

Single Mothers
Episode 1
by
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1 **EXT. TOWNSHIP - DAY**

1

ESTABLISHING SHOT

2 **INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, HOME OFFICE - DAY**

2

(LINDI, BEAUTY)

Lindiwe Masuku (35) sits at a desk with a laptop, staring at a poster for the Alexandra Small Businesswoman of the Year Competition. Standing across from her is Beauty Malombo (37), her business partner. There are towers of Tupperware stacked neatly around them.

A whiteboard on the wall lists names of companies and stokvels. Beauty has a marker and is checking orders against dates, people and groups.

 BEAUTY

 The Red Bank Ladies Stokvel ordered
 four A - kits, seven B - kits and
 twenty three children's kits right?

Beauty is still holding the marker aloft waiting for Lindi to confirm her numbers. She gets nothing and turns around to find Lindi fixated on the clock.

 BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Lindi!

 LINDI

Huh? Sorry.

 BEAUTY

 (sighs)

 We're gonna leave at sunrise at
 this rate.

 LINDI

 Askies, I was thinking about the
 competition. They said they'd let
 the finalists know by 3.

Beauty turns to the clock on the wall. It reads 02h45.

 BEAUTY

 Well it's not 3 yet.

 LINDI

 Can't blame me for being nervous.
 I'm basically a running joke each
 year.

 BEAUTY

 No, you're not.

Lindi casts a "let's be real" glance in Beauty's direction.

LINDI

Even first time entrants feel
better when they see my name on the
list. I just know they're thinking
"well, at least I'm not second."

She turns down the corners of her mouth and shakes her head looking a lot more frazzled than one would expect. Beauty gives her a searching look.

BEAUTY

It's not just the competition is
it? You were thinking about the
things that could distract you from
the competition.

Lindi looks up and gives Beauty a resigned shrug. Beauty turns away from the board and goes to sit opposite her friend.

LINDI

I'll sort it out.

BEAUTY

No you won't. You've been living in
that house for what, two years now?

LINDI

So?

BEAUTY

So the only way you'll sort it out,
is to move out.

LINDI

Can't yet. We're still saving up.

Beauty goes to say something

LINDI (CONT'D)

And before you say anything it's
not his fault he lost his job.

BEAUTY

It certainly was. Don't forget
people saw him around town when he
was meant to be at work.

LINDI

That's just bored neighbours
gossiping.

BEAUTY

Really?

LINDI

Joe always brought something home at the end of the month. Where would he get that from if he wasn't working?

Beauty doesn't respond but it's clear that she knows something and is merely biting her tongue to keep the peace.

BEAUTY

Mh-hm. But you're happy living there with his mom and everything?

LINDI

It's a roof over our heads and she didn't have to take us in. I just wish I could just go one day without Ma harassing me about having a kid.

BEAUTY

(snorts)

A child cannot have a child. Joe -

LINDI

(interjects)

- Is trying to get on his feet and everything will be fine as soon as we move away from his mother and her nagging ways.

Beauty tips her head slightly to the side at Lindi's last statement.

BEAUTY

I just think it's time she faced it. The man's thingy doesn't work.

Lindi looks around uncomfortably. She seems relieved at Beauty's statement but tries to cover.

LINDI

You don't know that.

BEAUTY

Are you joking?

LINDI

We can't really know whose -

BEAUTY

Yes you can. This is 2013. There are tests.

LINDI

I can't force him.

BEAUTY

You mean you can't force his mother?

Lindi let's out an exasperated sigh at the thought of Madeline.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Why don't you guys just adopt?

Lindi is startled.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

There are plenty of kids out there who need a home.

LINDI

This time you're joking right? I can just see Madeline running around the house with the divorce papers. Do you know she went so far as to say we'd both be happier?

BEAUTY

She's right you know.

Lindi is surprised and a little stung that Beauty is taking her mother - in - law's side.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

She comes at you the wrong way and for the wrong reasons. But she's right.

LINDI

Are you saying I should just give up on having a child.

BEAUTY

No. I'm saying you should find a way to have a child AND split up.

Now Lindi is shocked.

LINDI

Out there every night trying to catch this ones attention, figure out if that one's married and taking this one to court for paggeld?

Lindi shakes her head.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Joe and I will struggle on. We'll come out on the other side no matter what Madeline says or does.

BEAUTY
(claps hands once)
This is why I am happy being
single. No father. No crazy family
of the father. Just me and my kids.

Beauty notices her friend slipping into a funk again and
tries to find a bright spot in this whole thing. She looks up
at the clock. It's reads 02h58

She pats Lindi lightly on the thigh.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)
It's almost time!

She takes both of Lindi's hands in hers and shakes her
slightly.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)
If you want to win this time you've
first got to perk up.

As if on cue the phone rings. Lindi looks at Beauty nervously
who gives her a reassuring smile, gets up and heads towards
the phone.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)
Dish It Up hello.
(listens)
That's right. Beauty. I nominated
her.
(listens)
Oh.

She looks a little worried then turns away from Lindi.
Lindi's heart immediately sinks.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)
Are you sure?
(listens)
Well, you know what they say, you
can't win them all.
(listens)
Thank you. Bye.

She turns back to Lindi who is holding on to the last shred
of hope. To Lindi's dismay Beauty's face doesn't brighten.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)
(shakes her head)
I'm sorry.

Lindi is clearly shaken but smiles weakly and shrugs.

LINDI
That's alright. Now I can focus on
life.

BEAUTY

Just as well. They say the finalists have to submit three times as many as documents as the last time.

Lindi is too busy putting on a brave face to immediately realise what Beauty just said. The penny suddenly drops and her eyes widen.

LINDI

Finalists? You mean...

Beauty tries to keep a straight face but she cracks and starts to laugh hysterically. Lindi gets up and playfully starts hitting her before joining in on the laughter.

Her laughter winds down before Beauty's and she suddenly turns thoughtful. Beauty is surprised at the change in mood and gives her a questioning look.

LINDI (CONT'D)

I don't want to come second again.

BEAUTY

Uh-uh. No negative thoughts. Come on.

Beauty takes her across to a mirror and places her in front of it.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen! I present to you... The Alexandra Small Businesswoman of the Year!

She applauds wildly and steps back and away from Lindi as presenters always do at award shows.

LINDI

Thank you everyone. I'd like to thank my partner Beauty for all her amazing support. I'd like to thank my husband Joe -

She pauses and looks a little stricken.

LINDI (CONT'D)

I better tell him.

She hurries to her phone as Beauty watches on puzzled at how nervous she seems.

A giant sign with a painting of Joe's mother and "MADDIE'S MEAT" written on it welcomes visitors.

(JOE, MADELINE, EXTRA X1)

JOE (42) sits on a chair by the braai reading a men's magazine while a piece of steak cooks and sizzles nearby. A cute young girl walks in and Joe immediately springs out of the chair, magazine in hand, and flashes her a huge smile.

JOE
Oh you're back.

He checks the meat and turns it over.

JOE (CONT'D)
Don't worry your meat will be ready
just now.

He opens the magazine with a snap and a flourish. The girl looks up wondering what's going on.

JOE (CONT'D)
Let me give you a free education
while you wait. Show you how we
businessmen do these things
(reading from magazine)
The fastest way to make money
legally is by reinvesting profits.
You can use the money to change
operating prok...
(squints at magazine)
Pro... Procedures.

The girl now looks slightly amused as Joe turns to her with a self-satisfied expression. Joe is about to say something when his phone rings. He signals for her to give him a moment and answers

He cups his hand over the phone and tries to look very important.

JOE (CONT'D)
MaBebeza! We're very busy right now
let me-

The girl looks around at the empty shisa-nyama.

JOE (CONT'D)
(listens)
- OK. If it's important I can
squeeze it in now.
(listens)
Great news. Really?

Joe's head snaps up and a huge grin starts to spread across his face.

JOE (CONT'D)
Are you pregnant? Gosh that would
make Ma so happ-

The girl watches with interest as the smile slides off Joe's face.

JOE (CONT'D)
The competition. Again huh?

Joe is quiet for a while. He notices the girl looking at him with interest trying to eavesdrop.

JOE (CONT'D)
No, I'm still here. Just hold on a
second.
(to Customer)
You said you don't want pap or
gravy right?

The girl nods.

Joe balances the phone between his ear and his shoulder.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hello?

He takes a Styrofoam container, walks over to the braai and picks the steak up with a pair of tongs.

JOE (CONT'D)
Are you sure about this? It
stressed you out so much last time?
And if you do win, all that
travel... What happens to the baby
plan?

He puts the meat in the container and starts to close it.

JOE (CONT'D)
You're my woman of the year, every
year.

Just then Madeline, the face of Maddie's Meat, walks in. She spots the customer and waves at her.

MADELINE
(drops voice slightly)
Can we talk more about this
tonight?

Madeline starts walking towards the girl.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Hello my child. Do you play
M'China?

Joe starts hurrying towards the girl with the container.

JOE
No I promise I'm not.
(listens)
I am not.
(listens)
I'll definitely be here waiting for
you.
(listens)
Okay. Bye.

Joe hangs up and rushes over to the girl just as she gives
Madeline some money and Madeline tears off a piece of paper
and gives it to her.

MADELINE
There's you number 32. Don't forget
to pop in after the draw.

The girl nods and Joe hands her, her order.

JOE
Thank you. Please come again.

The girl takes her goods and walks away. Joe waits until she
is out of earshot then turns to Madeline

JOE (CONT'D)
Mom?! We agreed you would not ask
the customers to play fafi...

Madeline looks at him like he is crazy to talk to her like
that. Joe immediately looks contrite.

5 INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, HOME OFFICE - DAY

5

(LINDI, BEAUTY)

Lindi hangs up the phone and sighs.

BEAUTY
What's wrong.

LINDI
He's not too excited.

BEAUTY
Why should he be? He's not going to get all your attention for the next few weeks. Men. Typical.

LINDI
Joe's not typical.

BEAUTY
You're right. The man's nearly forty and he lives with his mother.

LINDI
(joking)
I also live with his mother.

BEAUTY
Exactly! You raised the money to set up the shop. But it's named after her.

LINDI
He's a good son. That's a good thing right?

BEAUTY
(smiles)
You know you put on this whole sophisticated thing but you're old school. You defend your husband no matter what.

LINDI
Private problems should stay private.

BEAUTY
(shrugs)
Look, you don't really need my advice about men or mothers-in-law.

LINDI
(smiles)
Definitely not about men.

Beauty gives a mock annoyed look and starts to pack up.

BEAUTY
I better go. Charlie is taking me to Montecasino for dinner. Make sure to lock behind you.

She crosses to the door,

LINDI
Charlie, the mortician? With the
funny hair thing?

BEAUTY
That's Themba. Charlie's got the
clean- shaven head. Big muscles.

LINDI
Ooh la la.

BEAUTY
Don't wait up.

Beauty winks and exits. Lindi turns back to the papers with a
and resumes work. Distracted.

6a

INT./EXT. MADELINE'S BACK ROOM - DAY

6a

(MADELINE, JOE)

The room is small. The walls are plastered with a wide
variety of newspapers and crammed with old memories, knick -
knacks and photos of Joe. No pictures of Lindi or their
wedding.

On the shelf is an enlarged and unmissable photo of her dead
husband Martin. Madeline hums a hymn as she puts water into a
pot before crossing over to the table and carefully
unwrapping a tightly wrapped paper package to reveal a clump
of herbs.

She takes a handful of the herbs, puts them into pot and
heads to her two plate stove. She puts them on the hob and
allows them to simmer.

She crosses to Martin's photo, picks it up and looks at it
lovingly.

MADELINE
It's a good thing you passed away
early or you would have had to
witness all of this.

She points towards the main house with disdain.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
What will it take to have a son who
can do something useful for once?
Who can give us a grandchild, papa?

She looks at the picture as if truly hoping for answers. She
seems to get a little bitter and more accusatory with each
second.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
It's all YOUR fault. To leave our son with no father like that. Now look at him.

(points to Joe's photo)
When will he grow up?

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Why must we suffer with no one to carry on our family name? Must I go to the grave with this indignity?

She takes a handkerchief from her breasts and fondly dusts the picture

MADELINE (CONT'D)
I know, I know. You're tired of hearing about it. I swear Martin. I will have a grandchild before the year is out.

She casts a determined look towards the put that's simmering away on the stove.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Mark my words.

AD BREAK 1

6b

INT./EXT. MADELINE'S BACK ROOM - DAY

6b

Madeline carefully replaces the photo. Just then there is a knock on the door.

MADELINE
Who is it?

JOE (O.S.)
Ma?

Joe tries to enter. The door is locked. He knocks again. Madeline gathers up the exercise book that she records all the fafi bets in from the table and puts it on the shelf behind some knick-knacks.

MADELINE
Okay, I'm coming.

Madeline opens the door

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Who's in the shop if you're here?

JOE
I won't be staying long. I just
wanted to hear what number had been
drawn.

Madeline looks at him suspiciously.

MADELINE
You didn't play did you?

JOE
(avoids Madeline's gaze)
No.

MADELINE
You know you're not allowed -

JOE
What if a customer comes to the
shisa-nyama and asks me?

Madeline folds her arms and squints her eyes at him. Joe
looks offended.

JOE (CONT'D)
You just said this very afternoon
that we need to help each other.
And now?

Madeline gives him another penetrating look. Joe pretends to
be hurt.

JOE (CONT'D)
It doesn't matter what a person
does around here. No one is going
to trust you. Hayi man.

Joe turns and starts to walk away. Madeline looks conflicted
but soon she starts to waiver.

MADELINE
Bobo!

Joe stops but doesn't turn around. A smile starts to spread
across his face.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Where are you going? A simple
question and you just walk away
from your mother?

Joe turns around and looks like he has been deeply wronged.

JOE
You don't know how much it hurts to
have your mistakes thrown in your
face everyday. First Lindi and now
you.

Madeline is horrified at the comparison to Lindi.

MADELINE

Never mind that one. I will sort her out. Come on in. I have something for you.

Joe walks happily towards his mother thinking that he has got his way. After he walks into the house Madeline looks around outside before closing the door.

Joe sits down expecting to hear the fafi numbers but is soon dismayed to see Madeline getting a cup and heading towards the stove.

His face caves as he sees his mother pour out the liquid making sure the herbs stay in the pot and walk towards him.

JOE

Not again Ma.

Madeline places the cup in front of him.

MADELINE

Do I have a grandson?

JOE

No but-

MADELINE

Then drink.

Joe looks at the cup and shakes his head.

JOE

Shouldn't you be giving this to Lindi? It's not my fault so it's going to do anything mos?

MADELINE

That Lindi of yours is being stubborn. So we need to make sure that everything is right on our side and strengthen you.

She pushes the cup towards him.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

You will see. She will stop running around with that loose, Tupperware girl and be putty in your hands.

Joe looks at the cup for a moment. Then takes it and blows on it trying to cool it and buy time. He finally realises there's no escape and throws his head back, to down it in one gulp.

He winces and splatters. It tastes terrible.

JOE
You do know that some people put
sugar in these things?

Madeline pats his back proudly.

MADELINE
There's my boy!

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Now...

She roots around in her bosom again and pulls out some R100
notes.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Here's what you can do for a dying
woman.

JOE
You're not dying ma.

MADELINE
How do you know?

Joe let's out a hot, tired breath.

JOE
You were saying?

Madeline hands him the R100 notes

MADELINE
I need refills from home.

JOE
OK. I'll go first thing in the
morning.

MADELINE
I need them now.

JOE
Leave for Limpopo now? I promised
Lindi -

MADELINE
(interjects)
- Almost your pocket money?

Madeline pulls out money and starts counting 20's slowly, out
loud.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

JOE
No ma. I'm not going. I promised
Lindi I'd be home tonight to talk
with her.

MADELINE
100...

JOE
It's dangerous on the roads at
night.

MADELINE
160...

JOE
With all the wear and tear on the
car... What if it breaks down?

MADELINE
220...

As the money stacks up, Joe's objections weaken.

JOE
Why don't we just get it from
someone around here?

MADELINE
280... 300.

She stops and smiles at Joe.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Just so you can eat and get some
drinks to wash the down the dust
from the road.

He stares at the money. Wavering.

JOE
You'll tell her... you sent me?

Madeline shrugs. Joe grabs the money and starts quietly
counting it. He puts it away and looks around a little
uncomfortable.

JOE (CONT'D)
Ma... What about the petrol?

She takes out another stack and quickly flicks through the
money counting it silently. Madeline's cellphone buzzes with
an SMS. She stops counting and gives Joe the money, it looks
like about 500 bucks. Joe quickly pockets it.

While Madeline reaches for her phone and looks at the SMS.
It's the fafi results. Joe tries to look, she shifts
position.

JOE (CONT'D)
I'm not going until you tell me.

Madeline sighs. She shows him the SMS.

MADELINE
Big Change. OK?

JOE
Big Change.

Joe's expression is inscrutable.

JOE (CONT'D)
OK Ma. I'll see you tomorrow

MADELINE
Travel safely and say hello to everyone.

Joe leaves. Madeline stands at the door and waves.

The sound of a car starting up and driving off.

Madeline walks back into the room and retrieves the book from it's hiding place to find the winners. She is smiling.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Big Change. That will be nice.

7

INT. SHEBEEN - DAY

7

(JOE, EXTRA 1)

Joe approaches the counter, a little unsteady on his feet and drains a beer before pointing at the barman.

JOE
You know if you come across any kind of PA type person, maybe a young girl or something, let me know. I got so much going on. Never a break as a top businessman.

The barman stares at him with a query in his eyes. Joe finishes his beer and taps the bottle.

JOE (CONT'D)
Another one there boss.

The barman turns to get him another one from the fridge. Joe checks his wad of money, which is now small. His eyes widen and he quickly peels off enough for the drinks he's already had and puts the rest of the money away.

JOE (CONT'D)
But no, no. Leave it. I mustn't be
foolish. Got to drive out of the
province. Important business.

He winks, pays, and heads out. Leaving the barman shaking his
head.

8 EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 8

(LINDI)

Lindi walks briskly towards the house She stops just outside
the gate and is surprised to see that the house is completely
dark and the curtains are still open. She hesitates for a
moment, wondering if she should walk in alone then takes a
breath and walks through the gate.

9 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 9

(LINDI)

Lindi walks into the house and turn on the lights. She looks
around surprised that there's no one there and heads off
to...

10 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

(LINDI)

Lindi looks around the room. The bed hasn't been slept in and
it is completely quiet. She picks her phone and dials. The
phone rings and rings. She hangs up. Her face makes it clear -
this is not cool. She puts her bag down and hurries out of
the room.

11 INT. MADELINE'S BACK ROOM - NIGHT 11

(LINDI, MADELINE)

Madeline is pasting newspapers on the wall with a kettle just
starting to boil in the background.. Lindi knocks and enters
before Madeline responds.

LINDI
Where's Joe?

Madeline continues with her work.

MADELINE
Good evening Lindi. How are you
Lindi?

Lindi grits her teeth.

LINDI
How are you Ma?

Madeline shakes her head disapprovingly, turns back to her work and ignores her.

Lindi steels herself.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Have you seen Joe? We were supposed
to talk tonight.

MADELINE
Have you checked the shop?

LINDI
The whole house was dark when I got
here. The curtains weren't even
closed.

MADELINE
(shrugs)
Then I don't know.

LINDI
(disbelieving)
So he just left without saying
anything to you?

The kettle makes a clicking sound as it stops boiling saving Madeline from answering. She stops the papering and crosses over to the kettle. Lindi's impatience is growing.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Did he say when he'd be back?

Madeline takes two cups from the cupboard and starts making some tea.

MADELINE
Why don't you phone him?

LINDI
He's not answering.

MADELINE
Of course he does.

Madeline takes her own phone out and dials. Joe answers after one ring.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Hello Bobo.

Lindi is shocked and irritated.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(listens)

No. No change of plans. Your wife
just wants to speak to you.

Lindi walks further into the room expecting Madeline to hand
her the phone. Madeline shifts away slightly

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(to Lindi)

He says he's driving, it's not
safe.

(to Joe)

Alright. See you tomorrow.

Lindi reacts to "tomorrow". Madeline hangs up and goes
through a process to put the phone away in the depths of her
apron.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Mystery solved.

Lindi gives her a look that says "we're just getting
started."

LINDI

Did I just hear you say tomorrow?

Madeline takes the two cups and brings them over to the
table.

MADELINE

Sit down and have some tea. Instead
of yelling at me from the door.
Everyday it's something with you.

Madeline glares at her mother - in- law for a second. She
swallows a lump of noxious words, heads over to the table and
sits down.

LINDI

Ma, I don't want to fight with you.
Just tell me where Joe is and I'll
go.

Madeline slides a cup of tea towards Lindi. Lindi looks at it
for a moment then sets it aside.

MADELINE

What's wrong now?

LINDI
I'm not here for tea. Did you send
Joe somewhere?

Madeline doesn't answer and takes a sip of her tea. It suddenly all clicks for Lindi.

LINDI (CONT'D)
He's in Limpopo isn't he?

MADELINE
So? Is he on some sort of leash
that he can't even run an errand
for his own mother?

Lindi just can't believe what she's hearing.

LINDI
Call Joe back.

MADELINE
Can't the two of you handle your
problems yourselves?

LINDI
(sniggers)
We would if you'd let us.

MADELINE
I moved out of my own house so you
could have your privacy and make
good use of it. But do I get a
grandchild? No. Just hassles,
complaints and you shouting at me
in the middle of the night because
you can't talk to your own husband.
Why don't you leave an old woman
alone?

LINDI
You just can't stand it can you?
Joe and I have been getting along
so you just have to interfere.

Madeline sucks on her teeth as though that's the most ridiculous thing she has ever had. Lindi gets to her feet.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Well let me tell you something. I'm
not going anywhere and as Joe's
wife -

Madeline lets out a single burst of mocking laughter. Lindi glares at her.

MADELINE
Someone please come and listen to
this.

(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)

She calls herself a wife when she's busy running around with Tupperware. When was the last time you put your husband, first?

LINDI

That Tupperware you're mocking paid for the store your son now runs.

MADELINE

And we'll never hear the end of it will we?

LINDI

You know what. I'm done.

Lindi turns on her heels and goes towards the door.

MADELINE

Go. Calling herself a wife when she can't bear children. Really.

Lindi stops in her tracks.

LINDI

Why are you so sure it's my fault. What if I told you -

Lindi pulls back whatever she was about to say. Madeline glares at Lindi.

MADELINE

Go ahead. Say it. Shame your husband now too. Bring shame upon your husband and his dying mother.

LINDI

You are not dying. I'm sure the birds would sense it and chirp a little louder and more sweetly in the mornings.

Lindi walks out and closes the door behind her leaving a furious Madeline behind.

(LINDI)

Lindi moves around the room getting ready for bed, agitated at Joe's absence. She takes a lockable photo album from behind her dresser. She sits on the bed and opens it.

In the album are old photos of her and Joe. She flips backward, looking at herself as a young girl. Hold on her face as she reacts to the trail of her life.

There is a photo of a baby. She stares at it sadly.

AD BREAK 2

13 EXT. TOWNSHIP - MORNING 13

The sun rises over the township.

14 INT. TOWNSHIP HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY 14

(LINDI, JOE)

Lindi is asleep. There are scuffing noises at the door and her eyes flutter a little and open. Joe enters with his shoes in his hands trying to tip toe around the room but his balance is not so great.

She snaps up. He staggers to the bed and flops on it, exhausted and a bit drunk.

LINDI
Where have you been?

Turns to Lindi.

JOE
(slurring)
Hi baby.

He tries to move in for a kiss. Lindi pushes him away and frowns.

LINDI
You stink -

JOE
Sorry.

Joe lies back down with his back to Lindi. Lindi tries to push him off the bed. No joy.

LINDI
Why didn't you answer your phone?

JOE
I was driving.

LINDI
You answered when your mother called?

Joe says nothing. Lindi stares at the back of his head. He starts snoring. Lindi tries to shake Joe awake.

Not working.

Lindi is frustrated.

Then she has an idea.

Lindi unbuckles Joe's belt, slowly pulls it through the loops. Joe stirs slightly and smiles pleasurably, like he is being tickled.

Lindi loosens the belt completely and doubles it up in her hands. It looks like she might be about to spank him. But instead she puts it close to his ear, puts her hands together, then pulls them apart fast and SNAPS the belt in his ear!

Joe sits up with a start.

JOE

Huh?

LINDI

Good morning sweetheart.

Joe is groggy and groans slightly.

LINDI (CONT'D)

You've got to get your mother under control.

JOE

Why don't we just... Can't you just whatever, get tested, take the herbs.

LINDI

What about you?

JOE

Me? But I always drink the stuff. What are you doing? Do you keep a calendar of your uhm... Cycle?

Lindi looks at him like he's growing two heads. He feels like it and leans on his hand slightly holding his head up.

LINDI

There are other things we can do.

JOE

Well Ma always said you should go to her church.

LINDI

Or we could adopt.

Joe starts to laugh.

JOE
Oh OK. I thought you were serious.

Lindi remains deadpan. Joe glares at her as if suddenly sober.

JOE (CONT'D)
You didn't say that to my mother?

LINDI
(eye roll)
No.

JOE
Oh good. Imagine.
(mimicking her)
UnAfrican! What kind of woman would give her child up for adoption? Do you think I would ever let an unknown child like that into my home?

She pulls away from him.

LINDI
(to herself)
Why do I even bother.

She makes for the door.

JOE
What have I done now?

Lindi ignores him and keeps going.

JOE (CONT'D)
Oho.

He fluffs up the pillow and settles in for some sleep. Lindi returns a short while later dressed for work.

She finds Joe passed out, snoring. She goes over to the bed and cradles his head. She talks to him as if he is awake.

LINDI
You know it's you that is impotent, don't you?

She makes him nod.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Oh good. Then maybe we better start thinking about adopting?

She makes him nod again. She puts his head down on the pillow. He snores.

Lindi looks around the room and wonders what she is doing there.

15 **EXT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE - DAY** 15

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

16 **INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY** 16

(LINDI, BEAUTY)

Beauty and Lindi pack up orders. Lindi let's out a huge yawn
Beauty notices.

 BEAUTY
 You look exhausted.

 LINDI
 Heish wena. I was so mad.
 Especially when I have to come to
 work and he gets to sleep in all
 day while his mother picks up the
 slack.

Lindi clicks her tongue.

 BEAUTY
 You know I wonder...

Beauty looks at Lindi cautiously.

 BEAUTY (CONT'D)
 What he actually does on all these
 trips back home. Don't you think he
 ever -

 LINDI
 Never!

Lindi glowers at Beauty offended that the she even had that
thought never mind said it. Beauty holds her hands up in
surrender.

 BEAUTY
 Alright...

There is a tenses silence in the room as the ladies go back
to work. The pack the last box. Lindi reaches for tape to
seal it. She's starting to feel guilty about snapping at
Beauty.

LINDI

I'm sorry. I guess not sleeping and the whole drama is just getting to me.

Beauty nods understandingly.

BEAUTY

Why don't I make you a cup of coffee.

LINDI

Arg. I've had so many already.

Beauty starts to look a little deflated again.

LINDI (CONT'D)

But you could print out the competition papers for me?

Beauty goes onto her computer and types something. She sends it to the printer. She picks the papers as she passes the printer and gives it to Lindi.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Lindi looks at the top sheet and look up questioningly at Beauty.

BEAUTY

The best adoption charities in the country. It won't hurt to call a couple.

Lindi looks at it quickly, and puts the list into her desk drawer.

LINDI

Let's do my questionnaire.

Beauty a bit frustrated with Lindi refusing to first solve the crisis.

She comes to sit next to Lindi and together they look at the competition questionnaire.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Same questions as last year.

BEAUTY

But different answers.

She reaches for a pencil and hands it to Lindi.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Let's hear it then first place Masuku.

Lindi smiles and they get to work.

17

INT. TOWNSHIP HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

17

(JOE, MADELINE)

Madeline serves Joe juice and biscuits. He is clearly nursing a wicked hangover. In front of him are several, small paper wrapped, packages. Madeline picks them up and counts them. She pats Joe on the head.

MADELINE
Well done, my boy.

Joe winces from the touch.

JOE
Lindi's angry now, ma. I told you.

MADELINE
Why don't you put on your big boy pants for once. Take control. Be the man of the house? You let that woman run you like you're the wife.

Joe gives his mother a wounded look.

JOE
Ma please. Let Lindi and I sort this out.

MADELINE
(shakes her head)
If your father could see you now. Henpecked.
(claps her hands once)
No wonder you can't make a baby.

Joe is immediately on guard.

JOE
What's that supposed to mean?

MADELINE
Ask that Lindi of yours. You know she suggested that it's your fault?

Joe is a bit angry at that.

JOE
I'll talk to her.

MADELINE
My son. A woman wants someone who can take charge. Can you do that?

JOE
Of course I can.

MADELINE
Good. Take her to the nyanga.

Joe looks down. Clearly that is a nonstarter.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
If she refuses to have a baby, then
you need to find someone who will.

Joe doesn't respond and focuses on thirstily gulping down his glass of juice. Madeline looks at him expectantly but he avoids her gaze and takes his plate to the sink.

JOE
I've got to get to work Ma. I'll
see you later.

Joe exits. Madeline looks after him.

18

EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, SHISA - NYAMA, DAY

18

(JOE, EXTRA X1)

It's empty. Joe is reading the men's magazine again or at least that's what it looks like from a distance. A customer approaches and Joe gets up to serve them

JOE
You wanted wors and chakalaka ne?

The customer looks at him annoyed that he hasn't started on it yet.

JOE (CONT'D)
Sorry man. It's been a hectic
morning. I'll get it done now-now.

The customer just knows he's being lied to judging by how neat the shisa-nyama looks. He settles in for the long wait while Joe rushes around trying to get things done with the magazine still in hand.

He eventually realises it's futile and drops the men's magazine to reveal a parenting & pregnancy magazine he had hidden in it's folds

The customer reacts to this.

JOE (CONT'D)
(points to article)
My wife is drinking so much coffee.
Trying to convince her it's bad for
the baby.

The guy nods, unsure. Joe puts on a macho look to cover the embarrassment and goes to the far corner of the shop. To prepare the order.

19

INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY

19

(LINDI, BEAUTY)

Lindi looks at the list of adoption charities tentatively. She notices one of the names of the charities and is surprised. She goes to take a closer look but Beauty walks in and she hastily puts it away.

Beauty's approaches holding Lindi's phone.

BEAUTY
(whispers)
It's your husband.

She holds the phone out to Lindi but she doesn't take it.

LINDI
What does he want?

Beauty shrugs with a "how should I know" look plastered all over her face.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Ask him what he wants.

BEAUTY
Yoh Lindi?

She proffers the phone again but Lindi doesn't want to take it. Beauty goes to put it down and Lindi finally relents and takes it.

LINDI
What is it Joe?
(listens)
You want to what?
(listens)
You want to cook me dinner.

She's trying to keep a straight face but corners of her mouth keep twitching into a slight smile.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Alright.
(furrowed brow)
If you're not there when I get home
-
(listens)
Alright.
(giggles)
Okay. See you then.

She hangs up and meets Beauty's cast iron "you've got to be kidding me" look. Lindi pretends not to notice.

LINDI (CONT'D)
Where's that questionnaire so we
can finish it off.

Beauty drops her chin even more so Lindi is forced to look at her. Unable to avoid her anymore Lindi looks up.

LINDI (CONT'D)
What?

Beauty snorts slightly. Then picks up the questionnaire and starts reading from it.

BEAUTY
How will your work change the
world?

Lindi looks around her at the Tupperware everywhere. She picks up one piece and hefts it in her palms.

LINDI
Making sure every woman can
preserve her future.

BEAUTY
Why should you win this prize?

Lindi starts to answer, then stops. She is stumped.

20 **EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 20

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

21 **INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 21

(JOE, MADELINE)

Joe, dressed in a suit, sets a beautiful table with candles and meat from the shisa-nyama. The lights are low and the house is filled with mood music.

Madeline enters.

MADELINE
What's all this?

JOE
I'm making a dinner for Lindi. I
cooked it myself.

MADELINE
Not in my house. That woman is rude
and ungrateful. It's no wonder she
can't conceive.

Joe waves the magazine around.

JOE
I've got a bunch of ideas -

MADELINE
(interrupts)
- Not in my house!

She picks up one of the candles starting to clear up.

JOE
OK ma. Fine.

Joe now gently takes the candles from her hands and bundles
it with the tablecloth and carefully carries everything out
the of the house.

Madeline looks on as cutlery and crockery clink together
lightly as he walks. She shakes her head exasperated. We get
a sense she would really like to shake her son.

22

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, SHISA- NYAMA - NIGHT

22

(LINDI, JOE)

Joe has moved the setting to a table usually reserved for
customers.

The sound of the gate opening.

Joe scurries to a hiding place.

Lindi arrives. She notices the table set with candles and the
music. She approaches it. Clearly touched. She looks around,
trying to see where Joe is.

Then she remembers the game they always used to play.

LINDI
Hmm. Guess no one's here.

She closes her eyes and starts humming along to the tune. Joe
tiptoes up behind her, and hugs her tightly from behind.

JOE
Hey baby.

Lindi is touched But tentative. Joe starts to massage her
shoulders.

JOE (CONT'D)

Relax.

Joe massages her in place for a good chunk of seconds.

JOE (CONT'D)

Do you remember how things used to be? When we first met?

He leans over, turns up the music and dances her around the room.

JOE (CONT'D)

You came up to me at the party. And I wouldn't talk to you.

LINDI

I was devastated.

JOE

I was shy. You were way out of my league. I wanted to talk to you but had no idea how. That's the first thing I noticed about you. You were different than the others.

LINDI

I must say I love this story no matter how many times.

They dance beautifully together. They have begun to find each other again.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Joe?

JOE

Yeah baby?

LINDI

What's happened to us?

JOE

Just life. We'll get there again baby.

LINDI

I still believe in you baby. I love you.

JOE

Music to my ears.

Joe kisses her on the forehead and dances her to her seat. He takes her paper napkin and ruffles it like a cloth napkin, tucking it in her neck like a bib. It's a bit of an off note, but Lindi goes along with it.

LINDI
Joe. I -

JOE
Uh- uh.

Joe goes over to the grill to dish up.

LINDI
This is all nice. But we need to
deal with -

JOE
Uh- uh. No issues. Just relax. Just
enjoy.

He brings the food to the table and serves her and sits. Joe indicates she should take a bite. She takes a bite. It tastes fine. Joe watches her expectantly. They stare at one another lovingly.

FADE TO:

23

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, SHISA- NYAMA - LATER

23

The food is almost finished. They are still staring lovingly at one another as they eat. Joe breaks the silence.

LINDI
That was delicious. Shall we have a
coffee?

JOE
No! No coffee!

Lindi is surprised by how adamant he is about that.

LINDI
OK then.

JOE
I got you a present.

She is intrigued. He hands her a package, badly wrapped. She looks at it with a combination of happiness and confusion.

JOE (CONT'D)
Open it.

She opens it. It's a calendar, one of the cheap kinds you get from a hardware store.

LINDI
Uhm... Thanks. What's it -

JOE
Did you know that 5 days before
your cycle is the best time to -

She understands and is disappointed.

LINDI
(interjects)
- I know that. Joe, can't we just -

He gets up and crosses to her and caresses her gently.

JOE
Don't worry. I've got a plan. We
won't have to suffer anymore.

Lindi looks at him worriedly. A plan?

LINDI
I'm trying to say Joe, can't we
just -

Joe covers up their plates with a serviette.

JOE
Let's finish eating later. I'm
hungry for something else.

Lindi is half-convinced by his clumsy come-on.

JOE (CONT'D)
Come.

He takes her by the hand and gets her to stand. He nods for them to go. She is a little deflated but hoping the romance will carry on once they hit the bedroom. They walk hand in hand out of the yard toward the house.

24

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

24

(LINDI, JOE)

In the bedroom it is almost dark. Lindi is under the covers. There is a jug of water on the night stand, and a bowl.

JOE
Close your eyes.

Lindi closes her eyes and leans back, stretching her neck. Joe kisses her neck. He pours the water from the jug into the bowl as he does so.

This startles Lindi and she sits up.

JOE (CONT'D)
Shhh. Shhh. Lie back.

Lindi lies back. Joe tries to pour the water back from the bowl into the jug, but he spills some in the process. She jumps up.

JOE (CONT'D)
Eish. Sorry.

Lindi moves away from the big wet spot.

JOE (CONT'D)
OK. Stand on your head.

LINDI
What?

JOE
Stand on your head.

LINDI
Are you joking?

JOE
No. Like this.

Joe takes a few times trying to stand on his head on the bed against the wall. He fails and fails.

JOE (CONT'D)
OK. We'll get to that later.

LINDI
What are you doing this for?

JOE
Say a prayer with me.

LINDI
What?

JOE
Take my hand.

She takes his hand tentatively.

JOE (CONT'D)
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Come on, say
it with me.

LINDI
Why are you -

JOE
(interrupts)
-Come on babe.

LINDI
What is this?

JOE
Repeat it please.

LINDI
Our Father who art in heaven...

Joe bows his head and closes his eyes. Very sombre

JOE
Lord give us a child tonight. Or at
least please help us know using
this excellent calendar -

Lindi snatches her hand away.

LINDI
Did your mother put you up to this?

Joe's eyes fly open.

JOE
No! Honestly! It was from a...

Lindi looks at him. This had better be good.

JOE (CONT'D)
I mean... A wise old man told me.

A livid Lindi turns away from him. He tries to cuddle up to her. She shrugs him off.

LINDI
Hayi man Joe!

She walks to the bed, pulls back the covers and deliberately puts pillows lengthwise in the middle of the bed, a barrier between her and Joe, before barrelling under the covers and facing away from Joe.

Joe wears his hands on his head, then scratches his chin and quietly walks over and gets into bed.

25 **EXT. TOWNSHIP - MORNING**

25

The sun rises over the township

26 **EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE - MORNING**

26

(LINDI, MADELINE)

Lindi crosses the yard to go to work and crosses paths with Madeline. They react coldly to one another before warily passing each other. If they could hiss they would.

(LINDI, BEAUTY)

Lindi slumps in a chair while Beauty continues to read from the competition questionnaire.

BEAUTY

If you win, how will you use the cash prize improve your business?

Lindi doesn't respond and Beauty looks up to find her looking out the window.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Lindi?

Lindi turns to her with a desperate and worried look in her eyes.

LINDI

They're going to find some way to embarrass me. I know it. No matter what I do, they will embarrass me.

Beauty holds her hand sympathetically.

BEAUTY

It will all work out. Think about what it would be like once you've won the money and you've moved out of that place.

Lindi nods but doesn't look too convinced.

BEAUTY (CONT'D)

Let's try it again. How will the prize contribute to your business?

Lindi stares into space. She doesn't have an answer.

(RAMA, EXTRA X1)

Rama, a young attractive woman (23), heavily pregnant, carrying only a purse, disembarks from a taxi and asks for directions from a marshal. We do not hear anything but see the man point out where to go.

(RAMA)

Rama approaches the house. She is sweating and uncomfortable under the burden of her belly. She checks the address. She looks over the wall into the yard before opening the gate and walking through.

She gets to a window and checks her reflection. Trying to make herself presentable.

(RAMA, MADELINE)

Madeline is cooking pap for the shisa - nyama. Suddenly she notices Rama popping up in the window, grooming herself. She replaces the lid on the pot and opens the door.

MADELINE

Can I help you?

Rama is flustered. Madeline notices that she's heavily pregnant and waves her over.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Come inside Ausi. In this heat, pregnant like that? Let's get you some water.

Madeline comes out and assists Rama inside, almost against her will. Rama walks into the house and looks around almost as if she's taking inventory.

Madeline points towards a seat. Rama takes it gratefully.

RAMA

Thank you Ma.

MADELINE

Would you like fridge water or tap water?

RAMA

Could I please have some from the fridge?

Madeline gets water and pours it into a glass. Rama studies her intently. Madeline hands her the water.

RAMA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She takes a few sips.

RAMA (CONT'D)
You must be MaMolemo.

The first time we've seen Madeline lost for words. But just momentarily.

MADELINE
Why do you ask?

RAMA
Ma'am, I was coming to see you.
Sort of.

MADELINE
And you are?

RAMA
Ramakhele. Ramakhele Kutu.

MADELINE
I know some Kutu's back home.

RAMA
Yes. That's my family.

Madeline is deeply intrigued now.

MADELINE
You're from the same area as me?

Rama nods.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Have you travelled straight from
there now?

Rama nods and hands her back the glass.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
So who's the father who would let
you travel all the way up here like
that in a taxi on your own?

RAMA
Ma'am the father doesn't know. No
one knows who he is. Besides
myself.

MADELINE
Ah. So I'll be the first.

RAMA
Yes m'am.

This pleases Madeline no end. She is getting the picture. Her hands are trembling and she puts down the glass.

MADELINE
So why have you come here?

Rama pats her belly and smiles.

RAMA
The father is Joe.

Madeline could just leap with Joy.

AD BREAK 3

30b

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

30b

(RAMA, MADELINE, JOE)

Madeline sits rubbing Rama's belly.

MADELINE
It's a miracle. A miracle. My
prayers worked!

Rama enjoys the attention.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
So Bobo? Naughty little Joe! But
this must have happened a while
ago!

RAMA
My family's been keeping me locked
up tight. I had to run away.

MADELINE
They don't know you're here?

RAMA
No Mama. And please, you can't tell
them.

Rama looks rather worried and vulnerable.

MADELINE
Of course not my dear.

Just then a car can be heard pulling up outside.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Naughty little Joe! Wait here.

Madeline crosses out of the room.

(RAMA, MADELINE, JOE)

Joe settles into a chair and reads a magazine as usual. This time it's a woman's magazine and an article on how to improve your rocky marriage. Joe goes down the list

JOE
Cook dinner. No. Flowers. No. Vow
renewals.

He stops and his mind seems to running several miles an hour as he reads on. Madeline stands next to him and clears her throat.

MADELINE
We have a guest. Would you like to
meet her?

JOE
A guest?

MADELINE
Ramakhele!

Joe reacts to the name.

Rama enters the yard.

Joe recognizes her. Then realises she is pregnant. He tries to get up but falls out of his seat and into the dust. He stands up with difficulty and brushes himself off.

JOE
I've never seen this woman before
in my life!

MADELINE
Joe! How can you say that? She is
carrying your child?

JOE
That woman is a liar.

RAMA
Bathong Joe?

Rama steps forward and cuddles up to him. Joe tries to pull away, but resisting is difficult.

RAMA (CONT'D)
I've really missed your silly
birthmark.

She pulls back his sleeve to reveal his birthmark.

Madeline looks at him. Tsk tsk!

Joe pulls away from Rama.

Madeline smiles.

MADELINE

I'll leave you two lovebirds alone.

She goes into the house. As soon as she is gone, Joe's demeanour changes. He hisses at Rama.

JOE

I only slept with you once. You told me you were a virgin.

RAMA

I was and you did this to me.

Rama points at her to her stomach with both index fingers. Joe stares at her stomach in shock. His mouth is moving but nothing comes out.

RAMA (CONT'D)

What's the matter Joe?

Rama tries to approach Joe again but he backs away tripping over the chair but managing to stay on his feet this time.

JOE

This doesn't... This can't -

He suddenly looks very queasy and runs into the house. Rama looks after him not sure whether to be amused or annoyed.

32

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

32

(MADELINE, JOE)

Madeline makes tea, humming a happy tune. Joe bursts into the room still looking shell shocked.

JOE

This can't be happening.

MADELINE

Yes it can. Our prayers have been answered.

JOE

Prayers?

MADELINE

This proves it is not your fault!

Madeline looks around and notices that Rama is not with him.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Have you left that wonderful girl
outside, all alone, in the heat
like that?

Joe is struggling to compute his mother's excitement about
the whole situation.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
What is wrong with you? Go get her.

He tries to give him a nudge towards the door. Joe resists.

JOE
And take her where? She can't come
into this house.

MADELINE
This is my house. You do what I
tell you.

Joe still remains rooted to the spot.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Go!

Joe backs down and goes out.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
And bring her into the living room.

Madeline resumes making tea and humming a song. She crosses
into the living room with the tea service.

33

INT. TOWNSHIP HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

33

(RAMA, MADELINE, JOE)

Madeline enters with the tea service, still humming, and sits
down.

A few beats. Joe and Rama enter together. Joe is fuming and
Rama looks a bit scared. She moves away from Joe and sits on
the couch next to Madeline.

JOE
If you're going to keep her in the
house, you have to hide her.

Rama looks wounded.

MADELINE
Hide this miracle? No!

JOE
When Lindi comes home -

RAMA

Lindi?

MADELINE

His wife.

RAMA

You told me you were single!

Joe really wants to shush her but that will confirm her claims. All his lies are starting to come back to him.

MADELINE

He may as well be. His wife is infertile.

JOE

She has to go!

Joe grabs Rama, pulls her off the couch. Rama is surprised, and struggles a bit, covering her tummy. Madeline waddles over and protects Rama.

MADELINE

Bobo!

She pulls money from her pocket.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

You need to cool off. Take this and go celebrate. I'll take care of your girlfriend here.

Joe stands there dumbfounded. Madeline literally pushes him toward the door now.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

The women want to be alone now!

He is so shocked she easily pushes him out the door.

Madeline crosses back to the couch.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Don't you worry. I'm going to take good care of you.

Rama is happy to hear that.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Have a bath and get some rest.

RAMA

Can we go shopping? I didn't - bring any suitcase.

MADELINE
Tomorrow. You can wear Lindiwe's
stuff for now.

Rama is both pleased and concerned.

RAMA
Are you sure she won't mind?

MADELINE
Don't worry about her.

Rama gets up with great difficulty and walks off with an even more pronounced waddle than usual. Madeline looks after her with a huge grin.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
No. We won't worry about her at all
anymore.

34 **EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE - DAY**

34

(JOE)

Joe stands outside the dumbfounded and uncertain about what to do next. He takes his phone out and dials.

LINDI (V.O.)
Hi this is Lindi. Please -

He hangs up and paces a little before trying again.

LINDI (V.O.)
Hi this is Lindi.

He hangs up and looks around before walking away.

35 **EXT. SHEBEEN - NIGHT**

35

The sun has gone down. The shebeen is loud and raucous.

36 **INT. SHEBEEN - NIGHT**

36

(JOE, EXTRA X1)

Joe is ragingly drunk and at the counter annoying the barman again.

JOE
Yes that's right! I made a virgin
pregnant on her first time!
(cups his head in his
hands)
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)
Oh my life is going to suck now.
(snaps head up)
But I'm a man. I'm a man! Who wants
to bet me it's a boy! Huh? I'm
taking bets on that!

The barman just walks away from him.

37a **INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

37a

(LINDI, MADELINE, RAMA)

Lindi enters the room and is surprised to see Madeline in the house this late.

LINDI
What's going on?

MADELINE
(huge grin)
Good evening Lindiwe.

LINDI
(unnerved)
Where's Joe?

MADELINE
He's out celebrating.

LINDI
Celebrating what?

MADELINE
Let me show you. Ramakhele!

Rama opens the door of the bedroom and comes out. Wearing the nightgown we saw Lindi in earlier.

Lindi is flabbergasted.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
That's our child in there! Isn't it
beautiful!

Lindi is beyond flabbergasted.

LINDI
That's what?

AD BREAK 4

37b **INT. TOWNSHIP HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

37b

(LINDI, MADELINE, RAMA)

Lindi, Madeline, and Rama in a triangular stare-down ala *Good Bad and the Ugly*. Madeline crosses to embrace Rama.

MADELINE
Isn't it wonderful? I'm going to
have a grandchild!

LINDI
(to Rama)
Take that nightgown off!

MADELINE
Yes. Let us see her big beautiful
belly.

Madeline starts to lift the nightgown. Lindi of course did not mean that and she crosses and stops Madeline.

LINDI
What game are you playing now?

Rama nervously starts to back away into the bedroom.

LINDI (CONT'D)
(to Rama)
You stay out of my room!

Rama is terrified and stops in her tracks.

MADELINE
YOUR room? This is MY house!

LINDI
(to Madeline)
Who is this whore?

Rama is hurt. Madeline is furious.

MADELINE
How dare you! How dare you speak
that way about the mother of your
husband's child! I should have
expected -

Lindi tries to push past them to get to the bedroom. Rama jumps slightly. Madeline moves surprisingly swiftly to block her from entering and protect Rama.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
What do you think you're doing?

LINDI
Going to my room.

MADELINE
I already told you it's not yours.
Ramakhele, go back to bed.

Rama starts to retreat into the room. Lindi tries to get to Rama. A scuffle breaks out between Lindi and Madeline.

Rama yelps, closes the bedroom door and locks it. Lindi suddenly lets go and Madeline struggles to maintain her balance

LINDI
(glaring daggers)
Where is Joe?

MADELINE
Celebrating. He's going to be a
father after all

LINDI
(screaming)
Have you finally lost your mind?

MADELINE
(whispering)
Keep it down. She needs her rest.

LINDI
She needs to get put out.

Lindi crosses to the bedroom door. She goes to open it. It's locked.

MADELINE
You are so selfish. She's travelled
a long way. She needs a bed.

LINDI
Well share yours!

MADELINE
It's not enough to put an old lady
out in the yard, now you want to do
it to a pregnant woman! Were you
raised by wolves?

LINDI
This has gone far enough!

MADELINE
Look how quiet Ramakhele is. A
proper lady. You can learn from
her.

Madeline pats the couch.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
You can sleep here.

Lindi is unimpressed.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Get some rest. You'll need your
sleep to keep up with that one.

She turns and storms out of the room. Joe tries to catch up to her but his head feels like it weighs a ton and he winces while dragging himself along.

41

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

41

By the time Joe gets to the bedroom Lindi has a suitcase thrown open on the bed and is hurling clothes into it.

JOE
Please baby.

Lindi throws a shoe in his direction. It whizzes past his ear as he ducks.

JOE (CONT'D)
Please! Stop that!

He tries to stand to stop her but almost falls over again. He regains his balance and staggers toward her. He manages to get to the suitcase and take some clothing out. She puts other clothes back in.

JOE (CONT'D)
You have to believe me. I don't know who this woman is or what game she's playing but -

Lindi snaps the suitcase shut and jabs a finger in his face.

LINDI
Joe you want to stay out of my way.

JOE
Please baby!

Lindi roughly zips up the suitcase.

JOE (CONT'D)
Lindi please. What must I do to make you stay?

She pushes passed him and pulls the photo album from it's hiding place. She re-opens the suitcase and puts it on top. She closes up the bag and starts to leave.

Joe gets up and grabs her.

JOE (CONT'D)
Lindi! Wait! Where are you going?

Lindi easily shrugs him off and he is left on his knees on the floor.

JOE (CONT'D)
She's lying.

LINDI
She just better be gone.

Lindi leaves.

42

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

42

(MADELINE, RAMA)

Madeline and Rama hear the bedroom door slam shut. Followed by the living room door. Rama flinches each time and looks over to Madeline.

Madeline laughs and pats her fafi exercise books excitedly.

MADELINE
Yes yes, my sweet girl. 32 - Big
Change indeed! And all because of
you!

Rama smiles shyly while Madeline continues to laugh at full voice.

- END -