Me: "I will see you then have a lovely day"

Him: "Have a good one too Madlomo"

I dropped the call and sighed deeply as I threw my head on the pillow. How life has quickly changed.

.....

“Nozukile!!”

Boniswa shouted as she walked around the homestead the king has been unwell for months now. All he does is sleep without talking or saying anything to anyone. The only time he eats is when Bukiwe blackmails him doctors and healers have tried but it was nothing that could be fixed through western medicine. They all knew he had to go to the river with all his children and with the most important child; the one with a gift from the royal ancestors. Things he thought he had avoided in the past were now catching up with him placing not only the kingdom but his health on the line too. The ancestors were torturing him and punishing him for all these sins.

“Ndingapha!!”

Nozukile answered as she was watering the dead garden everything was dry in the village. Nothing seemed to

have life the sun was up in arms burning the living out of everyone. Drought seemed to be a factor too.

“Usayikhathalele ngantoni na le gadi ifileyo” – Why do you still care for this dead garden?

Boniswa asked as she reached her. The garden was dead indeed the corn was dead and the grass turned to a color close to bronze because of the dryness. Nothing was growing the soil was no longer healthy.

“It’s all a matter of holding on and hoping that we might get something”

She said as she placed the watering can on the side and walked to the bench Boniswa had occupied. She sat next to her and took off her sun hat. She looked at the mountains afar that seemed to have no life the skinny cows on the field looking dead like the king of the place.

“I see... I received a call from Bukiwe”

Boniswa looked rather pleased and that confused Nozukile.

“Ngoku? Uphi khona andikamboni oko ndingene apha” – and? Where is she I haven’t seen her since I entered the yard.

“She’s in Port Elizabeth she never told anyone where she is going. She left late with Bathembu after that consultation with the seer”

“MamHlanga was here?”

Nozukile asked shocked Mam’Hlanga - the royal seer who comes to the royal homestead unannounced she gives people their news and what the ancestors told her to pass she’s never summoned only she summons people to her yard. So whenever she visits the royal house they

know she brought news that might make or break them. In Nozukile's case; she feared that Mam'Hlanga would spill all her secrets and dark things she had done in the Kingdom in means of getting her son to be the next King.

Boniswa nodded

"She was only here for Bathembu and Bukiwe The boy was crying nonstop. After that she got in her car and drove. She just called me and all to find she drove to Bulelwa's house"

This was not good news in Nozukile's case. She nodded and listened

"Bulelwa has agreed to come home and they will be here on Saturday"

Boniswa said with a little joy in her voice and Nozukile gave the fakest smile. Boniswa knew what the wife of her

husband's brother was capable of she was rubbing it on purpose.

“Tyhini that is good! Hayke we must get people to prepare a feast for the home coming. Everyone has to be here on Saturday”

Boniswa nodded in agreement.

“Yes yes. Finally things will fall in the right direction. I'm hoping that will kind of get my husband out of that bed. Let me go and tell the sister wives”

Nozukile was deep in thoughts as Boniswa got up from the bench and walked away from the garden. She sighed heavily and scratched her head. She feared such could happen she never thought Bulelwa would eventually get the guts.

It was time she traveled to the mountain again a storm was indeed brewing and it would not end well for any of them.

She clapped her hand and went back to watering her non-existent plants.

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