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This Novel Provide It Chapter 1

I can't believe I allowed my friend to talk me into this .

Right now I would have been home , in my room with a bowl of cereal on my laps eating my heartache out . Or maybe I'd have a cup of strong coffee in my hands , drowning my sorrows off .

I told Zaza that going out wasn't an option for me right now , I even begged her to leave me behind so that I can nurse my wounds and cry the pain off , in peace . I mean who goes out partying right after they

had their heart's broken ?

You know that whole movie scenario where one cries a river ,while downing the whole bottle of wine and stalking on the ex trying to figure out who the other woman is ,while they curse and compare themselves to them . Would be ideal for me right now , instead I find myself having to fake ,having a good time .

“ Girl , you still okay ? “ Zaza pops out of nowhere .

You know she has disappeared on me for like 30 minutes and she just pops out like a ghost , I'd wipe off that smile of hers with a fist right now .

“ I'm still breathing .” I say with the most fat grin , as big as my thighs .

“ Great then . I'm here to tell you to smile a little . You scaring them good brothers off , you do know we ain't going back home without you scoring some .” She says that as if I'm here scouting for a man or something .

“ You're not funny Zaza .” I frown .

“ I'm not trying to be . Now smile we gotta get you to forget about Sandile .”

Before I can even answer to that two guys approach us , one being Zaza's friend or something .

“ Zaza ! “ The bearded one she's been with all the time call out for her .

“ Oh that's my que gotta go , now be nice .” She heads to Mr beardman . As soon as she makes her way forward the other guy leaves beardman and comes towards me .

“Oh hell no !” I say to myself .

I see where this is going , probably what she meant about getting me a fine now . She did a little mistake there because the one approaching me right now isn't anywhere close to being 'fine ' .

All I see is a light skinned madala , with a wrinkled face . Let me not get down to what he's wearing probably those madalas who don't wanna age .

I let out the meanest face before he can even get to me .Too late he's already here .

" Young lady ." He says with a brief smile , I'm even glad he sees that I'm young . This is about to be the shortest conversation ever .

"Hi sir ." I send out a faint smile .

"Ohw , what with the formalities ." He laughs . "You can call me Mike ." He lets out his hand for a shake .

"Okay sir Mike ." I up the glass of wine I've been forever holding in my hands . I gulp it all down .

"Care to get another one ?" He asks .

"No thanks I'm good ." I look the other way . I hope he catches the sign.

"You can't be holding an empty glass . This is my house , I can get you anything you want . "

Oh the house is his , I've been wondering since we got here who's house it is . I've been trying to break it down who in her right mind allows a group of seniors hang out with youngsters in his or her house . That's probably a lame thought , I mean omadala here seem to be having a good time with girls throwing themselves at them . Now if TaMike thinks I'm that type too , he probably has got it all wrong .

"You've got the wrong girl ."

"How so ?" He raises a brow .

"Can I use the bathroom ?" I ignore his question .

"Sure . Third door to your left . " He points out .

"Thank you ." I smile and head out .

I swear I could kill Zaza right now .Crying myself to sleep over Sandlile would have been way better than being hooked up with a guy who refuses to grow up .

You can tell he's one of those Mkhulu Baes , all over social media with the 'aging like fine wine ' caption . Definitely her type of scene not mine .

Well apart from a forward owner this is a nice house , I wonder why he's not married if he can afford a house this beautiful . Probably still having a hard time with commitments , wait, wait ! He didn't tell he wasn't married maybe his wife is away for the weekend or something as we roam around his house .

I walk to the bathroom working out the perfect plan to get out of ,I know miss Zaza isn't about to avail herself anytime soon and I'm in no mood to be cursing out elders for the whole night .

After emptying my bladder , I'm out of here .

I walk out the bathroom like a lady with a plan . Nobody is paying attention to me , everyone is all out sweating it off , while others got themselves pressed on walls making out . If I were to invite omama bomthandazo , hell would break loose . I'm sure some of these men are married with wives and kids , waiting for them at home right now .

As for TaMike he's already standing with another one , looking more cosy with his hands in her behind . What a jerk .

I know I just sent him off but I feel cheated on right now . As if Sandile cheating on me wasn't enough .If I was already Mike's girlfriend I would have had a double blow right now .

I walk out , in hopes that I will call someone to come get me once I get outside . This seems like a pretty nice neighborhood and I don't live that far from here . Dambuza is just a walk away from Snathing , the road is straight forward with a few curves and turns .

Who am I going to call , silly me . For a second I thought about Sandile and how he used to be of help to me but Sandile is long gone by now , I'm on my own . That's what feet are for I guess , it is a walkable distance after all and it's not that late .

I walk out the gate and off I go . The road is pretty dark at this time but there are a few people walking and a couple of street lights plus cars driving up and down , I shall be fine .

After walking some distance I approach a group of guys and for a sec I am scared to continue but fear is all just in the head right , I can't assume that people are bad by just looking at them . They are probably just a group of teens hanging out late .

I walk boldy trying to brush my fear off . I greet them as a bonus just to show them we are one .

There! nothing happened I catch my long held breath and walk past them .

After a few laps I hear foot steps behind me , I turn back to see people walking behind me . The same boys . My heart starts pounding and no one tells me that , it's about time I up my pace . I walk as fast as I can .

I turn to see that their starting pace has also increased , I results to taking a few sprints . This is it ! These are not just a bunch of teens hanging out , what surprises me is that they are now 2 instead of 4.

Maybe I'm being delusional ,maybe they just parted ways to go home and these to happen to be living on the same area with me , or maybe they're just passing ,Snathing road is a route to many . But why are they walking on my pace ?

I start running immediately and they also join in ,in my little marathon .I run as fast as I can . God this is not happening right now .

Why did I leave , couldn't I have been nicer to Mike , he would have drove me home . I would be safe right now . Who knows what these guys will do to me ? I continue running for my dear life .

I nearly fall on my stomach when I notice 2 figure standing on the road before me . One on the left lane , one on the right lane. I swallow hard seeing that this has been perfectly planned out , 2 stayed behind , 2 rushed to block me at the front .

This is one of the busiest roads ,where are people and cars when you need them? Not even a single car is passing by right now , uma ibhadi likuqondile , likuqondile .

I just stop and accept my fate , if I continue running there's no way I'll pass the ones before me and there's no way I'll out run them all .

"Mana sikukhapse my sister ." Says one guy from the back .

" Aiybo eyy kahle ustan'shin wami lo . Zwakala yii mamas ." One from the front says .

"Khohlwa yilaba Queen , yimi owakho ." Another intrudes .

God how sick can guys be ? I don't even know them or have any interest in either one of them but they're already picking and tossing , like a piece of dirty cloth .

This is the que now scream , something tells me . I don't hesitate , I scream . One jumps in a flash and holds my mouth .

"Shhh! You'll get u in trouble . " He whispers .

I bite his hand and he pushes me , I nearly fall but another one catches me with a hot slap .

“Nxx , awubuke lesfebe senzani. Shit !” The guy I bite exclaims .

I scream once more , hoping my help comes phambi kokuba bangeze isilo sengubo . Tears are already streaming down .

2 grab me and 1 checks the cost .

“Search here ubone ukuthi uphetheni .” One says .

I try fighting them off and I’m still trying to fight my way off their hold , a huge bright light hits us . Then there’s a hoot .

“Yey nina bomalala eveva , what do you think you’re doing .” A guys voice says , I don’t even know when did the car stop .

No one tells any one to run , they all just let go of me and run separate ways .

“Ukahle nkosazana ?” The guy walks up to me . That’s where I notice he just scared them off with a knobkerrie .

“Thank you so much .” I say with a shaky voice .

“These thugs nearly hurt you . I’m glad I was just in time . Where are you going at this hour ?” He asks .

“I’m going home .”

“Alright , khwela etaxini . I will drive you home .” He says pointing to the quantum behind him .

I don’t say a thing but head to it straight .

“Uyazi ngithi ngiyocash upper . You are lucky I chose to cash up late today . Bebezoqeda ngawe labo skhotheni .” He says clicking his tongue and slamming the door behind him . I don’t even say a word , I’m still shaking .

He drives off .

“Angisabuzanga kwakubuza , konje inkosazana umabani ?” He turns to me .

“Please keep your eyes on the road .” I point forward .

“That’s your surname ? I can drive with my eyes closed. “

The entire trip to my house I have to listen to him talking . He doesn’t even mind that I don’t reply . Brother man is just gifted down his nose . I can’t complain though , he really helped me .

We get to the cottages , he drops me off and he sees me off before he goes .

CHAPTER 2.

Grace !

Grace is what you call what happened to me last night . Kungumusa wakhe that I'm still able to breath right now . Who knows what would they have done to me . I thank the almighty for sending an unlikely angel to save me .

I had a hard time getting some sleep ,once you close the door at the cottages , you are just on your own .

Their words still haunted me , everything was just coming back in livid . I wish I could call Sandile , ask him to come over but I couldn't . This was just mine alone to handle , with Zaza not being in the room , I had to pray myself to sleep .

I woke up with a huge knock on my door and I noticed the sun is already up , penetrating it way in .

"Did you die ? Open up , you owe me explanations ." She's back . I drag myself off my single bed .

I open to find her standing in front of my door all dressed up and wearing a huge smile .

"Zaza ." I say flatly .

"Friend ! You've got to tell me who took you home last night . Open up ,we leave for church in 15 minutes ." She says looking at her wrist watch .

"I'm not telling you anything ." I say opening the bugler guard . I turn back then she ushers herself in .

"Naughty , naughty ! You scared I will judge ?" She ask throwing herself on the bed .

"I left on my own Zaza . I walked an nearly got mugged , luckily a guy a guy came to my rescue ." I say plugging the kettle .

"Who's that guy ?" She sits up straight .

"No one ."

"He helped and he's no one?" She gives me that look .

"Yes no one . Now quite prying and iron this dress for me ." I throw a dress at her . I get my basin then I start bathing .

In a normal day ,I wasn't going to go to church . But today I have a lot to be thankful for , church is exactly what I need .

I finish off in no time and off we go .

There is this steep hill one always have to climb before getting on the shelter . If you're lucky enough a taxi spots you before you struggle your way up and comes for you , but on your 'not so lucky' days you just have to walk all the way .

There's this huge controversy on whether Snathing taxi should take us since they pass on the gate as we are on Snathing road or we should climb the steep hill and sweat it off before even catching a taxi . The Snathing drivers do steal us from time to time , but a fine of R100 is payed should the driver be caught .

Today we just get to do a bit of exercising , I'm so glad I wore sandals instead of hills . Didn't have Zaza's energy .

We reach a few people standing and waiting for the taxi so we join in , Sunday's are the worst when it comes to public transport .

In a couple of minutes a taxi comes up hooting , a few people stop it getting on , before it can even reach to us . By luck it still moves forward , in some days a taxi can get full right in front of your eyes then you left with no other choice but to wait .

It stops by us then the conductor opens up before I even know it , Zaza is inside and the taxi is full .

"Cela simucuphise bandla razor ." The conductor says opening the front door without even waiting for a reply .

"Kancane nje my sister , cupha la kuZahara kukhona abazosala endleleni ." He says taking my back and holding it . In another world that would have been wrong , I ignore it and get inside .

"Ngiyabonga ." I say to the guy who allowed me in . Then I turn my head to look at Zaza who's squashed at the back seat . My eyes on their way back meet the face from last night , right next to me . He's already looking at me with a smile .

"Yaphinde yahlangana nkosazane ." He says making a U-turn .

"Small world ." I let out a faint smile .

"Indeed it is . You are okay though ?" He ask.

"Yes , I'm fine thanks ." God please don't let him yap all the way like last night .

“Managed to get some sleep?”

Oh he has done it now .

“Look about last night thank you . I don’t know what I would have done if you didn’t show up to help me, you probably saved my life but then doesn’t make us friends .” I say with the most meanest face .

“Ayy kuyezwakala nkosazane .” He butts off .

I’m glad to see my savior in daylight . Now I know whom I owe my gratitude .This dark guy with huge uncombed messy hair , wearing a leopard print vest nomblaselo . I’m really grateful indeed but I’m not up for socializing .

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“So do you know the guy who helped you ?” Zaza asks handing me a glass of coke .

“No !” I exclaim so that she lets me be , because I don’t like where she is going .

“Sindi , how can you be so careless ke kodwa ?” She says hitting her face .

“Careless how ?”

“A guy helps you ,you don’t notice . How are you supposed to thank him properly ke ?” She shakes her head in disappointment .

“Already did .” I say .

“When?”

“ Today .”

“Am I missing something ?” You can tell she’s confused .

“ While I was sitting on Zahara on our way to church .” I say .

“The guy on the front seat . Great got his number ?” She asks excitedly .

“The drive himself .” I smile back .

“Wee kanti .” I laugh at the sudden change in her face . I can tell she doesn’t like the taxi driver part .

“Nothing interesting then , next topic . Last night was lit .” Her face lights up again .

“Iza nazo .” I grab a pillow and rest an elbow , leaning close to her .

“All I can say , never judge a book by it cover . Yoh the older the jucier .” She says and makes a huge smile .

“That good ?” I’m shocked , beardman didn’t look so convincing last night .

“I’m telling you . Yhuu what a performance friend .” She says clapping her hands .

The type of friends we have , look at her ncoming a madala like nobodies business . Moving to Dambuza has by far been the greatest decision , I met this stupid person . She’s a vibe , though we should be talking about my broken heart right now . It’s okay ,at least her stories are making me forget .

“You shouldn’t have left like that , you wouldn’t be langazeling me right now .” She continues .

“Suka . He would have died on top of me . Did you see his wrinkly skin ? Sithi ‘ I’m way to old ‘ .” I laugh .

“ You clearly don’t know what you’re missing out . As long as he can fill the fridge and has a deep wallet . I don’t care about numbers .” You can tell by looking at her that she’s actually proud of herself right now . This is exactly how these PMB chicks are .

Zaza is just from around . She is from Harewood , just across Edendale road . Opposite Dambuza , she’s renting all in the name of ‘peace of mind ‘ . But I can tell that the peace of mind is just all in the name of gallivanting . That’s why I find her here right now , annoying me with the news of how TaMike’s friend handled her .

“ Let me go start cooking friend . I have to rest a bit after , work tomorrow . I have to recharge my energy.” Look at her right now , walking out dragging her flat ass . Talk about recharging , just after one session with beardman she’s all here talking about ukubuyisa amandla .

She isn’t representing us well , this one . Let me cook too so that I can rest , early shift tomorrow .

CHAPTER 3

Ah Mondays , the worst days of the week .

One always feels drained on a Monday no matter how they've rested on the weekend , it's even worse with us who get just one day . You are just left yearning for more rest , but a girl gotta do what a girl has gotta do.

I'm already up and luckily I got a taxi early , I'll just be at work on time . I'm squashed on the third row seat though , with two other people on sides . I'm not a skinny person , I'm more on the thick chubby side . I'm a size 38 so others already call me *sdudla* , especially those chancers who would be like , " waze wamuhle stufuza " . Deep down I would be like , " ustufuza unyoko " , They just irritate me . I mean it's not that bad , I just have huge thighs , a fair sized ass , with a bit of jojo catching my fall plus a huge pair of June and July . Yeah shame , I'm gifted under my shoulders right up my lungs .

I get off eRank entsha , one would expect to see a new rank building but it's rather old . I guess the name , stuck to it .

I just cross through it to get to church street and I cross to KFC side and make my way to my second home . Shoprite .

I've been a cashier there for almost a year now and all I can say is , the pay is good enough to put bread on the table . Never had I dreamed that I would be a cashier some day but things always take a twisty turn . Now I am a cashier .

"Morning Sindi ." One of my co-workers greets as I just enter .

"Morning babes ." I greet back .

"Usengenile ubab'wenu ?" I ask heading to my locker . I place my bag and put on my shirt .

"Akubuzwa ." Andiswa says storming in .

"Bitch , how was your weekend ?" I walk to them pulling down my t-shirt . I can't wait and dress properly first before I get to hear about her weekend .

"Yoh , you don't want to know ." She says throwing her bag on the table . "Engemuhle umfana , kodwa hhawu ." She says clapping her hands .

" Yeah that cute guys for you ." Nomusa interrupts , I guess she also knows about the weekend . She's been sitting quietly , sipping on her tea , I guess she couldn't miss a turn on this one .

“Ay sisi ngehlanze ngedela .” She futhers . I’m already in stitches .

“Let me go and clock in .” I leave them to get to it .

Mornings at our kitchen can be the bests sometimes .

I ask for the float and I head to my walking station .

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“Are these on special ?” An Indian lady asks .

“Yes Ma’am they are .” I say with a smile .

“ Oh good then , can you scan these while I go get some more .” She says looking back at the shopping isle’s as if she’s trying to remember where she got them .

“Sure Ma’am ,just make sure you’re fast about it .” I say grabbing and scanning her other items . It’s a quite morning , we’ve just opened so her dashing back to grab a few stuff won’t be a problem .

“Cela ungiphe iethaymi kaR29 lapho , uvodacom .” A male voice says .

I look up to see a guy focusing on pulling some notes on the bank plastic on his hands . Where did he even come from .

“Hello to you too .” I let out a smile , which shrinks right after he lifts his head up .

“Saw ...” His tongue cuts off .“You !” He says , with his eyes popping out .

“ Yes me , now please move .” I say with a mean smile .

“My airtime .” He says handing out the money .

“ No , you need to move .” I direct him with my eyes . He turns to see the Indian lady standing behind him .

“ Excuse me sir , those are my things .” She says with an awkward smile . He turns back to the till to find items all over .

“Oh pardon me .” He says and makes a way for her .

“ Sorry I took my time . You know my family is crazy about these so I find myself having to buy them in bulk , especially if they’re on sale .”She says giggling .

“No problem .” I add her sour creams on my already packed plastics .

“Thank you bye . Next !” I call out for mr leopard print . He has another one even today , can you believe it ?

“Nkosazana .” He says slowly with his deep hoarse voice .

“R29 Vodacom coming right up .” I say punching in the screen .

“Nice to see you again .” He says with a smile . “Didn’t know you work here .” He adds .

“Now you know .” I had out my hand to receive the cash .

He sees it and lashes it on .

Yoh what an inconvenience , twice is acceptable but 3 times ! What is big guy up there up too ? This is starting to feel like those novels , where they get saved and start shagging it .What ever it is , Lord I’m not interested .

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Whoapie my shift ends early today .I’m knocking off and making my way to KFC ,to get myself dunked wings .

I’m planning on having bread for supper tonight ,I’m in no mood for cooking . I’ll just get 8 wings ,4 for the road and 4 for supper .Then tomorrow I’ll have to buy igwinya at work , you know that huge round big enough to be an infant’s head from Shoprite . Yep we eat them too .

After purchasing my wings I heard straight to the underground taxi rank , emgodini . I pass those irritating conductors who always ask you where you going , like you lost or something . I pass Azalea straight to Dambuza . Then the shouting starts ,”Oye Ntabeni ,ngaphakathi Dambuza! Oyesbhedlela , emall ,Dambuza .”

That moment he’s shouting , not being the only one as he approaches me .

“Sis’teri sikuthathe Dambuza ?” He asks pointing out .

“I know where I’m going .” I say .

“I’ll show you sis’teri , where are you going ?”He turns and starts walking with me .

“NgiyeNtabeni.” I reply .

“Sure , the first one sis’teri . Wozani sbhedlela , Dambuza weMa .” He turns back and continues his journey .

I continue walking and make it to the door side .

“Ntabeni .” Another one says pointing to the taxi . I get in ,have my sit and take out my wings . I start munching on them .

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“Umsebenzi .” Zaza says as soon as I pass he room.

“Zaza .” I head straight to my door and take out my keys .

“You good ?” She comes out .

“I’m good .” I open and get in , she follows .

I throw the bag on the bed and take off my pumps , they’ve been killing me the whole day .

Zaza sits next to it and opens it .

“Mmm wings .” She says and grabs one .

“ That’s my dinner Zamani .” I frown .

“Ay suka , into ezokulalisa etoilet le .” She doesn’t give a damn , instead she grabs a second one.

“You will dish up for me since you are finishing my super , I’m not cooking .” I plug the kettle and take off my clothes .

“ No problems hun , I will have to dish for bae first .”

“Which bae ?” I turn and look at her in disbelief , Since when does she use the ‘bae’ word for ‘her persons’.

“Nurse bae .” She says with a huge smile .

I have to sit down and hear this one out . Since when do we have a nurse bae ? I sit next to her .

“Spill it out .”

“Okay ,okay his name is Mthebeni , his a nurse .” She lets out a huge bright smile.

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CHAPTER 4

I had a very rough night , I had go to the toilet 3 times . We have an outside toilet , a very scary one for that matter . It's a bit distanced from the house , right near the gate . Imagine , who builds a toilets near a gate further away from everything . Our landlord is just crazy .

I had to pass by Zaza and wake her up ,at least the first time was around 10 , Sanele and the others were still chilling outside drinking . The unity in our yard , if they are drinking , they all share . Mkhulu , Sanele and the others . It's a male dominated world around here , only a few females , Zaza and I plus the girl friends who come to visit every now and then .

I woke Zaza up the second time , which was just after 12 .

Please call toilet .That's how it red . In seconds she shouted . "Kodwa yini inking yakho ?"

"I'm pressed , wake up and escort me ." I say , trying to squeeze it in .

"Just use the plastic , don't you have a bucket ?" She shouts back . In a second , I hear her getting up . Then the door sound . "You're not getting out ?" She sounds irritated .

I get up grab a toilet paper and head to the door .

"Stop eating hot wings ." That the first thing she said .

"Sorry friend . Couldn't hold it in ."

"What are you standing for , lead the way ." She directs me .

The moment my bare butt touches the cold plank toilet sit ,everything goes gush . God I nearly had an accident , thank you for Zamani . In the meantime she's standing outside , her phone light on my face and she's trying to keep the conversation going . I can tell she's nervous , God knows I am too that's why I rush the whole process .

In no time , I'm out and we both run inside . The second time was around 3, she was still a darling enough to wake up . My poor friend .

It's even worse how I drag myself to work today . I'm not sure whether I'm tired from not sleeping enough or just weak from the stomach pain . I did make sure that I start there before bathing , at least for now it's just tiredness .

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Thanks God I made it too lunch time . I don't have to go to the toilet anymore but one can tell that I'm exhausted , just by looking at me . After having my lunch ,I head back to the floor and I start working my way up . I notice a few people moving from the other till to mine . This is about to be one long afternoon .

"Next !" I call out the next costumer whilst wiping the counter .

"Well hello there ."

I lift up my eyes to see him smile , "Ubekwa yini la ?" I don't hesitate .

"Isn't it obvious ." He continues smiling . I frown back , the devil is testing me today .

"Are you buying because I see no items ? There are many people on the line ." I absolutely have no time for his nonsense .

" She's coming with them ." He points back , a lady emerge behind him .

"Sorry babe , I had to grab some yoghurt ." She says placing the basket.

"No problem sthandwa sami .I'm sure miss cashier doesn't mind ." He offloads the basket .

God I so hate my life right now . Out of all the things that could possibly happen , shit happens . He dumps me , 4 days later he shows up at my work place with his new girlfriend .

I feel my eyes warming up , whilst I'm still trying to serve them with a smile. This is exactly what he left me for , a skinnier and more good looking chick . I won't lie , she's beautiful . She's here all dressed up like she's on a fashion show . She's wearing those two piece suits , I can tell she probably has a better job than me .

She has a weave on , I have a century old straight back . She has the perfect brows , perfect makeup and I'm still struggling on choosing the foundation that matches my skin colour . She has a manicure on and I still bite my fingernails ,when I'm nervous . Don't even get me started on her shape and size . Suka I've been wasting Sandile's time .

They exit holding hands and I'm left drawling . I feel my stomach turning and my heart pounding , I wish I can run off and cry somewhere . But I've just got back , I've got no choice but to just suck it in .

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"How was your day my darling ?" Zaza walks in with a huge smile .

"The worst ." I lie on my back .

She moves my feet and sits , then return them back on her laps . "Tell me all ."

"Saw Sandile ." I say .

"Great , did you guys fix things up ? " She starts massaging my feet.

"He was with someone ."

"Someone ?"

"Yes , his new girlfriend ." I literally feel my heart breaking at that instance .

"Did you just say girlfriend ." She looks shocked.

"You heard me right ."

"The bastard . I could strangle him right now ." She clicks her tongue.

"Ouch , that's not his foot you are mishandling ." She painfully twisted my toe .

"Sorry babes , indaba uyangidina lona ." You can tell by looking at her that she's angry .

"Enough about him , I've cried enough . How's nurse Andile ." I turn the spotlight .

“Mmmm uBae . He’s great .” She smile instantly .

“ When did you meet him ?” I sit up . My foot slips but she grabs it and puts it back .

“Duh ,I work at the hospital . I’ve seen him a couple of times before .” She says .

“And he’s only approaching you now ?” I raise my brows .

“You know how men are . He says he has been looking at me from a distance , esaba ukungiqonda mngani . How sweet .” She blushes like a 2 year old .

“Ngiyakubongela friend .” I ignore the questions on my mind and smile back .

“This time ngisemathandweni , I tell you .” She says .

“You think so?”

“I know so . It’s a serious thing , I mean he already has me making his lunch . So it’s pretty genuine .” She giggles .

“Ayy lucky you .” I continue ignoring the journalist edge . I have to be happy for my friend . Let her live in her fairy tale .

“What of Mr beardman ?” I just had to ask .

“Bheki ! Don’t call him that .” She frowns .

“Okay , sorry . What of Bheki?” I ask .

“He’s more of a casual thing . Ngiyashada la kaMthembeni .” We both laugh .

“At least one of us has something good going on .”

CHAPTER 5

At least this week didn't take much long . I'm surviving . Yes I still cry and there , heartbreaks are no joke . No one wants to wake up after 3 years and find that what's they shared with a person is over , just like that . Like that !

After 3 full years and counting , someone just drops you like a hot potato . I stood by him during those years . Yes he was already a lawyer when I met him , but I stood by him . A whole lawyer who still lived with his parents , if it wasn't for me maybe he wouldn't have manned up and found his feet .

I was also doing a legal secretary course at Umgungundlovu tvet college , my campus was a walk away from the chamber of lawyers . Pietermarits street . I used to walk with a group of friends every day , but during that day I was on my own . We were just in the middle of our exams and my friends all finished writing earlier , so I was forced to follow them once done .

I loved using Pietermaritz , I don't know whether I was forced by trying to ignore the business of church streets . I mean we students knew the heart ache of passing by town during mid month whilst you're dead broke . That time I was living at a flat in town , down by east street , emaphareni .

I'd just talk my time and catwalk all my way down the car busy road , taxis hooting all over . I preferred that over drawling beautiful clothing items and ya'll know the smell of KFC when you don't have any money . So depressing .

That's how I met him . He spotted me , came out of nowhere and he shellad me on that spot . I just got impressed at that instance and I gave him a chance some time later then from there we were happy . Till he started ghosting me then eventually dump me . For what exactly ? For that model wannabe slay queen . I don't know her but I can't tell she probably has a salary that meets his demands .

No he said , he can't tolerate being with me anymore . We just shifted from 'love' to 'tolerance ' without me even knowing . Okay that's not even the bad part , he left because I showed no progress . When he started dating me he hoped that has found someone who will graduate and get a distance job . He had faith in me so he said , but when I went for the cashier job , I hit the dead end with him . There was no way him , a whole lawyer could date a cashier .

Yes he stuck around for some time , close to a year but I guess there we limits to what he can tolerate . He left .

I don't have to cry anymore , I'm begging myself not to cry anymore .

I'm just glad it's finally Saturday though , sis gets to rest . I normally don't get Saturday's off but my forefathers are with me this time around . I can also get a break and do what people from around this area do on a Saturday , washing ! A lot and lot of washing . For someone who stays alone ,I sure do have a tone of washing .

.....

"Ugirl !"

Oh no , I say to myself . There she comes , I wasn't looking forward to this .

"Sisi !" I say with the fattest ever smile .

"Niyaphila ? Whuu angisanazi maerh . Iphi indoda yami?" She says sitting on my stoop .

"We're okay babes .I haven't seen him all morning yazi ." I say walking to the tap . I had a chair outside and placed my washing basin on top of it , so I've been bent there all this time . I always wash everything and put it in the basket before moving to rinsing . Now it's time for me to do the rinsing .

" Where's Zaza , don't tell me she's still sleeping ? Zaza wake up , sengikhona ." She doesn't even wait for me to reply , she's already banging the door violently . Zaza has no choice but to come out , or else morgirl doesn't mind to knock for an hour . That's just how she is , we understand her now .

At first she used to be way beyond irritating , she would come and start knocking for her boyfriend even at 12 O'clock . Oh and she didn't even mind coming dead drunk , she still does . She would be at the tavern whilst the poor guy is sleeping , when she feels that she has had enough , she would walk all the way down just to see if the guy isn't with someone else . We

eventually got used to her and started getting along , so now she comes and visits even if her boyfriend is not around .

“Kodwa yini umsindo oerh ?” Zaza steps out yawning ,still in her night gown .

“Kahle wena , usalele ngalesikhathi ? Ziyokushiya eziya encemeni .” She says laughing .

“ Some of us have to rest during the weekend you know . We have jobs .” Zaza replies sitting on her door stoop .

“I’m just glad nginendoda engondlayo . I was drinking last night but look , still I managed to wake up fresh .” She says observing every part of her body ,like she wants us to look at how fresh she is .

“Wait till you work a day in your life . You’ll know exactly what I’m talking about .” Zaza adds.

“ I used to work once upon a time you know .I was a nanny and a maid at some point . I don’t have time to go behind people , taking care of their junk .” She says .

“Aw kanti . You probably did what you have to do for those seconds and then laze around all day .” Zaza says standing up .

“That’s not true , I suffered . Let me help you Sindi , I want you to accompany me .” She walks forward to me and grabs the pack of pegs .

“Where are we going ?” I ask handing her a clothing item I’ve just drained .

“Don’t worry you will see .” She replies .

“Let me go back and catch some sleep , ya’ll are boring .” Zaza yawns and heads back to her room , slamming the door behind her .

“Senixabene-ke nomawakho .” T adds and we both laugh .

Her helping out makes my job more easy and much quicker . She’s a nuisance sometimes but I like having her already , because she’s really help full .You’d have her do your chores while she narrates the story of her life , how she met and started dating Zuko . The poor Xhosa guy , I’m sure he thought that he has found someone to help him out and keep him company whilst he’s miles away from home . Kanti cha uzithela kuMaT .

Sometimes you would tell that he’s no longer interested but miss Thandiwe here ,isn’t talking that . She has made it clear from time to time that Luzuko is his and only his when he’s around here . The only person she agrees to share him with , is his wife back at home . Yeah ladies

that's just how it is , the same way they leave us around here and date ya'll over there , it's vice versa .

"Manje siyaphi ngempela MaT ?" I ask grabbing my basin and basket .

" Let's go haw ayy . You will see ." She replies .

"Do I need to take a bath ?" I ask .

"No , you are fine just the way you are . Look at me , you're ten times better ." She says that as if she's joking ,You would have to kill me in order to have me leave the house looking like that . She has made it clear a couple of time that she has no business trying to dress to impress , Zuko loves her the way she is .

"At least let me change then ." I say opening the tap , so that I can clean my feet before I go inside . I change into something else quickly then we head out .

.....

"What are we standing for now T?" I ask as she's heading straight to the shelter . "Why didn't you tell me that we're going to town , I would have brought some money ." I stand next to her .

" Who said that we're going to town ?" She asks .

"What are we standing in a shelter for then ?" I'm confused .

" We are waiting for someone ."

After she says that I notice a familiar Quantum . Yes I've spotted it from time to time , it's definitely him . Upon passing us he lets out a hoot and stares at our direction with a smile .

"Ngiyavivinywa ." I say and lift up my hand , signaling him to stop . He reverses back to us .

"Niyahamba lapho Ma ?" His conductor asks opening the door .

"Ima wena ? What was that for ?" I turn my focus to mshayeli at the front .

"I don't follow ." Confusion is written all over his face .

" The hoot ! What was it about ?" I ask with my meanest face .

"Oh that , I was greeting you ." He smiles .

" Are we friends ?" I ask with a cold stare .

“Erh my sister .If you’re not getting in please move we have people who are in a rush here .”
The conductor says .

“I wasn’t talking to you .” I don’t even pay that much attention at him.

“Uxolo nkosazana kodwa umfowethu uqinisile . If I crossed the line by hooting for the both of
you , yobe .” He says .

“Never ever do that again .” I add .

“Aiybo Sindisani .” T grabs my arm .

“Let go MaT , taxi drivers are full of nonsense .” I’m already fuming .

I hear some people from behind already complaining . Some mentioning how rude I am .

“Yobe nkosazana . Ngicela ukuhambisa abantu ezindaweni zabo . Uxolo baphathi bami .” He
turns to the passengers . Now I’m already looking like a mad person , I move away .

“Uyahlanya wena !” The conductor clicks his tongue .

“What was that about ?” T asks looking like she has just seen a ghost.

“Nothing , just that angifuni ukujwayeleka . I’m leaving you .” I turn my back on her .

“Do you know who that was ?” She follows me .

“No !” I say .

“Qhawe !His name is Qhawe . Why would you disrespect him like that ?”She asks .

“Like what , is he God ?” What’s so special about that Qhawe guy , T sometimes .

“No but she’s the most respectful drivers of all time . I’ve never seen him arguing with someone
or even heard bad news about him .”

“Oh good for him then . Besizokwenzani vele lana ?” I change the topic , I have no business
talking about Qhawe .

“Oh that , I wanted us to ambush Ntokozo ?” She replies .

“Ambush her for what ?” I’m shocked that in this blazing day he lured me into ambushing
people .

“I saw him talking to Zuko some time ago .” She says that as if it’s a sane thing to say .

“Awukho serious .” I stand and look at her in annoyance .

She doesn't say a thing but laughs . Whilst we're still at it Qhawe's taxi passes again and he hoots again . This time he lets out a huge smile . God I wish I can bite off his neck right now .

CHAPTER 6 .

It's finally sinking in , he left me good ! He has been posting pictures of her everyday and he even changed his facebook status to **In a relationship with Zoleka Khuzwayo** . I even know her name now , the son of a B* didn't even think about blocking me on his social media accounts . I'm forced to see everything . I want to block him myself but , what if a sense of regrets hits him and he attempts to contact me ?

Let me not even mention his family and friends , lawo maxoki ! They've been commenting on his post congratulating him ,some outlining that she's the person they know . Now I don't even exist , God is not sleeping though . He will deal with them one by one .

My friend has been a darling though , the support that chick gives me .I'm lucky to have someone like her in my life . Though she's been in and out with her gang of bae's , can you believe that nurse Mthembeni has managed to cut the cake in just 3 weeks . Zamani just dates a guy for 3 weeks and decides that she's giving it to him , actually for a week because she started serving him on the first week . At the hospital toilet can you even imagine , all in the name of **we both wanted it badly** . After that incident he's been eating the cake like nobody's business .

I have a mid day shift today , clocking in at 11 . I'm already in my way to the shelter . Luckily for me a taxi that's already going to town has spotted me and it's reversing back to me .Saves me the time they would have wasted searching for people the entire Dambuza .

“Howzit my sister ?” The conductor opens the door and allows me to sit on the sit behind the driver . I ignore him.

I shove my phone inside my handbag then sit up to see Qhawe guy starring from the front mirror . God had I seen that this was his taxi , I would have waited for the next one .

“What are you starring at Shluthu ?” I ask .

“Haaa.” The conductor starts laughing .

“UQhawe nkosazana .” He says looking at me through the mirror .

“Oh .” I say that and turn to my bag , on second thoughts I’ll need my phone and earphones . I don’t want to end up like those chicks ,who talks to the taxi drivers when they get in till they get off . I’m in no mood of making new friends .

.....

I notice him starring a couple of times . Thank to the headsets inventors ,even if he says something ,I don’t have to hear him .

“Usebenze kahle .” Qhawe says once I get off . I ignore him and keep on working forward .

“Seg .” His conductor adds .

Whatever , his insults won’t be pinned on me .I wonder why they always have to be more rude then the driver himself . Imagine being disrespected by someone who doesn’t have a drivers license . Okay ! I have no business with that , I don’t have on myself but at least I don’t spend my every days at a taxi rank .His supposed to have an insight on how to drive by now. But no he spends his time learning how to be rude to passengers .

I’m glad I’m 30 minutes early today , the taxi came early . At least Qhawe and his friends are useful for something , unlike those under taxi drivers who don’t mind reversing for 20 kilometers . You complain they don’t say anything ,instead their spokesperson replies on their behalf .

“Girl , your man was here not so long ago .” Phindile says walking in the canteen .

“Who’s man ?” I’m shocked to learn that I have a man .

“Your man , Sandile .” She replies .

“He ain’t my man .” I frown .

“Since when ?”

I choose to ignore her .

“ Oh that explains why he was it another woman . Yoh you should have seen her , she’s just gouggers .” She says with a grin .

“Oh okay .I’m going to clock in .” I lock my locker .

“Wait your shift hasn’t started yet .”

Those words fall into deaf ears .I’ll rather work the remaining minutes before my shift without pay , than stand here and listen to her talk about my ex .I know by the time her shifts end , I would be the topic of the day .God help me and let this day end already .

.....

“We meet again .” He says entering the car and starts driving .

Oh hell no ! It his taxi . When I got in , I didn’t pay much attention . I just got in and sat and the front , running away from the back sit .Now I’m trapped the car is already full . Another guy started it , I guess that’s how they operate .

“Angathi usqondile lomuntu namhlanje .” He directs that to the conductor .

“Nami ngibuka lokho .” The guy says learning on the back of my sit .

I turn to him .”Do you mind ?”

“Ave ungangifuni wena . “ He says .

“You’re right , I don’t like you .” I say .

“The feeling is mutual .” He replies . “Bafu samdlelani lomuntu ?” He turn his attention to the driver .

“I don’t know my man .She started hating me the day I helped her .” Qhawe replies .

“Oh ilokhu kwamaphara kanti?” I get to know I’m referred to like that , thanks to the conductor .

“Samkelo !” He lets out a warning .

Samkelo ,huh ? That’s the guys name ,he doesn’t reply but laughs .

“Umuntu wamaphara ?” I turn to Qhawe .

“ I’m sorry ,I didn’t know your name .” He says with a smile .

“And you decided to do the honor of naming me ?” I ask .

“Ngiyaxolisa nkosazana .”

“Why are you so respectful ?” I’ve been mean to this guy from day one but he still smiles at me

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“I was taught respect at home .” He says .

“Like some of us were not ?” I roll my eyes .

“Never mentioned that .”

He continues driving like a pro , though I’m disturbing him with a tone of questions .

“Why are you always wearing a leopard print vest ?” I’ve always wanted to ask this question . Ever since I knew him , he’s always wearing this vest . I don’t know whether he has a number of them but , I want to know why it specifically .

“I like it .” He laughs .

“Okay .” I choose to bury the rest of the questions brewing in .

“Don’t you like it ?” He looks at me with a huge smile .

“It’s none of my business. “I focus on the road ahead of us .

“You’ve already asked .” He continues . I choose to ignore him this time around and I take out my headsets .

“Oh she’s back Bafo .” He turns to Samkelo .

“ Better get used to your Cruella .” Samkelo laughs .

“ Cruella ?” I turn to him .

“De-ville .” Oh wow even the conductor has named me too .

CHAPTER 7 .

Turns out ,he's not that bad . I've stopped being rude to the both of them and I've had their luck these past few days . I think I've used their taxi 3 times after holding a conversation with them and learning that ,they each have personal names for me .

I must admit that I've been a bitch and I had been really mean to them , but I guess that it was just timing .I've got free rides twice , can you believe it ? For someone who earns peanuts and who's expected to contribute in groceries every month end , that's a blessing in disguise .I've been more friendlier since then , who says no to a free taxi ?

It's my day off today ,it's a bit chilly outside so I have just been inside the whole day .Zaza is working ,it's Thursday so I'm all on my own , bored AF . These is the type of day where someone really needs MaT ,where is she anyway ? I'd kill to catch up on the latest umgosi scoop from Dambuza right from the horses mouse , but when morgul is needed , morgul doesn't show up . She's such a joy killer sometimes . I know very soon she will be here banging doors like nobody's business , demanding Zuko to open up . It's a pity that day won't be today though .

I've got nothing else to do but just to scroll down my boring facebook , I don't even have a TV for that matter . TV for ini emqashweni ? I catch what's happening via soapie teasers or maybe when I manage to stay up late , in Zaza's room . She has a TV that one , including a Dstv .You can never compare yourself with a clerk and someone who has blessers and rich bae's left right and centre , what a my with a shoprite cashier salary ? The only luxury I get is just affording data , nothing more nothing less .

It's mid month so you just hear a car hoot or drive by after 30 minutes or so , a little relief from the always so busy road . I can even manage to nap for some time , got nothing interesting to do . The other tenants are also behaving today , we have Sanele and Mkhulu around and they are both chilling at Mkhulu's room . Drinking obviously , while Sbonelo has one of his girlfriends over . Other than that ,the place is just quite.

I pull over some blankets , I plan to do some serious napping today . I don't want to drain the perfect opportunity to rest down the drain , standing behind the till all day isn't child's play . Every chance you get to rest is just essential and must be used accordingly .

I'm almost zoning out to lala-land when I hear a huge carhoot outside , it goes a huge dragging **paapaaaaaah**. Maybe they are signaling from someone going to town , but why does it sounds like it's not moving . The hooting stop for a second then a huge wave of maskandi hits us ,I can even hear the song properly . Who on earth plays Mqumeni isecret that loud ?

Now it's clear that the car isn't making any movements, it's just sent to annoy us and its sounds like it's exactly at our gate. I stand up to look in annoyance, whoever it is will get my peace of mind.

I shift the curtain to find a whole Quantum packed on the side lane, opposite our gate. Driverman himself is standing right at the front, with his arms folded and his ass sited on the bulbar. You don't even wish to know who it is ...

"Are you mad?" I ask rushing down at the highest peak of my voice.

Surprisingly at the mist of those high sound waves, he hears me. He moves away from the car and turns to me with a smile. I open the gate furiously and I cross in a flash.

"Hlokohloko." He gives me a huge smile.

"Uyahlanya?" I turn to his door side and turn down the volume.

"MaSi..." I cut him off before he can even finish it.

"Don't MaSishi me, what are you doing here?" I'm fuming up. I don't care if he is here for other reasons but I'm not letting him ruin my sleep schedule.

"Wanted to surprise you. Surprise." His cheeks are visiting his ears again.

"Are you drunk Qhawe?" I breathe fire.

"I don't drink Ma." The dude is still smiling.

"Do you have a missing screw up there?" I ask.

"I don't follow?" Finally he turns his ugly smile to a frown in confusion.

"Only a mad person would surprise a stranger by doing what you are doing now. Who told you I needed a surprise?" He better come up with a good one, I refuse to take this one.

"But I thought we were already getting along." His face remains changed.

"You are seriously an abnormal. Just by talking with you when I'm in your taxi, we are already getting along? Does that make us friends?"

"Come on Sindisani stop treating me like this." He switches to a serious face.

"Treat you like what?" I'm really dealing with a lunatic here.

“Like this . You are always mean to me for absolutely no reason . I was around here and business was down so I decided to come see you .” He continues .

“Helang ! How did you even know I’m not at work today ?” I ask surprised . How did he do that , really ?

“Your window is open and your door is slightly open .” He points out .

“What ? Are you stalking me now ?”

“No ! Of course not ,I just wished to see you Sindisani .” He gives in that creepy smile again .

“You’ve seen me . Greet then ! Now go and stop bothering the whole community with your loud Maskandi .” I turn and face the cottages .

“Would you like to go to town with me ?” Those words follow my first few steps .

“No!” I walk quickly back in and lock the gate behind me , before crazy bird gets in . Not like he is planning to though because he is just standing there looking at me , but rather safe than sorry .

Now what did I say about laughing with these taxi drivers ? Before you know it ,you are their friend and they come to check on you .Absolutely nonsense , I have to switch back to my mean face now , fuck free rides .

“Qhawe .” I meet Sanele’s face peeking through the door .

“Whoa Sanele ,I didn’t see you there .” I smile .

“ I’m here . What was Qhawe doing here ?” He sits straight to the point .

“Nothing , I just went outside to tell him that he is disturbing my sleep . I don’t even know him .”

“Don’t worry he is one of the good ones . Spot on .” He says lifting a thumb up .

“You just crazy .I don’t know him .”

He doesn’t say a thing but laughs and goes back inside ,pushing the door behind him . Curse Qhawe ! I’ll have to fish out more information later just to get to know what he thinks . Sanele is just Sanele , he sees something he jumps into conclusions . I’m sure he already has his own conclusion by now and he will be telling it to everyone who cares to listen .

I get back inside and continue resting . I can’t believe I had to be disturbed from my precious nap for this .

I'm nearly in lalaland again when I hear a knock at the door . God I'm seriously being tested today . "Ubani ?" I pull the blankets over my head and shout .

"Umina makhe ." A voice says .

"Uwena ubani ?" I ask .

"Wena ulindele ubani ?Imina uSanele vula " He drags those words with his stuttering . I get up and answer the door .

"Makhe !" I must say it's real odd to see him here just when I was thinking how I will interrogate him later .

"Sure makhe manje awusho . What's happening between you and that guy ?" He gets straight to the point .

"There we go ! You know , you're nosy sometimes ." I laugh .

"Ayy ,ukuthi wena makhe sisazibhekile uyayibona leyonto ?And we don't see your Audi guy around here anymore ."He furthers .

"Bye Sanele ." I close the door and let it all out . I don't believe what just happened ! Thee Sanele thinks that he can date me . Imihlola ayipheli ! Who wants the townships errand guy for a boyfriend . I haven't even be here for 2 years but I know that every time you need something from the shop and you are too lazy to walk , Sanele is your go to guy . Everyone in the yard sends him , especially the ones who drink , just for a R2 yagwayi .

Imagine me being his girlfriend ke , shuthi we split the R2 in half . R1 , R1 each , Dambuza is something else .

CHAPTER 8

The Madlala's work over time sometimes ,I haven't seen that lunatic Qhawe for 3 days now and I'm glad . Morguy is really ambitious , I wonder what the invite to town was all about . I mean you know someone for a few weeks , then you decide to invite them to go to town with you . That's just crazy .

I'm glad Sanele didn't rat me out to Zaza , I haven't told her about any of this . I for one know that she won't like it , my friend despises taxi drivers . She used to date them a while back and according to her they are bad news and a total disaster .I haven't dated one and according to Zaza's intel , I don't even wish to try . She says they chew your heart and spit it out , I certainly don't wish to have my heart turned into a salad .

No more free rides for me though , apart from being slightly annoying Qhawe did do one thing to my favor. Spending less on my taxi fee meant that I'd be able to send more grocery contribution fee at home , just like my other cousins with good jobs do . We're a huge family , aunts , uncles and cousins all over . My grandparents never liked the idea of people moving away from home , over there you just move out for the purpose of studying or work . Besides that you just die for a life time in Richmond .

We are sort of branched though , the uncles who got married have their own households away from the main house but still the same yard. As for me ,I'm still based in the main house , where my mom left me before she died . Well I never got to have siblings , I'm the only child so that's why I don't go home as often . I still send money for groceries though .

Today I'm feeling the heat , the winter sun isn't child's play . I think I'm catching flue so I used my day off and went to the clinic .I didn't spend much time there so I'm already on my way back . Those who know how distanced Caluza clinic is from Dambuza , would know the struggle of walking back from the place . Dambuza is a huge place but we still don't have a clinic of our own , instead we have neighboring clinics such as KwaPata , Snathing and the one I'm from .

I've managed to walk a great distanced though , just halfway through . It's hard to find taxis around here , unless if you're going to town . So it's walk , walk ,walk unless you're lucky enough to get a lift .

Oh snap ! the angel has just ditched me . I thought my ancestors were hard workers , till this very moment .

"Mama ." He says with a huge smile walking to me , they've just stopped next to me .

"Samkelo ." I greet him coldly .

“Washiswa ilanga zithini ?” He asks .

“ I’m walking it’s clear .” I say that and take a step forward .

“Woza sik’thathe mama. “ He hands out his arm for my bag .

“No thanks I’ll be fine . “ I hesitate and take another few leaps .

“Come on Cruella , the sun is blazing . We are all going to the same direction .”

Yeah he’s right , it’s really hot and I’m already drained . Flu always hits me hard I’d be walking like I have a heavy head , other than that the walking already has me gapping for air .

“Okay, fine .” I give him my bag .

“Was that hard ? “ We walk a few steps back to the taxi . That instant he’s friend is not even talking .

“Ngena la mama .” He opens the front door for me .

“Sawubona .” I pull the door back after sitting and greet Qhawe .

“Yah .” He replies flatly .

“Manje mlungu tshela mina , siyol’vala leturn ?” Samkelo addresses Qhawe .

“What do you think ?” He replies .

“I say let’s take it .” He exclaims .

“Manje umngani wakho ?” Qhawe looks back at him .

“Sekuwumngani wami manje ?” He laughs.

I don’t even have to ask if he is referring to me , **isiZulu asitolikwa** .

“Since when am I his friend ?” I dig in .

He doesn’t say a thing instead he takes a u-turn and starts driving back .

“Aiybo , wrong way !” I raise out concern but none replies .

“Where are you taking me ?” I ask .

“Sisathi shwi leduze mama , don’t worry .” Samkelo replies .

“Drop me here . I’ll walk back . “ I say .They both just choose to ignore me and Qhawe ups his speed .

“I want to get off Qhawe .” I’m getting a little bit unsettled .

“Qhawe ! “ I exclaim . They both still ignore .

Qhawe just keeps driving as fast as he can, joining the main road , passing buildit then the hospital , he takes a turn at the mall entrance . He just slides in and he’s parked at the taxi rank in an instance .

“Ome ngiyobheka ukuthi sunamba bani ?” Samkelo opens the door and heads out . I don’t waste anytime , I get off too .

“Manje usuyaphi ?” Qhawe also gets off .

I ignore him .

“Sindisani !” He rushes after me .I pay no attention to him instead I just focus ahead .

“And now , usumenzeni ?” Samkelo approaches us .

“Uyamazi nje .” Qhawe says .

“Ayy let me spare myself the drama . There are 3 cars before us . I’m going to get myself lunch .” He doesn’t even wait to get to him . Then he turns .

“MaSishi please stop doing this .” I feel a sharp sensation hit me and I stop instantly.

“Sindisani .” He rushes to me .

I look away and a tear escapes my eyes .

“What’s wrong ?” He notices the tear on my cheek.

“Don’t ever call me that .” I say .

“What , Sindisani ?” He asks .

“No ! Don’t call me MaSishi .” I reply .

“But that’s your clan name .” He says ,confusion written all over his face.

“You have no business with that .”

“Alright . Let’s go back to the car please .” He points out .

“No thanks .” I continue moving forward . He grabs my hand before I can even take another step .

“Why are you like this Sindisani ?” He asks .

“Let go of my arm .” I look at him then shift my eyes to where ,he’s holding me .

“How will you get home ?” He asks still holding me .

“I’ll walk if I have to .” That moment, I ain’t joking . The money I have with me right now is only enough for the local taxi , which I had planned to take before they showed up and kidnapped me .

“Look I’m sorry . You don’t have to walk ngenxa yami . Please come with me to the car then , I left my money bag there . I’ll give you transport money if you don’t want to wait for us .” He says .

“Okay .” I back down after seeing the other drivers already drawling at us .It’s a huge rank and I’m causing quite a stir , I’m sure they already thinking that he’s having an argument with his girlfriend . I follow him back to the car .

When we get there , he opens the front door for me .

“No thanks , I’m not getting in .”

He goes to the driver’s side and opens the ash tray .

“Shit !” He exclaims .

“Don’t tell me they robbed you because I need my taxi fare .” I say .

“No . Samkelo took it with him . He went to buy lunch remember .” He says stretching the bush on his head .

“Don’t give me excuses again .” I say in annoyance .

“I’m not . Come and have a look for yourself.” He says .

“Fine , I will walk .” I turn my ass . Just as I land my gaze on the other side , I meet Samkelo making his way to us .

“Sekwenzenjani ?” He opens the main door and ushers himself in , placing his doggy bag on Zahara . Since when do taxi drivers eat at spur ?

“Cela unginike imali leyo , I have to give her imali yokugibela .” Qhawe ignores his queation .

“Aren’t we going to the same place ?” Samkelo asks in confusion .

“Just hand me the bag Samkelo .” He grabs it and takes out two R100 notes .

“Since when is a taxi to Dambuza R200 ?” Samkelo asks .

“Starting now !” I grab the money from his hands and take a turn . This Qhawe guy is full of shit .

I knew laughing with them , will make them think that we’re friends or something . Hate our they wasted my time but on the other hand , morgul bagged R200 . I might as well go and get tonight’s supper , I’m at the mall after all .

CHAPTER 9.

“He called me MaSishi .” I say weeping .

“So ?” Zaza asks .

“So ? Are you really going to say ‘so’ Zaza ?” I ask fumed .

“Aren’t you MaSishi ?” She asks .

“Only my mom called me like that . No one else has the right to call me like that except for my mom .” I say .

“As much as I don’t like the guy because his a taxi driver and all , but you meet a random person .He or she calls you MaSishi , what happens ?”

“I’d have that person’s head for dessert .” I clench on my teeth . I really hate it when people call me MaSishi , that’s how my late mother used to call me . I’m her MaSishi no one else in this world would ever have the right to call me that , I just hate it , hate it !

“So where did we get money for all these ?” She makes way over to the counter and she starts taking out stuff from the plastic on top of it .

“It his money .” I say .

“The driver’s money ?” She stops for a second and looks at me . I nod back at her .

“Wait wait , I thought we weren’t dating him ?” She sits next to me with her hands thrown in the air .

“We are not !” I accept the fact that we are royal **we** now .

“So how come we are getting goodies from the driver ?” She asks , both her eyes fixed on me .

“Well initially it was my taxi fare .” I smile .

“I wanna hear it all . “ She grabs a pillow and places it on her laps , while she re-positions herself.

“I thought you hate the guy .” I’m surprised to see her this keen to he about the **shluthu driver** .

“Him maybe not the goodies . Stop interrupting me , why is he getting us goodies ?” She taps my arm .

“They’re for us now ?” I can’t hold my laugh .

“What yours is mine , what’s mine is ours .” She says .

This Zamani girl sometimes , I just laugh my lungs out much to her annoyance . You can really tell she wants to hear the scoop of the day .

.....

“Someone is asking for you .” Andiswa says walking in.

“Someone looking for me .Who’s that person ?” I ask pulling my cup of coffee even more closer .

“I didn’t get the name . Just go he’s standing right next to the door .” She says grabbing a cup too from the cupboard .

“Did you even ask for it ?” I ask pushing my chair back in .

“Not sure .” She says not paying attention to me .

“What if the person has a gun or something ?” I take a leap forward .

“He doesn’t look like someone who would afford a gun , maybe uqhwassha-ke .” She laughs .

Oh so it’s a he? I wonder who’s that he , who decides to disturb my lunch break ? You know I was already kicking it in with a bit of coffee just to warm up a bit before digging in . Still have 40 minutes or so to spare , or else I wouldn’t have came out to see the mysterious he . I walk out to the same old , same old .

“Qhawe !” There he is , with his uncombed hair and the forever worn leopard print vest plus umblazelo combo . At least he has an uzzi jacket , topping it up today .

“Nkosazana .” He says with the hugest smile ever .

“Ubekwa yini la ?” I straightly get down to business .

“I’m here to check up on you .” He is still smiling people .

“For ?” I ask coldly .

“I still don’t have your number . I would have called and checked if you got home safely yesterday , so I decided to come and check if you did today .” He says .

“How did you even know I was at work ?” I’m out of words .

“See they told me that you’re working today .” He cracks a laugh .

“Who told you ?”

“Eish wasn’t supposed to mention that .” He stretches his bush hair .

“Qhawe!” I raise a brow .

“Okay , I went to your place first .” He shies away .

“Are you stalking me now ?” I ask .

“No . Akunjalo nkosazana ,it’s just that I wanted to see you and apologies for yesterday .” He says .

“Okay apology accepted , now can I go back to having my lunch ?” I point back .

“I haven’t had lunch too , so I was wondering if is it possible ...” He stutters .

“ Possible for ?” I barge in .

“For you to join me for lunch .” He says the last part in a more silent tone .

I wanna say non but you know , it’s free food .

“Okay .” I say with a smile then head back to the kitchen to grab my handbag . I may be mean and stuff to him , he may be annoying but there’s no way I’m saying no to free food . Who knows he might have something better than the baby head sized vatkook waiting for me , back in the kitchen .

He is all smiles when I get back to him and we both walk to the underground taxi rank .

.....

“So we are here to get the money ?” I ask .

“Uhm , we are having our lunch here .” He opens the front passenger door for me . I don’t hesitate though I’m slightly confused , I get in .

“What about lunch ?” I ask .

“Already sent Samkelo for it .” He steps in .

“Oh okay. I see you had it all planned already .”

“Something like that .” He smiles .

“So what are we having .” I ask .

“It’s a surprise .” He re-positions his body and turns into my direction . “I’d like to get to know you .” He continues .

“You already know me .” I look back at him .

“Not that ‘know you ‘ , I’d like to get ,get to know you .” He adds .

“What’s the difference ?” I’m slightly keen to know where this is going .

“I know you as just Sindisani Madlala , that’s not how I want to know you . I want to know , know you .” Just like that we’ve shifted from likes to demands .

“Maybe Sindisani Madlala , is just all there is for you to know .” I say with a straight face .

“I wi...”

“Erh brazo akuline akuline laphaya kuma-antiza .” He is interrupted by a loud opening sound of the main door .

“Kwathulakala nje . Ngiphazamiseni ?” Samkelo says placing 2 takeaways on Zahara .

“Lutho bafo .” Qhawe turns to him .

“Why didn’t you tell me Cruella was coming ? I would have got her a takeaway too .” He says pulling one closer then he digs in violently .

“Join you right ?” I look at Qhawe .

“Okay I admit , he didn’t know . I wasn’t sure if you would turn me down or not . You can have the food , I’ll eat my lunch box .” He says taking a bag out at the back of his sit.

Okay , I didn’t see this one coming . Since when do taxi drivers carry lunch boxes to work ? My eyes are already fixed on it , I see it open and he takes out 2 slices of bread .

“Sinani lesa sinkwa bafo ?” Samkelo asks , mouthful . What a pig .

“Sinerama.” Qhawe says and takes a bite .

I'm still shocked at my gaze . One he brought a lunch box with him to work , two it's just bread and margarine . 4 slices at that matter , here I thought that taxi drivers are all for meet . He should be having 6 pieces from KFC right now with a loaf of bread and a 2 liter coke , instead he's having 4 plain slices .

"Aren't you eating ?" Samkelo pokes my shoulders.

"Stop it wena ." I tap his hand .

"I'll eat in your behalf if you're not ." He says reaching his hand to my food .

I tap it again .

"Uh brazo , don't marry this one ." He says looking at me with a sad face .

"Luckily this one doesn't wish to marry your brazo too ." I smile back at him .

"Let me go sit with Mtshengiseni , you guys are both cruel ." He takes his takeaway with him and steps off .

"Uphathe unemenadi lapho !" Qhawe exclaims .

"Thuma uCruella !" He doesn't even look back and we both just laugh at him .

CHAPTER 10 .

Okay I admit ! Qhawe has succeeded . I admit at first I was a bitch towards him , now that I've got to know him , I admit he is a good person . I still can't believe how the taxi driver who saved me from the phara's from that night , turned out to be my boyfriend . Yeah that's right , were are dating now , just a few days into it .

It's different from what I know and used to but I slightly like it .

"Maqhawe ." I say picking his phone up with a smile .

"Hlokohloko ." He says , I'm glad he has refrained from using MaSishi . Hlokohloko does it too .

"Godide . "I cry to bury my chuckle .

"Khabaludaka." He continues .

"Maye ! Siyabongelana yini ?" I burst out in laughter .

"Ayy umuntu akaqedwa . Uyaphila manzi yami ?" Uh , he says that annoying word again .

"Ngiyaphila ." I frown , only if he could see me .

"Ngiyaxolisa ." He says .

"What for ?" I ask .

" I called you 'manzi yami '." He replies. "I know you hate it ." He adds .

"Then why do you always call me that ke ?" My mood is already off .

"Because you are my woman . You re my Queen , wi**Manzi yami** " He says the last part boldly .

"But there are many words to us My Qhawe ." I say .

"I know but this does it for me . Sukanini madoda , imanzi yako Sishi isiyaluyaluza emagcekeni asemaPhembeni . "He finishes off with a whistle .

"You starting again ." I keep it short .

"Uxolo wethemba lami . Listen , can you please look out the window ." He switches tones .

“Why ?” I ask .

“Just look outside ?” He says .

I walk towards the window and shift the curtain then I look down the road to find a quantum parked outside .

“What are you doing here ?” I ask with a smile .

“I’ve come to get you . I don’t have a conductor today .”

I can’t even voice out a word , I laugh . Imagine me being a conductor ! I laugh till he drops his phone . I still fix myself and head to him though .

“Godide .” I smile at him .

“Hlokohloko .” He smiles back . “You look beautiful .” He adds .

“I know .” I laugh .

He walks to the passenger side and opens the door for me , the most romantic taxi driver ever .

“I expected you to open the back .” I say getting in.

“Why?” He asks shutting the door back .

“I thought you said I’m the conductor for the day .”

“Was joking . I’m off today .” He leans over my door side .

“Haw ,why didn’t you say so ? I would have called you in .” I look at him.

“ I would have love too , but this is more ideal .” He looks at me with a smile .

“Can I ask you something ?” I fix my eyes onto his .

“ Go ahead .” He smiles .

“Why is it that every time you are here ,you don’t want to come inside ?” I ask .

“The time for that is coming my love . For now let enjoy what life has to offer .” He says caressing my cheeks .

“Enjoy seeing each other on the streets like kids ?” I’m surprised .

“When am I seeing where you live .

?" I add.

"Soon my love ." He smiles .

"You've been saying that ." I give him an unconvinced look .

"I know . You'll see my place when the time is right ." He bows down .

"Are you seeing other people ?" The instant he hears that , he lifts his face up .

"What ? No !" H e exclaims .

"Then why don't you want me to see your place ?" I ask .

"Lets go to town ." He turns to his side and gets in .

" You are ignoring me Qhawe ." I give him the eye .

"I love you MaHlokohloko ." He starts the car .

I'm left wondering why he is always like this every time I mention going to his place . Yeah I know we've only been dating for 3 weeks now , but I have to know where he lives . All this waiting is too much for me , very soon he has to be chowing it . Since he is making me wait this long to see his place , I have a feeling he might make me wait a little longer for it too .

....

"Where are we going ?" I ask .

"To see people ." He drifts from Endedale road making way to town .
In no time we are parked at the park near the new rank .

"Wow he brought me to the park ." I say with sass .

"No this is where I can park .I want to go and buy a few things eMndeni ." He says opening his door .

"Mndeni meat ?" I pop out all my eyes.

"Yeah ." He's already on my side .

"Ziningi kangaka kodwa iztolo Qhawe ." I laugh in disbelief .

"I know my love . I just love their meet . " He says holding my hand , signaling that I have to get off .

I wanna shout and scream that I'm being abducted right now . Someone shoot me in the head , he didn't just say we are off ton Mndeni meat .

Off we go , him holding my hand whilst we walk towards the parks gate . Morguy is wearing the brightest smile you can tell he's happy .

"Sindisani !" Oh , No ! Not him .

I meet Sandile crossing the road to our direction , with his gown on his arms pulling his suitcase .

"Let's ignore him ." I direct that to Qhawe and look the other direction .

" I know you saw me Sindisani ." He says with a smile .

Qhawe pulls my hand and we stop .

"Hi ." I say flatly .

"Uyaphila ?" He smile .

"I'm good ." I shy away .

"Nsizw'enye ." Qhawe says preparing his hand for a shake .

"Who's this ?" Sandile looks at me and points out at Qhawe .

"Qhawe , her boyfriend ." He says with his hand still out .

Sandile doesn't say a thing but bursts into laughter . I am embarrassed , why did we have to come to town ?

"Is that true ?" He turns to me .

"Yes ." I say shyly .

"Hey babe ." A lady just steps in and steals a kiss from Sandile's cheek , I didn't even see where she came from . Same lady .

"Babe ." He wraps his arm over her tiny waist while looking at me ."Remember the ex I told you about , this is her and her man ." He adds pointing at us .

"Nice to meet you ." She grabs Qhawe's forever waiting hand and shakes it while giving me an ugly look .

“Well it’s been good .Let’s go babe .” I pull Qhawe .

“Yeah let’s go .”He says .

“What was that about .” He asks .

“Nothing .” I say .

“Are you sure ?” He looks at me .

CHAPTER 11 .

“What’s up ?” Zaza storms in behind me .

“Nothing . “ I say lifting up my t-shirt and tossing it on the washing basket .

“You are mad Sindisani , I can tell you are not okay . What wrong .” She sits on the bed .

I just ignore her and get my jeans off then a grab a bathing basin and I head outside . I open the tap and go back inside , I grab my washing basket .

“Did you see the time ?” She pops her eyes like she has just seen a ghost .

“Yeah , close to 7 . What’s up ?” I grab my washing bar and head out .

“Since when do you do your washing at this hour , in this cold ? Is everything alright Sindi ?” She catches up to me .

“Why do you ask ?” I toss the washing in then I bend over and start working it .

“Who are you and what have you done to my friend ? Don’t we share when we feeling stuff now ? What did that taxi clown do to you ? “She keeps them flooding in .

“He did nothing ?” I drain one item and toss it to the basket .

“Then what happened ?” She asks looking more confused .

“Sandile happened .” I say .

“That asshole . What did he do now ?” She grabs a brick and squats next to me .

“We bumped into him. “

“I hope you changed directions and you didn’t allow him to see you .” She says .

“He came on to us .” I’m quite sure these clothes are just going to come out dirty as they are . I toss them in , shake them a bit and dry them off . Thank goodness I didn’t wear any white items this week .

“You allowed him see you with him ?”She pops out her eyes .

“I have nothing to hide Zaza .Qhawe is my man ,Sandile is my ex . So why isn’t he supposed to see me with him ?” The type of friends we keep sometimes , being seen with him is the least of my worries right now .

“Hun he’s a rebound ! How do you go with a rebound in public ?” She kinda sounds like my mom scolding me right now .

“I thought I heard voices .” MaT comes from behind .

“Hey T .” I turn to her .

“Why are you doing your washing at this hour ?” She joins in and stands next to Zaza.

“ I needed a bit of therapy .” I say .

“Qhawe has been keeping you busy huh ? Tell me how good is he ?” She asks with a naughty smile and a dirty look.

“Ew , we haven’t done that .” We both laugh .

“Yini wamuncu wena ?” She pushes Zaza’s shoulder .

“Don’t push me wena .” Zaza replies with a frown . I bet she’s still mad at me being seen with a rebound in town . I love my friend and all but she sure is Hitler sometimes .

“Ayy angikuyeke . I’ve just finished cooking , I’m leaving now . Tell Zuko I’ll be at the tarven , will come back later . ” She says and turns to lock the room .

“ Zuko should just marry you straight up . Wimanzi T . ” Not me calling another person by Qhawe’s favorite phrase , which I also hate .

“ Wee uba yena .Mina ngisazobuyela kubaba wengane yami .” She says and hits her ass . Yena she is beautiful and well built , just that she’s MaT . I’m sure she’ll be back later banging on Zuko’s door like nobody’s business . That’s MaT for you and we are already used to it .

“Why were you so cold towards her ?” I turn back to Zaza who looks like she just ate an extra sour . The huge frown on her face .

“I’m still trying to think about what you did .” She says .

“Stop thinking about it and help me carry this basin inside . I will have to borrow yours later .” I say . We both head inside .

“Get that frown off your face .” I notice that she still hasn’t changed .

“Makhi .” We hear a knock at the door . I walk out to meet Zuko .

“Hey Zuko .” I smile .

“Molo Makhi . UThandiwe zange asishiye apha kuwe , ithubo ?” He asks .

“Oh yeah she did . You’ve just missed her . She said she’ll be back later .” I turn back to grab the key on top of the cupboard .

“Khangela ak’xelele ukuba uzoyaphi ?” He asks receiving the key .

“No she didn’t .” I say with a huge smile . I know he doesn’t like her going out for alcohol .

“She went to the tavern .” Zaza shouts .

“You don’t have to hide it from me . Enkosi .” He takes off .Zuko is a great guy though . Sometimes I wonder how they manage to stand each other . Yeah he also drinks but it’s nothing compared to madam .

“What did you do that for ?”I turn to Zaza .

“What did I do ?” She’s buried on her phone .

“You didn’t have to tell Zuko that , you know .” I say plugging the kettle .

“Okay .” She pays no attention to me.

“What’s wrong with you ?” I ask , but another knock disturbs .

“Sindi . I bought a bottle of sky vodka and a few ciders , can you please help me by preparing **isibindi** ?” Zuko says .

“How I thought T cooked .” I’m surprised .

“Yeah she did , beans . I need something meaty .” He says .

“Okay . I’m still going to take my bath ,if you can wait . Or I’ll ask Zaza to do it for you .” I point back .

“Wee , inoba uzoyvuma lonto?” He whispers . They all know how she is sometimes .

“Don’t worry , I know which buttons to press .” I laugh . She is my friend after all .She may be mean to others in this yard but she can never be mean to me . She’s not mean though it’s just that she likes her space and it also took me some time to befriend her .

“Babes .” I enter with a smile .

“What ?” She’s already on her back and has her knees crossed .

“Can you do me a favour ?” I sit next her , she turns her eyes to me . “That was Zuko .He was wondering if we can help him prepare some livers . Since I’m about to bath and you are good at making it can you please help him out ?” I start begging with my eyes .

“Sure .Not like I have anything interesting to do anyway .” She says .”So where is it ?” She lifts her body up .

“Uhm , he didn’t bring it . Was hoping you do it there.” I look at her .

“Okay .”

Just like that ! That easy ,she doesn’t give me a tons of questions , instead she just makes way to Zuko’s room . I take my bath quickly .

By the time I finish and join them Zuko has already sent Sanele to buy a 12 pack . 6 bottles of flying fish are already on the floor and I can tell Zaza also joined in . She has one bottle next to her and she is slightly freed up then she was earlier .

The livers are already ready , Sanele returns in a dash with a pack of Pine twist 440’s and a pack of Heineken .I guess the Pine twist is for the ladies , I grab a can . Zaza grabs one too and she downs it in an instance .The other tenants join in , much to my dismay Qhawe calls and interrupts .

CHAPTER 12 .

“You are such a mood killer babe .” I bang the passenger door as I get in .

“Had to see you .” He says with a smile .

“What do you want ?” I frown .

“To kiss you goodnight .” His eyes sparkle .

“Are you for real right now ?” He doesn’t say a thing but bursts out .

“You were with me seconds ago .” I add .

“I know . Angideli ukukubona .” He smiles again .

“Oh my word ,someone call the doctor .Mphemba has gone coco .” I say sarcastically .

“You make me go coco HlokoHloko .” He stares at me .

“Quit that .” I shy and bow my head down.

“Ngiyakuthanda Hlok’zini .” He says with his hoarse voice . I lift my head up in an instance .

“I’m Hlok’zini now ?”I gaze at him . He doesn’t say a thing but laugh . God knows I’m collecting these names ,these days . Bird of a thousand words , very soon I’ll be Mahlokist .

.....

I went to bed with a smile in my heart last night . I don’t remember the last time I was actually that happy . Qhawe guys ! My Qhawe ! Amaqhawe aseMaPhembeni bakithi . It’s safe to say I’m stringing in ,deeper and deeper in love .

After spending 3 hours on the quatum , in the hood watching drunk people pass by every now and then .I didn’t have the energy to join Zaza and the others when I came back. They were still kicking it in , I quietly got in my room and tried to sleep against their jolly noise .

I’m already up and making myself some breakfast .I’m weekend off this week .Before I can eat, I decide to go check on Zaza .I’m sure hangover is killing her ,so she might need breakfast too .

“Zamani !” I knock on her door . Nobody replies .”Zaza!” I knock again .

“Go away .” She exclaims .

“Ayy man vula .Ufaseke kangako ?” I laugh , but she doesn’t reply .”Zamani !” I call out again.

“Just go away !” Her tone changes .

“Aiybo Zamani vula . Why do you sound like you’ve been crying ?” I grow concern . What must be the problem now .

“I said go away Sindisani .” I can tell perfectly that she’s crying now .

“Zaza , I will break this door . Open up !” I bang on it vigorously .

“Okay ! Okay !” I hear footsteps following ,then the door opens . I’m greeted by a long faced Zaza with puffy swollen eye bags .

“What’s wrong ?” I’m stunned .

“What do you want Sindisani ?” I hear that she’s trying to hide her shaky voice.

“Won’t you open for me ?” I ask .

“You good where you are . Just go away .” She pushes the door backs and shuts it on my face . What just happened .

“Great you managed to get her to open the door ?” Zuko comes out of nowhere .

“She just shut it . You need something ?” I ask .

“Ayy !I’m just worried .” Zuko says looking weird .

“Worried about ?”I’m lost .

“Suzikhathaza.” He says and takes a step back .

“What happened Zuko ?” I catch onto him .

“Ayy , akukhonto wethu .” He doesn’t wait for me , he rushes inside . I’m left stunned . As I’m still stunned I notice T at the gate , I rush inside and grab the key to open for her . What I notice is that she just greets and keeps it short with me then she rushes up . Leaving me standing .

She doesn’t go to Zuko’s room , instead she stops at Zaza’s .

“Yewena Sfebe , vula !!” She stars banging on her door .

As I’m surprised by her action , she continues cursing and banging the door , in an instant Zuko’s door opens and he joins in .

“Thandiwe suk’ yenza lento .” He says holding her arm and trying to pull her back .

“Ngiyeke wena .” T fights his grab off .”Asivule lesitshaparapa sakho , just like she was opening her legs for you .”She says with a crying tone .

Oh my God what ? I don’t believe my ears ,how is that possible ? Zuko and Zaza , no ways ! I leap forward faster .

“Vula wena !” T shouts .

“Aiybo T kwenzakalani ?” I ask confused .

“Ngiyeka wena . Tell this bitch to open up .” She bangs the door even harder .

“Ndiyakucela sthandwa sami ,suk’yenza lento .” Zuko says grabbing her arm again . This time she turns back with a huge fist ,right across Zuko’s face . I rush to grab her , while Zuko’s hand rushes to his face .

“Aiybo MaT !” I shout . Sanele and the others storm out .

“Uyandishaya Thandiwe ?” Zuko says ,anger roaring from him voice .

“Hold him Sanele .” I exclaim trying to hold Thandiwe ,who’s now fighting to slip from me.

“Ongiyeka ,ngiyiobonise lenja . Ilala nomngani wakho .”She says fighting me , I grab her even tighter .

“Khaw’ndiyeke kwedini andizokushaywa umfazi mina , soze !” Zuko exclaims .

“Mubambe Sanele .” I scream .

“Oh uvikela lesfebe esiwumngani wakho ?” Thandeka says biting my hand .

I hold it in and grab on her tighter .

“Uphi umkhulu ?” I shout .The others come closer too ,trying to calm Zuko .

“Yey ! Kwenzakalani la emzini wami ?” Mastende storms in . No one tells no one to cool it off , everyone just grabs hold of themselves . Zuko is breathing fire but he also puts a leach on himself .

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“What happened Zaz?” I ask . She finally opened up for me after the tension cooled off .

"I don't know what got into me ."She says .Her eyes bloody red . I swear ,I've never seen her like this .

"How did it happen ?" I ask holding her hands .

"You left and we stayed behind . I finished the last 4 cans , Zuko sent Sanele to get some more and another bottle . We continued drinking and sometime later Sanele left , I just stayed behind . I needed a drink Sindi , after what happened yesterday , I needed more and more to numb my pain . Before I knew it there was a loud bang on the door , I was on Zuko's chest , he was naked so was I." She says and a tear streams down .

"My goodness ! That was T ?" I hold my cheeks .

"Yeah ." They come down falling hard .

"God , I don't know what to say ."

"How am I ever going to look at both of them again ?" She cries . I place her head on my chest and pat her back . Yoh ,shit happens in a short period of time .

.....

"Lalela ngifike uThandiwe ephezu kwakhe emshova ngesbhakela ." I thought I heard voices outside . From a distance you can tell there are people talking outside , just that from their low tone you can't hear a thing . I grabbed a bucket and headed outside to fetch some water and there I bumped to them . A group of old men gossiping .

"Yey uThandiwe ubela and I was also trying my best to hold uZuko after she gave him a fat big slap ." Sanele continues and they all laugh , clearly they haven't seen me .

"Serves Zamani right , she'd be going out here acting like she'd better than everyone else .Kanti ulalwa amaXh...." I clear my throat and interrupt him . They all turn and no one tells the other to drop the topic .

"Don't stop at my account ." I walk freely to the tap , next to where they are standing .

"Eyy my sister ." Xolani laughs shyly .

"Continue gossiping ." I say . "Angani you are all here gossiping about my friend , judging her as if all of you are perfect . It's a bit funny that none of you mention's Zuko's name or judge him or is it because his a guy ?" I voice out the burn inside my chest .

"Kodwa sister nawe uyabazi abantu besilisa . Your friend as a lady was not supposed to betray MaT ." Xolani says .

“Oh just because Zuko is a guy , it makes it right for him to betray his girlfriend ?” I ask.

“Cha ayiyekwe lento before we start fighting over it kodwa iqiniso wena uyalazi .” Xolani adds .

“I’m still saying , uZaza uncisha thina ikhekhe uyonika amankwenkwe .” Sanele says .

“Mxxm ! You all make me sick .” I close the tap ,then my bucket and then I walk back inside .
Imagine a group of men gossiping like women , they all have no shame .

CHAPTER 13 .

One hell of a weekend !

I regret taking my weekend off during this week , everything was just too sour and tense . Zaza not talking to anyone , she is even off her WhatsApp. MaT came back later on Saturday banging Zuko's door demanding him to open up . Everything was just rough .

All this because Mthembeni broke my girl's heart . That's why she was so worked out on Friday .I never thought I'd see a day where Zaza gets so worked out over a boy , she must have real had a thing for him . The motherfucker decided to thank her by breaking her heart . Thank goodness I never met him , I would have gone to their work place and caused a stir .

I'm off to duty again ,will be meeting my man for lunch . God knows , I can't wait . Luckily the day goes fast .

.....

"Where are we going ?" I ask holding Qhawe's arm closer to my chest .

"I saw a nice dress for you at Mr Price .I want you to see it ." He says .

"Really babe ?" I smile . My man though , I almost shed a tear.

"Well well ,well . If it isn't Miss Cashier and her boyfriend ." Snap we bump into him again by the court . Today they're wearing all blue with his girlfriend , couple goals and all .

"You know this is becoming a habit babe ." He says . Miss model nods.

"We should go on a double date , uthini bafo ?" He turns to Qhawe .

"I say you should get off your high horse and get a life ." Qhawe says looking straight into his eyes .

"Uthini bafo ?"His smile is wiped off .

"You heard me .Lalela whatever you had with MaSishi kuphelile . I don't know how futhi I'm not interested ,what I know is that you should get it to your stick skull and let it be . Before ize ithusane ." Qhawe says with a intense face . Oh my he just earned MaSishi , here right there .He can now call me MaSishi all he wants.

"Uyasonga yini ?" Sandile asks .

"Cha angisongi ngiyathembisa . Try me , mkhulu ." He adds . Gosh it's getting steamy .

"Asambe babe ." His girlfriend holds him .

“Yeah .” He says and they walk away with his mouth on his toes .

“Oh my goodness babe , I didn’t know you could be that serious .” I smile and hold my man even tighter .

“There’s a lot you don’t know about me .” He says .

“Whatever it is , keep it coming . I’m loving it Godide .” We both laugh .
I sway my ass happily , I feel like I’m walking with a million bucks . Yeah you come onto me , my babe will show you flames .

By the time we reach Mr Price , my heart is skipping for my babe .

“This is the dress .” He points at it .

“Oh my . Babe , I didn’t know you also have taste ?” I ask fixing my eyes on the yellow dress .

“You like it ?” He asks .

“Like ? Ngiyayithanda Mphemba !” I smile and hug him .

“Before I fit it ,let’s go upstairs .” I say .

“You buying it right ?” I ask for assurance .

“No !” He laughs .

We go upstairs to the males department . I take out a few items and show it to him.

“Can you fit these babe ?” I ask .

“Aww ngeke kulunge . Iskhathi themba lami .” He takes out his phone.

“Come on Qhawe ,lokhu kuphela .” I beg .

“I’d love too but iskhathi .” He says .

I guess I’m never getting him to change his mblaselo .

We finally retire down stairs and I decide to throw another jilter .

“Siyaphi manje Themba lami ?” He asks dragging his feet .

“You will see .” I say smiling . The tables have turned , I’m the one throwing the surprise now .

We go to the ladies underwear department .

“Sindisani !” He says making a huge u-turn .

I grab his arm before he runs away .”Woza .” I laugh .
I pull him and we are finally standing right in front of a thousand panties and bra’s .
I grab a thong and show it to him . He doesn’t even look but shut his eyes .

”Do you want me to model this for you , tonight ?” I ask tossing it to him.

”Asambe KaMadlala .” He says pushing it back .

”We just got here .” I laugh .

”Sindisani !” He turns and nearly bumps himself on a mirror . The he runs . I’m sure everyone in the store thinks his a mad person . Poor guy.

.....

”How are you holding up babe ?” I got home to Zaza sitting outside today . I never thought she’ll find the strength to come out any time soon .It’s already getting dark ,winter day .

”I’m good .” She says .

”How was work ?” I sit next to her on the stoop .

”I didn’t go .” She says .

”Zaza you know you have to face the world .You can’t keep yourself locked up like this .”

”I know . What if I bump into him ?”She asks looking at me .

”You will bump into him .” I say looking back at her .

”I’m not ready for that .”Tears start building up .

”You work with him my love , sooner or later you will have to go to work .”

”What does life have to be this complicated ?” She looks at me .

”That’s just how life is my darling . Please snap out of it .This is not the Zaza I know . He broke your heart ,so what ? Does that mean life has to stop ? You will now quite your job because of an asshole ? Come on Zaza , you are stronger than this .”Someone please give this lady a huge slap because this right here is not my friend . The Zaza I know would be painting the town red by now .

”Did you get a chance to speak to Luzuko ?” I ask .

“No !” She exclaims .

“Why not ? The poor guy was worried .” I say .

“That poor guy took advantage of me .” She says .

“Come on ! You were both drunk , you took advantage of each other .”

“He had no right .”

“You also had a choice .” I say .

“I was drunk!” She shouts .

“So was he .” I insist .

“Who’s side are you on ?” She frowns .

“No ones !”

.....

“MaT!” I smile as she approaches .

“Don’t MaT me you backstabber .” She gives me a mean look .

“Haw T , what did I do now ?” I ask .

“Ask your hoe friend that !” She passes me .

“Haw MaT that’s harsh .” I catch on to her .

“Angimangali konje vele she’s you friend , you defend her hoeness .” She says and looks at me from head to toe .

“That’s not fair T .” I say .

“What is fair ? It’s fair that your Miss Goodie two shoes friend decide to open her dry thighs for my boyfriend ? Is it fair that you defend her and fight everyone calling her out for the hoe that she is ? Is it fair that you arranged the whole thing and left early so that your plan can fall into place ?” I see tears building up in her eyes .

“What are you saying now Thandiwe ? Who told you all those things ?” I’m shocked ,so recently I’ve become matchmaker and this is all my fault . How ?

“Those who care about me told me .All along you’ve been fake and pretending to be my friend so that you and you friend can plot to steal my man .But then here is a thing for both of you hoe . Zuko is mine and you both won’t get him . I don’t care what ya’ll have plotted but at the end of the day he knows his woman . Tell your hoe friend that uzodibana .” She says that and leaves me standing .

The battle lines have been drawn people . I have nothing to do with all this but it’s on and I’m already on the opposing side . I guess I’ll have to carry the cross for being Zaza’s friend . Power of a dick guys , all for a dick MaT and I have become enemies . A dick that I didn’t even taste myself , he must be serving them with honey .

“Zuko ,Zuko ! Please open my love .” I’m still standing to see Thandiwe knock .”Luzuko please open up ,I’m sorry . I forgive you my life ,I know it wasn’t your fault .” She continues . Unfortunately for her no-one opens the door . I bet Zuko is still recovering and trying to move on from that slap . I quickly get inside before things get heavy .

Chapter 14

“Makhe .” I hear a soft knock and a whisper at the door . I get up and check who it is .

“Zuko why are you whispering ?” My eyes land on Zuko right after I open the door .

“We need to talk Makhe can I come in ?” He asks . I move over and allow him in before anyone spots him around here . The last thing I need is the whole thing changing and being pinned on me . It wouldn't surprise me if I hear that I'm also sleeping with him Thandiwe already thinks that we are plotting against her .

“What is it Makhe ?” I ask sitting next to him .

“I'm in deep shit . I need to talk to your friend .” He says squeezing his hands you can tell by looking at him that something is working him up .

“Anything wrong ? You know you can always just knock on her door ?” I point at the wall behind us separating Zaza's room from mine .

“And risk that lunatic seeing me over there or anyone in this yard ? I can't do that okwamanje . You know these people adore Thandiwe they will just tell her .” Okay he has a point .

“Then what do you want me to do ?” I ask .

“Please arrange something for me to meet up with Zamani maybe here or at town . Just anything so that I will see her .” He says .

“Is that why you are all worked up ? Worrying about meeting up with Zamani whilst your girlfriend is heartbroken and you aren't doing anything about that ?” I ask in disappointment . What is wrong with this guys . Both T and Zaza are my friends I admit I've been friends with Zaza for a long time and I spend more time with her but this is still wrong .

“It's not just some meet up . I have to tell her something .” He says sweating up .

“Tell me what you have to tell her I will pass it to her . ”

“Are you sure you will ?”

“Yes !” I exclaim .

"Okay the condom broke ." He looks down .

“The condom what ?” I pop all my eyes out .

“It broke . I was cleaning today and as I looked inside the bin bag I found two used condoms .One was good and the other one had a tearing .”He says still facing down .

“Wait wait ! Did you just say two ?” They call it a drunk mistake huh ?

“Yes two condoms .” He replies .

“And you both used them on her ?” I ask .

“Yes .” He doesn’t even beat around the bush .

“Okay what part of a random mistake is ? A mistake people just kiss and their bloods get heated up then the next minute they find themselves in bed . That’s a mistake ! Now help me understand yours you even took your time .Wore a condom being drunk and all . Then you took it off got another one and you slide it in . How is that a mistake ?” I’m stunned with a million questions raining on my mind .

“Sometime’s the blood gets way over heated meeting up with the other blazing heat .” He says and tries to burry a smile .

“Zuko !” I exclaim.

“Makhe ?” He replies .

“Did you plan this ?” I’m starting to think that he took advantage of my drunk friend .

“No! I’m not a perv.” He says .

“Then make me understand this whole thing .” I’m confused .

“ I’m always with my condoms . We are just a combo

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got another one and you slide it in . How is that a mistake ?” I’m stunned with a million questions raining on my mind .

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“Zuko !” I exclaim.

“Makhe ?” He replies .

“Did you plan this ?” I’m starting to think that he took advantage of my drunk friend .

“No! I’m not a perv.” He says .

“Then make me understand this whole thing .” I’m confused .

“ I’m always with my condoms . We are just a combo we never separate .I know what I want .You’d think I’m a crazy Xhosa guy trying to hustle and being persistence of his drunk girlfriend .Don’t let that fool you I know where I’m coming from and I know what I came here for . I love myself enough to put my goals and health first .Who would chow a drunk raw ?” He says .

“Wait you mean to tell me that you use them with Thandiwe too ?” Okay this just hit the last nail on the coffin .

“Every time . Thandiwe sleeps at the tavern .She’s been sleeping there long before I’ve known her . Who knows how many guys have bought alcohol for her then she ended up with the in bed ?”
Honestly you’d think you know a person kanti you don’t . A 3 year relationship and they still remember to condomise .Some people don’t even wait for her 3 months later they are already bashing each other raw .Some start with it from the get go.

“So why is Zaza’s issue worrying you ? Afraid she’s sick ?” I switch back .

“No it’s not that .I had taken imbiza early that day and a day before .So that thing cleans me I’m worried that she might fall pregnant from this .”

Oh-ohw that screams trouble .

.....

“Are you still on birth control my friend ?” I ask .

“Where is that coming from ?” Zaza says handing me a bowl of food .

“Just asking .It’s been a while since I heard you talk about your date .” I hide around the bush .

“No you know I had an issue with the 3 months injection .I’m taking a break .”She says returning to the pot .

“Yoh angina amanzi endlini .”I say .

“And by that what do you mean ?” She says not paying any attention to me .

“You know I was with Zuko earlier .” I look at her and she stops and looks at me .

“Don’t ever mention that name in this room again .” Her face changes .

“He is still our Khelwane .” I say .

“I mean it !”

“Okay aren’t you going to hear what I have to say ?” I ask .

“Go ahead .” She turns back to dishing .

“He told me to tell you that the condom broke .” I pick up a spoonful and down it .

“I’m sorry what ?”She turns and ask .

“The second protection broke .You guys finished it off skin to skin .” I say . I don’t even swallow that she drops the bowl in her hands and her mouth goes wide .

This is a disaster ..

.....

Today I’m in those kinda days where I don’t wanna be with anyone or anywhere near crowds . If it was up to me I would be locked inside my room undercovers with no intentions of going out . But then a girl gotta do what a girl has got to do . I’ve just got to work with a few minutes to spare . I made myself coffe just to loosen up a bit and hopefully get in the work spirit .

“Intombazane .” Nomusa walks in with a huge smile .

“Morning wase uncuma ekuseni kanje ?” I fix my eyes on her .

“Lalela sengithe ngizingenela nje ngomyango . Wona nje lowala ekhishini umfana wangithi di ngephepha elibblue .”She says waving a hundred rand note she had on her hands .

“Lucky you . Who’s that boy ?” I turn on my coffee and take another sip .

“Oh I almost forgot . He’s outside waiting for you .” She says moving to the lockers .

“Waiting for who ? Who is he ?” I ask .

“Just go outside you will meet him .”

Chapter 15

“What are you doing here ?” I don’t believe my eyes when I get outside .

“Hey .” He turns and faces me with a huge smile .

“Ufunani lana ?” I ask raising my voice .

“I came to see you .” He’s still smiling .

“What for ?” Yeah he’s clearly joking .

“Don’t be like this Sindisani .”He says with a soft tone.

“Don’t be like what Sandile ?”I’m sure I’m loud enough for everyone to hear me .

“Don’t be like what ?” I repeat after he brushes his brows and refrained from answering me .

“I’ve missed you .” He totally ignores me .

“You’ve what ?” I laugh and clap my hands .

“I’m serious .” He says .

“Unamahlaya yazi .”I say in disbelief .Yena of all people he missed a good for nothing cashier .

“What do you want Sandile ?” I wear a straight face .

“Can I take you out to lunch ?”He ignores my question again .

“Take who out ?”This guy is full of surprises today I wonder where he took the Sandile I know .

“You .”He says .

“You of all people .Cha kahleni bakithi ukudlala ngami . “ I’m in stitches .”Are we done here I have to get back to work ?” I point back .

“Sindi please just lunch .”He says .

“No !” I walk back to the canteen and leave him standing behind .

Sandile is full of shit he thinks he can dump me . Have me crying for him for months . Then he comes by parades his new girlfriend then he thinks I’ll jump to an opportunity of having lunch with him . He must be high on drugs or something .

“Don’t ever call me out for that guy again .”I say to Nomusa who has her eyes fixed on me just as I walk in .

“I don’t understand isn’t he your boyfriend ?” She asks .

“Ex boyfriend ! Haven’t you met the leopard print guy ?We are there now .”Andiswa walks in and grabs in the convo she doesn’t even wait for me to answer for myself . This girl sometimes she can be worse then uMaT . I take my stuff to the locker and go to the office to clock in .

.....

I decided to go by Mr Price and get myself a sexy little number after knocking out yesterday . My man finally said that he’s taking me to see where he lives today so you know I’ve got to be damn prepared . I bought a red lingerie those R150 ones at Mr Price .They look fine and sexy and for that price we sure hit gold .

I know I'm not supposed to have my expectations high up there I mean I'm not even sure whether we will do the deed . This is Qhawe we are talking about yeah we've kissed a couple of times but he always ends it before things get steamy . You know we would kiss without him even touching me all those hands running down the back to reach my ass having him transfer his hand down there on my cookie .We haven't done all that . To us it's just a boring kiss with him keeping his hands to himself .

I just don't get it sometimes sometimes it sure drives me mad . I'm not a virgin there are times where I want and need my man to hold me . Make love to and make me feel appreciated you know do all those things Sandile and I used to do . But then again I shouldn't compare them at least Qhawe is a better conversationalist than Sandile ever was .

"Mmmm Syaphike namhlanje ?" I didn't even hear Zaza walk in she sits on the bed and grabs the lingerie . "Oh my my where did you get this ?" She says turning the lingerie and looking at it from all ends .

"Mr Price ." I say moving to the wardrobe . I have to search for my coat .

"And you didn't get one for me ? What a friend you are ." She says that and I turn and look at her instantly .

"Here was I thinking that you are not dating anymore . Who were you going to wear it for ?" I ask .

"Bheki maybe . I don't need to date in order to get morgul down there happy ." She says and places the lingerie on the bed . Damn I know she's right Zaza always has plan B . The joy stick drives this one crazy .

"So he is 'siking' the cake today ?" She asks crossing her legs . I know she's up for fishing out information when she does this she's the second version of uMamgobhozi after the late Ma Ruth Cele .

"I hope he does friend ." I say biting my lips fingers crossed .

"He's still giving you a hard time ?"

"Yeah and I really don't get this guy sometimes ."

"You know what you have to do . You'll be at the house right just push him into bed . Pin his arms down and remove his bottoms then just ride him . Ride him on the spot rape him if you have to . But make sure you shake your ass and waist make sure he enjoys it .So that he won't have you arrested ." She says that shaking her own waist like she's already doing that .

“That would be impossible since I’ll be using both my hands to pin him down . How will I remove his bottoms?” I stare at her .

“Use you knees and anything else . Make sure you have no panties on so that it can easily slip in .” She winks an eye .

“You just rotten as hell !Sure you never raped a guy in your life ?” I ask trying to hold my laughter .

“If I did he probably enjoyed it .” She bursts out and I can’t help myself too we laugh . It’s good to have this Zaza back . I had already missed her . I’m just glad she has put this whole Zuko drama and that ass Mthembeni

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behind her .

The Zaza I know doesn’t waste time crying for a guy I’m trying to learn as much from her as I can . Very soon I’ll be mastering it like a pro .

“What are you looking for there ?” She breaks the laughter and asks . I have also forgot that I’m in front of the wardrobe for a mission . To get a long coat to wear over my lingerie just like they do on the movies .

“I’m looking for a coat ?” I switch my eyes back at the wardrobe .

“A coat ? What for ?” She asks .

“To wear over my lingerie .” I don’t even swallow that she’s already laughing .

“Girl you watch a lot of movies .” She’s in stitches .

“This is my own idea of trying to get the sausage on the frying pan .” I change my face .

“By walking in and letting the coat fall ? God that’s a movie scene .” She laughs again .

“Qhubeka uhleke okusalayo wena uzobe uqliwa itswayi wedwa . I’m getting my sugar tonight .” I smile . This has to work.

.....

Just after knocking off Qhawe comes over and fetches me . I already have my stuff packed incase for a sleepover and I’m already wearing my huge coat . I head out .

“Babe .” I get in and place my bag and then I give him a hug .

“Kodwa lonxazisuka sekwenzenjani ? It’s not even that cold today .”He says looking at my coat .

“Unjani Qhawe?” I’m annoyed that the only thing he cares about is complaining about my coat .

“Sorry babe I’m okay .How are you ?” He turns back his attention .

“I’m good .” I smile .

He drives off . I notice that we don’t turn for the main road which heads out from Dambuza to Edendale road . Instead he just drives up locally . We pass a few places I know by taxi and he shows no direction towards the main road whatsoever .

“Uhlala kaPata ?” That’s the only place we can go to in this direction just after Dambuza .

“No .We’re almost there .”He says focusing on the road .

“What do you mean we are almost there ?” I ask shocked .

“We turn after that gravel road . Just after that store .That’s where I live .” He points out .

“KaShwi ? You are kidding right ?” I chuckle .

“No I’m not my love .” He says .

“So you live kwaShwi ?” I ask .

“Yes that’s where I’m renting . “

Wonder shall never end .So the guy lives in the same area with me a walkable distance and he hasn’t bothered telling me about that . 2 months in a relationship and I only get to find out about that now . What else is he hiding ?

The rest of the drive is just sour . I’m no longer speaking to him he doesn’t even deserve a single word coming from me . He is indeed right before we know it we are packed outside one of the cottages . I see these cottages every time I’m using a taxi that passes here .

“Sesifikile .” He says and opens his door . He gets out and grab my bag I stop him and grab it too .

“What’s wrong ?” I don’t say a word . He comes to my side and opens my door .”Let’s go inside babe .” He hands out his hand .

“No !” I say .

“What do you mean no .”He asks .

“We date for 2 months and we live in the same neighborhood and you don’t see it fitting to tell me about it ?”I ask fuming up .

“Haw angani I’m showing you now nje sthandwa sami .” He says .

“After how long ? After 2 months that’s when you decide to show me your place . Just take me back home .” I say and pull the door back . He grabs it before I slam it .

“Sthandwa sami come on don’t be like this .” He begs .

“Let go of the door Qhawe .” I say trying to remove his grabbing hand .

“Come on babe I’m sorry . I didn’t know it would be such a big deal .” He pleads .

“Oh it is alright .” I say .

“Aw Bafo I thought I heard you drive in .” Samkelo comes out of nowhere .

“He’s here too ?” I ask shocked letting go of the door .

“I live here .” He replies standing next to Qhawe .

“He lives here with you that’s why you didn’t want me to come over ?” I ask .

“No ofcourse not . He has his own room we just happen to live on the same yard just like you and Zaza .” He says .

“Oh .Now please drive me home .” I pull the door back faster after noticing that he has let go of it too .

“Sewumenzeni ?” Samkelo asks .

“You know I always have to be standing on my toes with her .”He says that like I’m not ever around .
.....

Well I did come down after an hour or so .Mainly because of the cold you know I had nothing underneath .
Qhawe and Samkelo were still standing outside talking .I’m sure Samkelo thinks I’m an even worse lunatic
. Qhawe punished me by switching the car off turning the heater off in the process .Now I find myself in
his bachelor room . I must say it’s quite nice for a guy who lives alone has more furniture than mine . I
asked him to go get me cold water from the tap when he comes back I have to put my plan in action .
Speak of the devil I hear footsteps and get up instantly .
I start unbuttoning my coat and I drop it as soon as the door opens .

“Shwele !”He says dropping the bottle of water and looking the other way . He sure is surprised .I walk
towards him .

“This is for you babe .” I send out a naughty smile .

“MaSishi kwenzenjani?”He aids his hand in making sure that he doesn’t look .

“Really Qhawe?”I’m annoyed . He moves past me not looking at me . He grabs the blanket on the side of
his bed then he wraps me with it .

“Aiybo Qhawe !” I exclaim .
This is something else .

Chapter 16

I stormed out . I didn’t even wait for him to explain I grabbed my coat and bag and stormed out . I was so
hell bent in walking all the way home then sitting here trying to get why he did that after embarrassing
myself . He followed me right he had his Quantum follow me hitting me with bright lights whilst I walked till
I got home . I heard it leave right after I got inside .

Who does he think he is to embarrass me like that I mean really ? I don’t want to hear a single thing from
him again .First he hides where he stays now he does this . The bastard doesn’t deserve me or my time .
.....

“And how was the special night ?” Zaza greets me with those words as soon as she gets inside .

“What special night ?” I ask in awe .

“You know out with it .How is Qhawe in that department you sure did come back early for some who was
busy all night .”She says pushing my legs for a space to sit .

“Busy all night with what ?” I roll my eyes .

“Come on Sindisani give me all the juicy details .You know I wanna know if after all the taxi driver is good at something .” She says .

“We didn’t do anything .” I keep it short .

“Wait ! What ?” She pops all her eyes out .

“We didn’t have sex .” I shy away it’s even embarrassing to say it . After the way I left all prepared yesterday .

“What was the problem ?” She fixes her eyes on me . I know I have to give out detail by detail .

“He came he took me .We drove and i...”She cuts me off before I can even finish .

“Quit with all the boring stuff . I want to know why ya’ll didn’t have sex .” She says tapping my legs .

“Angani ngiza nayo nje . Okay so it turns out that he lives kaShwi .” I say .

“Imake kaShwi la ngenhla ?” She asks .

“Yes kaShwi .”

“Yoh that’s something else . Now is that why you didn’t let him touch the cookie jar ?” She asks leaning over her hand .

“I wish I thought about that earlier but sadly no .” Really why on earth didn’t I think of that ? It would have saved me from all the embarrassment .

“What else was he hiding then ?” I know she’ll just poke till I out with it .

“Okay after cooling down from that I sent him outside to get me tap water and he did .When he came back I dropped the coat and you don’t wanna know what happened next .” It’s even embarrassing to say it .

“What happened next ?” I knew she won’t let me be . She should have been a journalist infact everyone in this yard should have been a journalist . Omazindaba !

“He took a blanket and wrapped me with it .” I don’t hear any reply instead she bursts into laughter . My one and only friend laughing at my misfortune .

“Yeah go ahead and laugh .” I give her a bad look . It’s no use she continues laughing . After what seemed like a decade she finally stops .

“Are you done ?” I roll my eyes .

“Did you just say he wrapped you with a blanket ?” She tries to hold her laughter .

“Yes I did .” I frown .

“Yuu ayyy !” She claps her hands and laughs again .

“Tell me when you done laughing ?” I’m starting to get warmed up by her laughter . She should be here comforting me as a friend instead she’s here laughing like a donkey .

“Yoh I’m sorry friend it’s just that this is so funny .” She’s already in tears still trying to speak between laughter . I wish I can just call MaT to deal with her right now see who will be the joke .

“Akuhlelisi .” I say whilst she pays no attention and continues with her annoying laughter . My phone rings as I’m still waiting for her to finish it’s him .

“Iphendule .”She says laughing . I just slide and reject it .

“ Haw what did you do that for ?” Finally she stops .

"I don't wanna talk to him ." I say .

"But you have to talk to him .Let him explain maybe ."She says shifting to the serious side .

"I have nothing to say to him ."I say . I don't even swallow it my phone rings again.

" In fact let me delete his number ." I go to my log in a flash and block his ass .

"Don't you think that's taking it too far ?" She asks .

"No ! If he wants nothing to do with me I want nothing to do with him too ." I say .

"Alright if you say so . Let me go do my washing ." She stands up .

"You won't believe who's outside the gate ." She makes a huge u-turn after opening the door .

"Qhawe ?" I roll my eyes .

"Come have a look ." I drag myself up and I move to the door .

"Move I wanna peak ." I say removing the sand from my eyes . I don't believe my eyes . "What's he doing here ?" I stare at Zaza.

"How would I know he's your ex ."She says .

" Maybe he's here to see you ." She lets out a huge smile .

"See me for what ?"I can't believe she said that .

"I don't know . Go and ask him ." She pushes me .

"Hell no!"

"Kwancono he's coming over ." She says . I take a look quickly he crosses the road and comes to the other side .God I hope the gate is locked snap it isn't . He gets in easily .

"Close the door Zaza ." I move away .

"No! " She says .

"Zaza get out and close the damn door !" I exclaim .

"Too little too late ." She pushes the entire door open instead and she goes outside . I hear her greet him . "Hey Sandile ." She says .

"Hey Zaza is your friend around ?" He asks he's already close just outside my window .

"Yeah she's inside you can just go in ." I can't believe this person she's already allowing him in . I see a shadow by my door in an instant then he knocks .

"Go away !"

"Morning MaMadlala ?" He enters with a huge smile .

"Ufunani la ?" I ask annoyed .

"I'm here to see you ." He says sitting by my toes .

"Uzwe kuthiwa ngiyagula ?" I ask with a serious face .

"No you don't need to be sick for me to come see you ." He's still smiling .

"Sandile ufunani lana ?" I don't even want to entertain him .

"I've missed you MaHlokoHloko . "Imihlolake le he says fixing his eyes on me .

.....

“So in your own twisted little world you dump people disrespect them parade your new girlfriend to them and then you realize that you miss them ?” I feel my blood warming up as a matter of fact I’m fuming .
“I’m sorry Sindisani I know I’ve been a total asshole . I just wasn’t thinking at that time and I’ve realised that I love you .” He says . Cha kumnandi ukuba uye he dumps people then realise that he loves them .
“So that’s how it works in your world ?We’ve been together for a year and you only realized when you broke my heart that you love me ?” This guy is seriously crazy so what we had been doing for the past year wasn’t love ?

“I did love you Sindisani .” He reaches out for my hand .

“Don’t touch me .” I pull my hand closer to myself before he can even reach it .”You didn’t love me enough that’s why you went ahead and got someone better right ? What makes you think you love me enough to accept that I’m just a broke ass cashier ?” I’m glad I’m getting a bit of closure today .It’s every persons dream to get answers why they were mistreated after a break up . At least now I won’t be left with a pile of unanswered questions .

“It was just lust and greed my love . I thought that because she has it all I might hit it big too .” He says .

“What is she a genie ?” I’m confused only genies and casino’s change your fortune and she’s no casino .

“A magistrate .” He says .

“Excuse me ?”No he didn’t say that . How can a young fresh looking chick like her be a magistrate ?

When would she have studied for that when would she have gotten experience ? How on earth would a magistrate settle for a lawyer’s ass ?

“Yeah she’s a magistrate part of the jury .” He says .

“So you were using her ?” I asks . He just made me realize that guys can be goldiggers .

“Can we not talk about her please .I did what I had to do during that time .” Moguy securing the bag right there .It’s true that you learn every day . If I was the one coming up with this confession to him I’d be called by names this very moment .

“Please leave Sandile I’ve got other better things to do .” I point out the door direction for him .

“Please forgive me .”He protests .

“I’ve heard you and everything is water under the bridge . Now please leave .”

Chapter 17

“And ?” Zaza storms in with a huge smile .

“And what ?” I stare at her .

“Did you guys fix things ?” Ever her eyes are smiling whilst she tries to pry on my business .

“ Which things needed to be fixed .” I’m surely not following . We broke up in fact he dumped me . He skipped all the ‘fixing things’ gesture and landed on breaking up mode .Surely he saw that everything was unfixable .

“I know you still love him Sindisani .” She says .

“He’s my ex Zaza .”

“So ? If you love them set them free if they come back then it’s just meant to be .” She’s still at that big smile of hers . In Zaza’s mind Sandile and I are soulmates .

“Where did you get that nonsense from?” I’m shocked .

“It’s not nonsense .You are so lucky my friend how I wish Mthembeni would come back .I’d take him back instantly .”Her face changes .

“Askies how are things at work between the two of you ?” I’ve never really checked up on that .

“The worst week of my life .He pretends like I don’t exist .The last time he spoke to me was when he told me that his fiancée caught that he was cheating with me .” A tear streams down .

“He has a fiancée “ I’m surprised to even learn that .

“Yeah and I didn’t even know about her .”She wipes the tears off her cheeks.

“When has that become a problem for you ?” The Zaza I know doesn’t mind dating married men what’s a fiancée ?

“I told him I had no problem with it .But he said that we’re done he doesn’t want to hurt his woman .”

Another flood gushes down .

“But he already did .”

“I guess he just got enough of what he truly wanted . Nothing else mattered after .”

“How’s your friend ?” Zuko whispers .

“Why unyenyeza ?” I laugh at him .

“I don’t want her to hear me she will bite my head off .” He says .

“Who told you that ?”I stop and look at him .

“She told me to stop asking about her her health is not my concern .” He is right Zaza won’t even greet him these days let alone want his name to be mentioned . Asking about her health is taking it too far according to her Zuko doesn’t exist .

“Then why haven’t you stopped ?” I pick the bucket of water before me .

“He won’t stop because he’s hell-bent on knowing whether I took the pill or not . Be a darling and tell him that he shouldn’t worry about a thing I wouldn’t carry his child even if someone had a gun on my forehead and ordered me to do so .”Zaza adds we didn’t even see her join us . I thought Zuko was nyenyezing enough not for anyone to hear what we are talking about .

The tap is by Mkhulu’s house everyone’s meet up point . You’d find Sanele and the others hanging by it and gossiping like Zulu girls going to fetch water at the stream like we used to do enkwalini . In Dambuza’s case it’s different the stream is replaced by the tap and we have a bunch of grown ass man ready to gossip just about anything .

Zuko and I were facing the road down the slope whoever knows PMB places would tell that they just turned hills to residing areas . We already have a couple of people here in Dambuza building up the slopy hill wish to know who’ll reach the top first and how they plan on getting cars up there . Caluza’s case is another story for another day even their road is scary as hell . If you’ve been to e1 you would back me up . Zaza came from behind that’s why we didn’t even hear her .

“Zaza .” I give her that look .

“I just wanted know how you were coping .”Zuko pleads his case then he leaves us .

“ That was uncalled for .” I turn to Zaza . Her sight tells me everything the disgusted look at Zuko speaks volumes . I wonder how these two got themselves under one cover in the first place power of liquor .

“ What’s uncalled for ?” She gives me a pigs eye and the most unpleasant look . “ This has to stop he’s still our makhe . We all live in the same yard so this attitude of your towards him is just too much . “ I say .

“ You know what’s uncalled for ? You being someone I trust as a friend whilst you gossip me behind my back with your friends .” People I have another friend now he’s name is Zuko .

“ That’s not fair .” I just run out of words I really don’t know what this lady expects from me .

“ You should start choosing where your loyalty lies .” You can even tell by her look that morgul is serious .

“Hee ! This is another issue-ke .” I’m in stitches . I thought she would join in but morgul keeps a straight face .

“ Userious?” I look at her in disbelief . She nods her head .

“ Look Zaza you’re my friend and all

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the first person I got along with around her but I don’t appreciate you dictating me . You are not going to choose who I’m supposed and not supposed to talk to . I seriously don’t appreciate that .” I say .

“Fine then I’ll make things easier for you .” She says and walks away .

“What do you mean you will make things easier for me ?” My words hit the wall .I don’t even have to think hard about it I know what she means .

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Qhawe has been calling like crazy 20 missed calls in just 30 minutes . I decided to step outside and fill a few buckets for merely 30 minutes and I already have a tone of missed calls .Well he’s lying I don’t see myself talking to him anytime soon . After the embarrassment an all I really can’t put myself to speak to him . I mean who does that ? Why is he with me if he isn’t attracted to me ? Why is he with me if he wouldn’t look at me in that manner or touch me . Why are we even wasting each other’s time the guy didn’t even see it fit for me to know where he lives .

I’m just sure he just persuaded me to prove a point to his friends . Judging from how I had been always rude to him he just wanted them to see that he can tame me in an instant nothing more . I bet they even had a bet going guys are cruel . Here was I thinking that for a change I have found something worth a while . I have never envisioned myself dating a taxi driver let alone sleeping with him . Look at me now I’m just glad he didn’t take advantage of me . Yeah it was embarrassing and all but to think about it it would have been far more worse if we had slept together . I can almost see him brag to Samkelo and the others nqaba nami nkosi ! This just outlines one thing though time for me to focus on me and only me . Before I end up with another Maqhawe .

“ Sistera !”There’s a knock at my door . I stand to open up .

“ Sanele .” I’m surprised to see him knocking at my door . The last time I saw him was when I told them to mind their own business he’s been scarce these days .

“ Kuhamba kanjani ?” He asks with a huge smile .

“ I’m okay . “ I’m still yet to learn what he wants . Sanele just doesn’t knock at someone’s door .

“ Great . Uthi lomjita wakwaShwi angikucele kanjalo .” He says pointing down the road .

Ngazile ! it’s errands related I wasn’t aware he does this type of line too . Wait till MaT finds out about it the next time she wants to box someone she might as well send Sanele to call them out on her behalf first .

“ Tell him I don’t want to see him .” I say .

“ She says she doesn’t want to see you !” He exclaims from the top of his lungs . I expected him to go down and deliver the message but I guess this will do too. “ He just got off he’s coming here .” He turns to me .

“ Go and lock the gate .” I peek he’s right .

“ He sent me first even if I do he will climb the gate .” He says whilst his focus is on him .

“ Climb where . I wish he tries it I’ll call out for the entire neighborhood and claim he’s here to kill me .” I say .

“ That won’t stop him he looks like he would cross the Nile and swim with the sharks if he has too .” Since when does the Nile river have sharks ? And why is he talking like this ? He continues looking at him then back at me without even making a movement .

After I see his shadow by my window I close the door quickly .

“ Ngibongile bafo .” He hoarses that out . “ MaSishi !” He starts knocking on my door .

“ Ngeke avule . “ Sanele says . I guess he hasn’t left you know his kind . He sees everything trough .

“MaSishi please don’t do this .Let me explain .” He adds .

“ Ask him what’s there to explain . “ I direct that to Sanele .

“ She s...” He doesn’t even finish it off .

“ Ngiyezwa bafo .” He says . “ Hloko hloko please open and allow me explain . “ He furthers .

“ Sanele tell him that I’m not speaking to him .” I say .

“ She isn’t speaking to you . “ Sanele is a star kodwa .

“ Ngiyakuzwa lokho bafo .” I’m sensing a bit of tension brewing up . What’s a spoke person for if he can’t stand it .

“ Uthi uyezwa .” The lunatic replies . Sanele could have been the ideal one to come to think of it .

“ Now tell him to leave .” I like the type of unite front we showing right now .

“ You hav...” He still cuts him off .

“ Ngimuzwile .” I can tell he’s resting his case now so easy . He never saw the need to come up to my room before now . These grounds were too dirty for him to step in I’m too dirty for him to find me attractive . Now what does he wants ?

Chapter 18

Another week through . 1 whole week of Zaza not speaking to me Qhawe calling non-stop and Sandile being a nuisance too . I wish they can both learn from Zaza don't get me wrong I miss her and all but I wasn't going to stand her nonsense . Yes she's my friend she's going through a lot but she landed herself on some of it . To think that Zuko is trying to be nice to her whilst she isn't on being a bitch and ordering us to pick sides . That's just dumb and childish . She's an adult Zuko is an adult I'm sure there's another way to deal with this nonsense .

Let me not get started on Qhawe he had a chance I gave it to him in open clean hands . He just spitted it back to my face . No amount of explanation will make me understand his actions . Sandile on the other hand well akapheli moya .

I've been scrolling at his wall these past few days and I was shocked to see Miss Khuzwayo removed on the relationship status . Well should I say judge Khuzwayo . Some ladies are blessed out there you wouldn't tell that she's a judge . Yes she's at her late 30's 5 years older than Sandile but she still looks fine . Her body and everything you can tell she takes proper care of her core . I bet she doesn't even eat igwinya . I don't blame Sandile for leaving me for her .

Well those 4 are a least of my problems since I'm still heading to Richmond . Sibiziwe kwaMadlala and everyone just knows better than not to go if we are called in this manner . Mkhulu scheduled a family meeting for Saturday and luckily I have a Sunday and Monday off so I'm boarding a taxi straight from work . Thank God it wasn't a busy Saturday we knocked off by 4 so I'll get home a bit earlier than the usual times .

I bought a few items during my lunch just to make sure I don't arrive empty handed . All my cousins will be there I must be seen as someone amongst them . Story for another day .

'Sowugibele gazi' A notification from WhatsApp pops up .

'Yes .' I reply .

'Oh ayy I was arranging a lift for you .' .

Why would Gabi organize a lift for me . I call her straight away .

" Mzala ." She picks up .

" Yebo mzala bekuzobe kuwubani lowolift ? " I get straight to the point .

" I sent someone to get me a few important stuff wena mzala . Usase drobheni so I thought it would make sense if he can give you a lift ." She says .

" Who's that someone ? " It's even a he nkosiyami let me be sure if I can get off . I don't mind getting off the taxi for a free ride .

" Not important mzala . Akusenani ngoba usugibele ." She says .

" I can get off the taxi is not full yet ." I say counting heads . Stingy Sindisani kicks in I'm sure the driver won't mind we are still 7 people short .

“Let me call him mzala .” She drops it . I’m already counting on her to call me back and tell me to get off . I would really do with this R38 I will save I spent a lot of money buying these items . She gets back to me in a dash .

“ Lalela wemzala phuma ume la ngaphandle kuPietermaritz .” She says .

“ Okay mzala .” I stand up and leave . Luckily no one complains .

“ How will I know it’s him ?” I ask I don’t want to be standing outside looking like a headless chicken .

Pietermaritz is very busy

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I don’t want to be standing outside looking like a headless chicken . Pietermaritz is very busy the last thing I need is to stand there looking confused .

“ Just wait for a golf 7 mzala .” She says and drops it .

Konje who drives a golf 7 ? None of our cousins drives a golf 7 and she would have told me by now if it was one of our cousins .

I carry my bag and plastics and rush outside . Before I get there I have to pass by Dambuza rank . Indlela yonke idlula lapho . I just hope Qhawe is not around to ruin my day . I say a silent prayer as I walk past the taxis and luckily no sign of him . I head out peacefully .

“ Ngena mama sikucuphise siya la uya ngakhona .” A taxi stops by me and the dreadlocks driver speaks .

“ No thanks .” I stand and allow it pass it’s already heading out and full I ain’t going to Dambuza also .

“ Alikho isoka lakho ungaze umlinde ngaphandle .” He continues .

“ Excuse me ? What boyfriend are you talking about ?” I stare at him.

“ Haa kanti baningi I didn’t know .” He says .

“ Bhuti wabantu ngicela uhambe ngimi cause I’m allowing you to pass . I have somewhere to be so please .” I’m full blown with annoyance .

“Ayy uqinisile uMaqhawe you are feisty .” He says .

“ Ubani loMtshengiseni ?” The conductor asks .

“ Ilokhu kwaQhawe .” He says and drives off .

Oh the famous Mtshengiseni I only heard Samkelo and Qhawe mention him I never got to see him or meet him . I don’t want to associate myself with these people ngingazithola sengijwayeleka kabi just like now . I hope his yapping won’t make me miss my ride . Who stops and talks to someone who didn’t even signal for a ride on the passenger’s call . These taxi people . I walk out and stand further from the entrance .

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15 minutes later no sign of a golf 7 . I’m even thinking about calling Gabi and ask if the guy hasn’t forgotten . Suddenly what I thought I had escaped happen .

“ Sindisani .” He calls out .

“What ?” I roll my eyes and turn to him .

“ Can we talk ?” He stands next to me .

“ Talk about what ?” I ask . What does he want from me ?

“Where are you going ?” He looks at my bag and plastics . It’s a bit clear .

“How is that any of your business ?” I’m puzzled .

“ Can we go to the car and talk for a bit ?” He points back .

“ No . As you see I have no intentions of using taxis else I would have been down at the taxi rank . I’m waiting for someone .” I look at my watch 17 minutes now . “Are we done here ?” I turn to him .

“ Don’t be like this Sindisani?” He frowns .

“ Don’t be like what ?” I stare at him . I have to hear this .

“ Treating me like this ?” He gives out a sad face .

“ Treating you like what ?” I ask.

“ Like I don’t mean anything to you like you never loved me .”

I think he’s about to cry . Poor guy tear don’t scare me . Definetly not from the other gender .

“ So wena you loved me ?” I chuckle in disbelief .

“ You know I do . I love you Sindisani .” He says .

“That why you wouldn’t show me where you live and that’s why you wouldn’t touch me ?” Rage is starting to build up thinking about that day still drives me crazy .

“ You didn’t give me a chance to explain . I had to do that b...” I don’t even want to hear it I cut his tongue.

“ No need to explain .You had your chance you blew it life continues . Now I’m giving others the chance to use the opportunity you couldn’t take .” I spot a golf 7 and move towards the road .

“Uchaza ukuthini ?” He asks .

I don’t respond to that the golf 7 spots me too . It comes my direction and stops before me .

“ Sindisani don’t do this .” He interprets the whole situation .

I don’t say a thing but turn to give him a wicked smile . The dim windows of the golf 7 roll down and God this is not happening .

“ You ?” I pop out all my eyes in shock .

Chapter 19

“ If I knew bekuza wena I wouldn’t have waited for you .” I finally break the silent . The ride has been pretty awkward I had no choice but to reply to his greeting I’m riding his car by the way .

Why would Gabi put me through this type of situation she knows about everything .How I hate this guy's ass but I guess I was supposed to expect that from Gabi . Pretty clear they kept it going huh ?

“ Come on now you can’t hate me for the rest of your life .We used to be good once you know before you started despising me . It wouldn’t hurt to go back there .” He says his eyes fixed on the road .

Did he just say that ? Oh wow I just on and decided to hate on the poor guy . How cruel I am .

“ Really ? Oh let me add on that . 'We used to be good once before you abandoned me with a lot on my plate and not only did you abandoned you persuaded and dated my cousin too '.” I hope that refreshes his memory .

I've been praying all my life asking God to help me not run across this bastard yet here I am now riding his car .

"It's in the past Sindisani please ." He turns to me . You see it was better when we were in the moment of silent .I think it's best if we continue with that I really have no time for this bastard .

"Uphume nini ejele ?" Wait no I have to know about that . My brain can't just drop it.

"Oh now you care ?" He asks with a smirk

"Care about what you ? Don't get ahead of yourself . I wish they would have locked you in and threw away the key you deserve to be there for your entire miserable life ." I'm already fuming up . I wouldn't care any less even if he died inside .

"Aiybo Sindisani ." I don't even care if I'm riding his car on not .I'll keep them coming till he decides to throw me off board . Curse Gabi for doing this to me .

"Look I know I was horrible to you . I really don't blame you for feeling this one . I'm truly sorry for what I did Sindisani but we can't continue living in the past ." He says .

Oh so to him it's just living in the past .He goes around breaking people then he accuses them of living in the past ? I wouldn't care even if 30 years have passed 30 full years later I'd still hate him . People like him don't deserve forgiveness . He is just an asshole wasting God's precious air whilst innocent people die everyday .

"I do...." I don't even get to finish it .

"Please hold it ." He touches on his radio and allows the call to come through ." Hey ." He greets .

"Babe senikuphi kanti ?" The voice says . Why ngingamangali the bitch is still with him . The type of cousins we have .

"Uhm we've just passed by Thornville . We will be there in an hour ." He says .

"Great I was starting to get worried .You know those items are very important for tomorrow ." She replies.
What's happening tomorrow ?

"Yeah we will be there very soon ." He says and they say all those lovey dovey nonsense the he drops it .

"Why am I not surprised ? You are still with her ?" I give him a disgusted look .

"I love her Sindisani ." He says focusing on the road .

"Like you loved me too ?" I smirk . What does he even know about love ?

"Oh my God Sindisani sekwadlula ." He says raising his tone .

"Yeah cause it was also easy for you to forget about your loss ." I say with a smile .

"Don't you dare don't you dare ! I tried reaching out to you what did you do ?" His tone has changed from being polite to being quite aggressive that's the side I know .

"After fucking my cousin right ?" I smirk . I always thought that when I run across him I'll do the unthinkable . I even wished a had a gun to blow his brains off but this right here . Does it too . Way better than getting his dirty blood on my hands .

"You gonna remind me that for the rest of my life ?" He asks .

“ You are still fucking her aren't you ?” That will always be a constant reminder . I'd wake up from the dead just to ask about that .

“ I love your cousin and I am serious about her .” He says .

“ Oh wow that answers it all . That's why you never cared huh ? You never even loved a part of you the way you love the Precious Gabisile .”Gabi's cake has got to be served on a silver platter I bet she has real gold down there .

“ You know what I think it's better if we just say nothing . I'm done with this talk .” He says and turns up the volume .

Yeah typical Mxolisi Mxo Mxo Mxo ! Always been to great for apologizing right ? Even if he does he never means it and I'd never even forgive him .

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I'm glad our ride is coming to an end I was almost getting sick being next to him . God knows I almost threw up . He takes a turn and joins the gravel road home . It's already dark thanks to waiting for the entire 30 minutes for him. Some things never changes even now he still expects the whole world to stop and wait for him . If it wasn't for the darkness and cold I would have asked him to drop me at town . I would have took a taxi .

“ Sesifikile .” He says I'm sure he is showing me the way out . We've been quite for the rest of the journey .

“ Alright .” I open the door and head out banging it behind . I then walk towards the gate I see a bunch of people chilling outside . Gabi comes through and we pass each other by the gate .

“ Mzala .” She says with a smile I know it's a mocking one . I don't even reply but head straight inside . I greet the others and walk past them towards 'ikhaya elikhulu' where my mom left me .

“ Gogo .” I say walking in her room first I always come and greet her first every time I get home .

“ Mntanomntanami .” She says with a wrinkled smile and stands up to embrace me . You always find intombi endala on her room during this hour it's past six and she's preparing herself for bed . She always sleep after 6 even long that I can always remember . That's how were got a chance to do naughty things and sneak off .

We are devided into 4 homes one yard though . There's ikhaya elikhulu lakwaGogo technically where everyone was born . Then we have her first son's house the second son and the third son . They all got married and decided that they will build their houses and raise their family right here . Gogo had 3 son's and 2 daughters 2 of his children are late though . Leaving behind two sons and 1 daughter . You can only imagine the awkward family structure right we are a huge family and it's always chaotic . That's why I hardly come and visits

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I choose peace and sanity .

“ Kodwa Sindi mntanami ukubhunguka okungaka ?” She says sitting on the bed and pulling me along .

“ Haw gogo I was here not so long ago . Usukhohliwe ?” I smile .

“ Sekudlule izinyanga ezingaki ?” She asks .

“ Ezimbile gogo .”

“ Uyabona-ke . Nibobuya nizolokhu nisibheka phela sesibadala . “ I thought she wasn't counting . True you can't fool this one nakuba eguge kangakanani .

“ Seniyobuya nizwe sekuthiwa odadewenu bayashada . “She says .

“ Who's getting married gogo ?” To come to think about it what's the fuss about today's meeting and why did Gabi mention something important about tomorrow to Mxolisi ?

“ Bengimane ngisho mntanami . Ziyenzeka izinto .” She says I know she's on to something .

“ Uhm gogo what's today's meeting about ?” I have to fish that out .

“ Your great uncle called the meeting mntanami akuncono silinde ukuzwa ngaye ?” She says looking straight into my eyes .

“ Kulungile gogo I had missed you .” I smile .

“ Whatever happens mzukulu wami I want you to remain strong . For as long as I live m I'll always remain with you .” She says that and grabs my hand .

Okay that's quite weird . Why would gogo say such a thing what's up kanti ?

“ Gogo umalume besat...” The door opens and Nokuthula storms in she notices me and that disturbs her .

“ Mzala ufike nini ?” She jumps to me in excitement . I stand up and hug her .

“ Just arrived mzala .” I smile and look at her .

“ And you didn't say a thing to me are thought you weren't coming .” She says .

“ Why ? Malume called me to come nje ?” I'm slightly confused why wouldn't I come .

“ Angani uyazi nje indaba yakho no...”

“ Nokuthula !” Gogo cuts her off .

“ Oh ! How's PMB treating you mzala ?” She tries to laugh it off and changes the topic .

“ Gogo kwenzakalani ?” I look at gogo in awe something really beats the water herec .

“ Khohlwa ilophaphiyose yiza. Ngiyacabanga ukuthi umhlangano usumi ngomumo .” Gogo says wrapping her head with a doek . She had it off and she doesn't go out without it . She's been a Madlala makoti for years but I bet respect is still stuck with her even if her husband is long gone .

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Everyone is here all the cousins from each house are here . Even the ones who leave far due to work are here . I heard kuzodillike neGoli he's due to arrive later today . I'm starting to think that there is a special occasion and everyone was hiding it from me . We all are gathered on the rondavell we have been socialings and joking . Some of us haven't seen each other in ages all of us are guilty of one thing 'ukubhunguka' . Malume is not yet here along with his wife and Gabisile . Oh by the way great uncle is Gabi's father . I'm sure they will all make a grand entrance though Nozi Thabile and Sfundu are already here part of his house that couldn't wait for the perfect entrance .Well great uncles house has always been like that stealing the shine for almost everything we are used to it . As for Gabi well the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree . They all enter moments later following each other malume Mncebo sits at the top

of the left side then his wife sits on the right side followed by his daughter instead of uncle Mbizo's wife . That's a first it's always him on the males side followed by the second son Mbizo ; then on the females side it's gogo first MaZikhali then MaBhengu . There has never been a day where Gabi cuts between MaZikhali and MaBhengu today marks history really .

“ Erh mndeni wakoSishi I know all of you are asking yourself why I called this meeting . Some already have an insight but some don't kodwa-ke I'll be an aid to solve everyone's questions .” He sway the confusion back to him .

“Since everyone knows that my daughter here uGabisile has been briefly seeing umfana kaMakhathini . It's been quite obvious to everyone ukuthi nazi izingane ziyathandana nakuba sezikhuziwe ngesimo sokuthi yena umfana lona wake wona layikhaya . Kwacaca kona-ke ukuthi uthando lwabo lukhulu kunalokhu esikucabangayo .” He clears his throat I wish to know where this is going .

“ Ingakho-ke sesivumile mina nomkami ukuthi sibadedele abakwaMakhathini basibone kusasa . “ He furthers .

I knew it I knew the bastard was doing this . How would malume agree to this nonsense ? Who allows his daughter get married to her cousin's ex .

“ Imake mfowethu kungathi angisezwa kahle muphi uMakhathini ?” Malume Mbizo steps in .

“ UMakhathini la ngasenhla Ekupholeni mfowethu .” Great uncle says with no shame .

“ Imake engani uMakhathini lona uye lo owayezalise indodakazi kaBajengile . Nangu uSindisani.” He says pointing to me in the crowd .

“ Yena kanye bab'ophakathi .” Gabisile replies .

“ Akukhulunywa nawe Gabisile thula ulalele .” Gogo steps in she doesn't want us talking back while the male elders of the family are still talking .

“ Kulungile impela Ma . Kuhle khona umntwana aziphawulele .” Mncebo says .

“ Angiyizwa kahle le mina Mncebo . Ma why aren't you reprimanding this ?” Mbizo turns to Gogo .

I feel tears building up . Yes it's been years since I broke up with Mxolisi but we had a son for crying out loud . A son he never cared about .A son he only saw once the day he was taken to his family for them to check if it was his . The very same son he denied whilst I was still pregnant but who came out as his exact replica . When gogo MaBhengu and I went to show them the child he agreed to fathering him . He apologized and promised to do right by him and that was it . He never even bought a single nappy not even a cheap pacifier nothing !

When my baby got sick he was informed but he never came to check up on him .Even by the time we were admitted at the hospital he never showed up . That was it we went and we came back with a little white coffin . Injabulo yami had died just like that . Did he come to the funeral no he didn't only his mom and sister did . Whilst I was still trying to recover from that he went on and started seeing my cousin .The very same cousin he intends to marry now whilst he has never even paid a cent for damages on my side .

“ Ngicela nisishiye nonke bakwethu .” Gogo says and we all stand up.

“ Not you Sindisani .” Malume Mbizo says . I sit and I notice MaZikhali sit too .

“ Ukukhohlakala okunjani lokhu bafo ?” Uncle Mbizo asks as soon as the last person vanishes .

“ I don’t follow ?” I know he is mocking .

“ These people owe us and you also know that . The boy disrespected our family and he hasn’t even fixed that here you are saying that you allowed them to meet with us for your daughter’s lobola negotiations .”

He says .

“ Umhlaba sekufanele ume ngenxa kaSindisani ?” MaZikhali asks ?

“MaZikhali !” Her husband gives her a death stare .

“Uxole sokhaya kuphela I won’t stand here and allow my daughter be bullied ngenxa kaSindisani . She has found love ukuthi kanjani kuphi ? Akusabalulekile lokho . We should all just let them be .” She says . You can tell by the sound of her tone that she sees nothing wrong in this .

“ Kahleni fighting and arguing won’t help in this situation . We should all show a unite front before the Makhathini’s . What they did to Sindisani can also be corrected tomorrow .” Gogo says .

“ Cha! salukazi ngiyala . Tomorrow is my daughter’s day I won’t allow anything stand on my daughters shot to happenies .” MaZikhali says bosting . The nerve of this woman ! .

Chapter 20

I remembered my son last night . How he looked like before he died with all those tubes connected to him . Drips pierced through his skull his hair shaved . Each and every bit of his skin with scars from all the needles being rotated throughout his body .

My Njabulo was just 7 months a 7 months old going through all that pain . It was all unbearable seeing him in that state killed me . Hearing him cry every time they draw his blood . He died of a liver infection as young as he was . The dog never came to see him he didn’t care obviously . He didn’t even bother paying his last respect to his son never alone do something for him . Amenzele umsebenzi wokumkhulula yet he’s about to lobola my cousin . It’s a twisted world .

“ How are you doing ?” Mpume walks up to me .

“ I’m fine .” I wipe off a tear and send out a brief smile . Then I shove my toiletry bag on the bag .

“Are you packing or something where are you going ?” She asks looking at my bag .

“ I have to go to work . I didn’t get a day off .” I lie .

“ Didn’t you say you got a Sunday off too?” She asks confused .

“ You must have heard wrong . They gave me a Monday off .” I say picking my bag up .

“ Look Sindi I understand this is hard for you I also hate it . But you don’t have to leave . Don’t give them the satisfactory they want .” She says holding my hand .

Sikhulekile ekhaya . Nina boSishi

OHlokohloko

OMathenjwa

ONzimase

Khabaludaka

Bayekhulu

Ngangezwe .

There is noise at the gate I guess they're already here .

Sithunyiwe Odonda

OXulu

OGxabhashe

Bathi asizocela isihlobo esihle layikhaya . They continue luckily my phone rings . I don't have to be around and listen to this nonsense .

"My lift is here . I have to go ." I slide my phone on the bag and head out . She follows me .

" Aiybo Sindi did you let gogo know you are leaving " I ignore her .

Everyone is busy with God know's what to pay attention to me . I walk out straight to the gate passing the men standing there shouting and making a nuisance . I look at them in disgust then I walk towards the Audi waiting for me .

" MaSishi ." He smiles as soon as I climb in .

"Sandile . Thanks for coming ." I smile back at him . He drives off .

.....

" You didn't tell me to stop on the way so I didn't get anything . You know I live alone I can't cook . If you need something something at all tell me . I will order it ." He says handing me a cup of coffee .

" Thanks coffee is just fine ." I say with a smile .

" How are you holding up MaHlokohloko ?" He sits next to me and stares at me .

" I'm fine nothing I can't handle ." I pull myself together .

" Are you sure ?" He asks . Of course I'm sure am I ? Why wasn't he like this though all along ? Couldn't he have just been like this from the get go ? I'm glad he showed up though I didn't really think he would come . Luckily Miss Khuzwayo wasn't following him like his bodyguard . She's just too much .

Lendoda kusengaba eyami .

Spent the whole day in Sandile's house he didn't leave my side not even a bit . I talked to him about things that I wasn't able to share with him before . I don't know if he has changed and become a great listener all I know is that whatever he is doing is working . He even got to touch the cookie jar .

" You don't know how bad I've missed this ." He says resting his head next to me .

" Haw you had Judge Judy nje ." I roll my eyes . The thought of him doing what he just did to me to her just drives me mad .

" She's always busy . We don't have sex that much ." He replies .

" Oh ! That's why I am here ? To do what she doesn't do ?" I feel insulted and cheap at this moment .

"No . Don't ever say that you are here because I love you . You are my woman Sindasani and no one will ever change that ." He looks at me straight into my eyes .

" Then why did you leave me for her ?" I have to ask girl has to look after herself .

" I wasn't thinking straight okay . I was dumb ." He caresses my cheek .

“ But you shouldn’t have le...”I don’t even voice the rest out his lips visit mine . I accept it and we both kiss passionately .Mine screams hunger I don’t recall Qhawe kissing me this way .I’ve longed for a man to kiss me touch me and make me feel like a woman again . His hands rush down to my already dripping womanhood . He rubs on my clit slowly and folds on my clitoris whilst squeezing it and pinching it gently . I just love the feeling of it I feel sensation building up my body . God knows how bad I want him in .He reaches down and plants his face right in front of my wanting pussy . In an instance his face is buried deep within . His tongue working magic on my clit something I don’t see Qhawe doing in a million years . I’m lost in the heat of the moment .I’ve been letting out moans and pleads with him to just ramp the life out of me . I haven’t felt like this in ages and boy I’m so glad I gave him another chance . I feel a wave building up and I’m just ready to let it all out. Suddenly we hear a big gush and a splash then everything gets wet .

“ What the fuck ?” Sandile jumps off me in shock .Our eyes both meet an intruder .

“ This how you do me .” The lady says hitting him with an empty bucket .

“ Zoe !” Sandile screams trying to grab something to hide his nakedness . I also pull the blankets up covering my naked body .

“ Don’t Zoe me ! Is this how you do me ? You gonna go around fucking your whores?” The lady is fuming . Sandile tries to fight her but she slips and heads straight to me . I pull the blanket up my face fast .

“ Get out of those blankets now ! Show your face whore .” She says and pulls them down roughly exposing me .

“ Oh so it’s her ? Godness Sandile how can you embarrass me like this ?” She throws those blankets on him .

“ Get out !” She points to me . I don’t even try to fight back I spring up and grab my clothes then I head out .

“I’ll drive her home .” I hear him protest .

“You are not going anywhere with her .” I hear her argue . They both follow after me .

“ You won’t tell me what to do I brought her here . I will drive her home .” He says .

“ Damn right I do . If you step a toe out with that whore forget about becoming a big shot . “ She says .

“At least let me request for her .” That strike a nerve . Power hunger !

I don’t even stay to here the rest of the conversation fall . I find myself a way out .

Chapter 21

2 weeks have passed . 2 weeks without any friends Zaza is still not talking to me . 2 weeks of being a total joke . I know I am the talk of town in Richmond and I know Gabisile is proud of herself for doing this to me . I’ve been seeing statuses on WhatsApp her and hubby posting each day . They look very happy . The other cousins have been there some of them are with me whilst some aren’t .Vele the worl is always divided into two some who will stand against the wrong and some who will condone it and find reasoning . In every family there are those type of situations we wouldn’t run away from them.

I embarrassed myself again another woman saw me on a compromising position . Oh she called later I bet Sandile gave her my numbers . She told me where to get off before things turn mess and I did get off . Sandile has been trying to get hold of me but I've been ignoring him . I later resolute to blocking him he tried using his home number and office number . I've been ignoring those ever since .I don't have a death wish I bet she would kill for Sandile . She is a Magistrate for crying out loud she can afford any hit man . I would be wipped off from the face of existence that easy and there is definitely no way she would go to jail I'd die in vain .

He isn't the only one trying to contact me though . Qhawe did attempt too but I guess he eventually got tired . He has stopped . It's a Saturday I'm off . All alone in my sad world . Drowning in my own tears . I don't plan to go anywhere today . Suddenly I hear a knock at the door .

“ Ubani ?” I ask .

“ Yimi sisi .” Who's 'Yimi sisi ' now ? Who knocks at someone's door and expects them to guess who they are . I drag myself and open up .

“ Samkelo .” I'm shocked to see him standing on my door way . He is dressed in white and looks different than usual . He looks like he took a bath .

“ What are you doing here ?” I add .

“ I'm here with Maqhawe he wishes to see you .” Since when is he formal with Maqhawe and since when is he polite ?

“ Can't he come up ?” I ask looking down the road .

“ I beg you sisi .Please come with me and hear what he has to say .” Since when does he beg me ? I grab a gown and head out .

Qhawe gets off upon spotting us .He also looks differently .He isn't wearing his uniform umblaselo and a leopard print vest . He is wearing a slim fit chino and a white t-shirt too .

“Are you guys going to a wedding why are you all so dressed up ?” I ask .

“ Hloko hloko .” He lets out a smile . I smile back at him .

“ Are you busy ?” He asks .

“No . I was sleeping before you got here .” I say .

“ Can you accompany us ?” He asks .

“Accompany you to where ?” Am I also invited to the wedding ?Maybe he needs a partner to a fellow taxi driver's wedding . “ Sure it's not like I have something interesting to do .” I cut in before he replies .

“Great then make sure you wear a skirt and be presentable . Bring a bunch of more too .” I knew it Samkelo couldn't be polite for even an hour . He is already giving out orders .

I walk back to the house take a bath . I wasn't planning on taking any bath today . I was just going to eat carry my useless miserable self to bed eat once more then the cycle continues . So on and on and on . I make sure that I take my time and I decided to wear the dress Qhawe bought for me . After an hour not exaggeration a straight hour I head out with my weekender bag . They said I must bring more I wanna be prepared .

“ Eyy san look at her .” Samkelo says as I open the front passenger door . “ Cruella ayy ugezile namhlanje .” He laughs .

Wow shuthi I normally don't bath .

“ Haha very funny .” I look back at him .

“ Umuhle MaHlokohloko .” Qhawe adds .

“ Is it because I'm wearing a dress you chose ? You've never complimented me .” I tease .

“ The dress only compliments you . You are a true beauty sthandwa sami .” I am Sthandwa sami already maybe I never stopped .

“ So where are you taking me ?”

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We drift away from the main city and all the neighboring townships . We drive off and join N3 .We drive for a few hours and I'm getting a bit exhausted . I've been asking effortlessly where we going for more than a 100 times but they keep on saying that I will see when we get there . We have passed Newhanover Greytown and I guess we are somewhere near Msinga or something . I've never been there but I've heard it's by this side of the province .

“ Are you ready to see uThukela ?” Samkelo pats my shoulder and asks .

“ We are going to Tugera Furry ?” My eyes sparkle . I've heard stories about this place . I've seen in pictures how huge it is I can't wait to see with my own two eyes .

So after a long drive I find myself kwaMshayazafe .

“ Kukini la ?” I ask as he stops in front of huge rondavell .

“No kukwabasi.” He says and gets off .

“ Feel at home nkosazane this family is very welcoming .” Samkelo says opening the door for me . He grabs my bag and walks away whilst Qhawe turns to my side and offers a hand to me . I hold it and we walk together following Samkelo .

“ Malume Samkelo .” A group of kids run off to him then they hug him . He grabs each and spin them one waiting for a turn . They all chuckle and cheer in excitement . When they are done with him they walk up to us .

“Sawubona anti sawubona malule” They approach Qhawe in a different manner of approach . I greet them back Qhawe does too then they run off and continue playing .

I'm taken to a room by one of the ladies she introduces herself as Senamile .

“ Are you ready for the journey ahead ?” Senamile asks whilst helping me load my things on the wardrobe . She is bubbly and friendly it didn't take me much time to warm up to her . I guess Samkelo was right about this family being warm .

“What journey ?” I ask . She doesn't reply but chuckles .

“ We are having a Sangoma over for a few preparations for tomorrow . If you are not that tired you can join us .” She says .

“Preparations for what ?” I still don't know why we are here .

“ Let me guess he didn't tell you ?” She smiles .

“ Tell me what ?” I'm confused .

“ Not my place to tell . That's Qhawe for you though .” She says . I'm definitely joining them for that ceremony or something . I have to find out what's going on here . I'm sure it will be way better than starring at 4 walls

Sponsored

with a lot of paintings of traditional Zulu ancient times .

After an hour the ladies are gathered at one rondavell whilst the men are on the kraal trying to slaughter one mean huge cow .

We are having a ceremony huh ? Perfect timing Sindisani I don't know what it's all about I'm just glad Qhawe invited me .

Everyone here looks dressed up almost everyone in their traditional Zulu attires .Well except for me . There are girls wearing beautiful colorful beads and the old ladies also looking their best . There are two Sangoma's a male and a female one . The female one is here with us whilst the other one is at the kraal with the men . This is kinda strange but interesting at the same time

"Ayishayivume" . The sangoma roars .

"Makhosi !" Everyone says . From there she starts dancing and singing like a possessed person . They're other mathwasana who are also dancing with her .

After what seemed like forever the Sangoma orders everyone to be still then she starts lashing out everyone's news . She doesn't care who you are she just picks you randomly and starts telling you about yourself and other related things . She jumps everyone else after the 5th person and comes straight to me .

“ The great is yet to happen . Vumani bo !” She starts roaring again .

“Makhosi !” Everyone says to my confusion .

“ I see cows and I see an empty kraal your family is yet to witness big things .” She continues then off she goes to another person .

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The next day I haven't seen Qhawe since we got here . I've been trying to call him and find out what's going on but I can tell he is busy just like the rest of the guys in this yard . Maqinise was an aid though I slept with her . She got up early though and served me breakfast then she got water for me to bath . I haven't seen her after that I'm sure she is swamped .

“ MaHlokohloko .” The door opens and it's Qhawe .

“ Where have you been ?” I stand up and hug him . I notice a bile tied to his chest . “ Isn't this your bosses home why is there a bile on your chest ?” I'm surprised . You only get to have that when the ceremony is in connection with you .

“ I brought you these .” He shows a plastic I didn't notice from behind . I look into it .

“ Traditional attire what's for ?” I look up to him in confusion .

“ Wear this today and please promise me whatever happens you are always going to stand by me . I love you MaSishi .” He says .

“ What is going to happen Qhawe ?” I ask .

“ I have to leave now .”

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“ Mmmmm awusemuhle .” Senamile walks into me whilst I’m still embracing myself standing in front of the marrior . Damn she’s right I do look good .

“Awuturne ngikubone .” She says . I turn and do a few poses for her she laughs at the silly ones . She also looks good by the way . Wearing a short yellow beaded skirt and a white vest with some beads . As for me I have a white dress on which has a bit of beadwork here and there . I’m definitely sure Qhawe had this tailored I look like a million bucks .

“ So now sizoya esigcawini that’s where the action is .” Senamile says pulling my hand .

The yard is packed and there are cars everywhere .We walk towards the open field where everyone is .There are a group of men and women singing and dancing whilst the others are sited whilst on different sides . I sit by Senamile on the female side too .

We are all singing and having fun when suddenly a guy appears from no where . He’s wearing a different attire than all the men around here . When he starts opening his mouth only praises come out . He praises whilst he walks and dances on the same time . Everything he is doing just looks I don’t know great ! And new at the same time . He stops at the front and turns to the back facing us .

“ Sizwe saseMabheleni sizwe sobabamkhulu . Awuthule umsindo .” He says and everyone holds still .

“ Umntwana oyizibulo lesizwe saseMabheleni umntwana uZothani Vimbezakhe Mbhele .” After he says that everyone just goes crazy . The woman are ululating some are dancing whilst others are jumping up and down . I fix my eyes at the top to see the mntwana everone is excited about . He comes and walks past the crowd then he stands next to the praise poet .

“ Umntwana ophakathi wesizwe saseMabheleni umntwana uKhethokwakhe Maqhawe Mbhele.” He says and everyone does exactly what they did to the first one .

Did he just say ‘ umntwana uKhethokwakhe Maqhawe’ ? How is even that possible . I turn away afraid to even look . After the dust has settled I look up to see Qhawe standing next to Zothani . I nearly faint .

“Umntwana ovalile uthunjana wasendlini yesizwe saseMabheleni umntwana uPhathezakhe Samkelo Mbhele .” I don’t even hear the rest I just black out .

....

“MaSishi !” I hear an echo sound on my ears . My eyes open up to Qhawe and Senamile plus some unfamiliar faces .

“Qhawe where am I ?” I lift my body up my head feels heavy . I regain a bit of sense we are in the room I was sleeping in . The events that were happening before everything became dark strike me .

“ We are home MaSishi .” He says with a huge smile . I was expecting him to tell me that I’ve just had a bad dream but he tells me this instead .

So he has been lying to me all along . After all he isn't just a taxi driver .

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