

SINGLE MOTHERS  
EPISODE 4

Written by

Michael Lee

Phone Number: 082 223 5432

**PREVIOUSLY ON:**

Gugu arrives at the shisa-nyama and gets a job from Joe.

Rama talks to Tshepo secretively.

Joe tries to seduce Gugu and she tells him that she is Lindi's daughter.

1

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

1

(JOE, GUGU, MADELINE)

Joe is looking at Gugu as though she just slapped him several times. If it weren't for his rumped look it would be hard to believe that he'd spent the night and most of the morning in a shebeen. He's in that dangerous dutch courage with a bit of clarity phase.

JOE  
You're lying.

GUGU  
She's my mother. Born in 78 in Thabazimbi.

JOE (CONFUSED)  
What? How do you know all that?

GUGU  
Ask her yourself. Ask her if she gave up a child for adoption years ago.

Joe's is suddenly sober. Gobsmacked. Then his face contorts into something between hurt, disbelief and anger.

JOE  
Nonsense! She can't have a baby.  
She's barren!

Gugu flinches slightly but is not prepared to give in just yet.

GUGU  
Clearly she isn't.

JOE  
Hey! Little girl, are you calling me crazy?

Joe has his finger very much in her face and is jabbing the air with it accusingly. Gugu shakes her head, nervously, looking at his finger anxiously. He keeps advancing.

JOE (CONT'D)  
What then? Am I a liar?

GUGU  
No Bra Joe.

He gets ever closer and Gugu backs away.

JOE  
So now I'm just a fool. Just a  
laughing stock right?

Joe is now looming over Gugu. She looks behind her and sees that she is about to walk into a chair. She sidesteps it but Joe blocks her path so she can get away from the table completely.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Do you know how long we've been  
trying with no results? What do you  
call that! She's infertile mahn.

Gugu is now gripping the lip of the table for dear life with Joe completely in her face. She's getting desperate.

GUGU  
Well she wasn't always. I'm here  
aren't I?

Joe suddenly hones in on Gugu as the source of all his misery and grabs her arm. His fingers digging in.

JOE  
How could she have had a baby and  
never told me about it?

Gugu tries to wriggle away but his grip remains firm.

JOE (CONT'D)  
You're lying aren't you? You little  
witch. Who sent you here!

Gugu finally manages to get some leverage and pushes Joe away.

GUGU  
Just keep your hands off of me!

Gugu and Joe stagger apart. Gugu regains her balance first and runs out of the shisa-nyama getting faster with each step.

Joe manages to break his fall by touching the ground with his hand. He gets slowly to his feet. The adrenalin that was keeping him upright wearing off and all he can feel is the loud hum of his blood rushing through his head. A mixture of alcohol and confusion.

He looks at the dust on his hand and it just seems to confirm how low he has sunk. He wipes the it away angrily and whips out his phone with equal vigour.

He scrolls down to Lindi's number and presses the "call" key. The phone rings and rings but no one answers until

Joe phones Lindi but she does not answer. Until it switches to the number busy tone. Joe's anger rises again and he's almost like bull snorting in anger. He stands up and turns towards the house.

JOE

Ma!

There's no response from the house. He shouts even louder.

JOE (CONT'D)

Is anyone in the house? Ma!

Madeline comes out. She is still wearing her old pantihose on her head and dressed in her cleaning clothes.

MADELINE

Why all the yelling? What's going on. Joe?

Madeline looks Joe up and down. Puzzled and somewhat embarrassed. Joe couldn't care less he's already walking sideways headed towards the gate.

JOE

Can you look after the shop? I need to go out.

MADELINE

Where's the girl?

JOE

She uh - went to get lunch.

MADELINE

Doesn't she usually have lunch here?

JOE

Mom. I've got to go out. Something important. Will you watch the shop or not?

MADELINE

Do I have a choice?

JOE

Thanks Ma.

Joe jogs off toward the gate.

JOE (CONT'D)  
(over his shoulder)  
If you see Lindi tell her to call  
me.

MADELINE  
That Lindi again? When are going to  
grow up and stop chasing after a  
useless skirt?

Joe keeps right on going. No sign he can even hear his  
mother.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(shouts after him)  
I'm not standing here aggravating  
my swollen feet for that Lindi of  
yours you hear me?

Madeline is shouting at thin air by now. She drops one hand  
from her hip and uses it to take off the pantihose on her  
head before stalking back into the house to change.

2a

INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY

2a

(JOE, LINDI)

Lindi is at her desk typing away, hurrying to complete the  
monthly report in time for Beauty's return. She occasionally  
stops to refer to some rough notes she made, with orders,  
profits and expenses.

There's a sudden, loud banging at the door. Lindi jumps  
slightly in her chair and turns towards the sounds. Her hand  
over her heart to stop it from thumping out of her chest.

JOE (O.S.)  
Lindi!

More banging. Lindi is still looking a little frightened  
What's going on?

JOE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Lindi! I'm not leaving so you  
better open up!

Lindi recognises Joe's voice and her fear turns into  
annoyance. She gets up with Joe's insistent banging  
accompanying her all the way to the door.

She unlocks the door and flings it aside

LINDI  
What is it? You're making a noise.

Joe pushes passed her and she takes in his unkempt appearance, his not so fresh smell with the additional, heavy layer of stale booze and screws up her nose.

LINDI (CONT'D)

You spend the whole night at the shebeen and then you have the gall to come here looking like this? What are you doing here?

JOE

I came to see my liar of a wife.

Joe tries to round on her but the booze residue gets the better of him and he stumbles slightly.

LINDI

Are you drunk?

JOE

I had a few drinks, yes.

LINDI

When the sun is still so high in the sky?

JOE

Yeah and tomorrow I'll be sober and you'll still be a liar.

Lindi realizes Joe is seriously distraught. She gets up and crosses to him but he moves away from her.

LINDI

What's wrong?

Joe stares at her awhile. He takes a small bottle of brandy from his jacket pocket, uncaps it and takes a swig. His eyes boring into Lindi.

He wipes his mouth with his sleeve, then points with the bottle as he speaks.

JOE

You think you're so perfect. You run around making sure everyone thinks you are just... Perfect!

Lindi's eyes narrow slightly as she tries to figure out what's happening.

LINDI

Joe... What's going on?

Joe glares at her then goes to take another drink from his bottle and starts pacing.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
You're acting crazy.

He wheels around and shouts at her.

JOE  
Yes! That's me! Crazy Joe! Screw up  
Joe! The big mess, the incompetent,  
unemployed fraud. I have the  
perfect wife and a doting mother.  
How ironic!

LINDI  
Joe could you please sit down. Then  
you can help me understand -

JOE  
(interrupts)  
Help you! Help you?

Lindi looks annoyed and just over it already but Joe is just getting started. He walks towards her bottle in hand.

JOE (CONT'D)  
How many years have we been  
married?

Lindi's face scrunches up into a "what the hell" expression and is about to say something but Joe pre-empts her.

JOE (CONT'D)  
How many?

LINDI  
Twelve.

Joe still holding the bottle tries to calculate on his fingers if that number is right. It's hard to count with the bottle there. Especially to twelve.

JOE  
And how long did we know each other  
before we got married?

LINDI  
Three.

JOE  
Three and twelve. That's what?

It's clear that he already knows the answer but wants Lindi to be the one to say it.

LINDI  
Fifteen.

JOE

And still we don't understand each other. **Fifteen years**  
(shakes his head)  
You'd think by then you would know someone inside out.

Joe and Lindi stare at each other. Lindi is becoming very upset by this point. Just then the phone rings. Lindi would rather not answer it but knows she can't afford to drop the ball at work anymore.

LINDI

(apologetic)  
It's probably Beauty.

Joe gives her a mock bow/flourish to signal that she should go ahead and answer. Lindi looks at him warily as she picks up phone.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Hi Chommie. Let me call you back.  
(listens)  
I'll phone you back.  
(listens)  
No, in a few minutes.  
(listens)  
Okay. Bye.

She puts the receiver down and turns to Joe

LINDI (CONT'D)

Sorry.

JOE

Fifteen years. And how many years have we been trying to have a child?

LINDI

Since... I'd say three, four?

She suddenly shakes her head tired of all these riddles.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Where are you going with this?

JOE

And for fifteen years, I have not known that you already have a child.

Lindi is shocked. She did not expect this.



JOE (CONT'D)  
That's right! I know about her!  
Four years my mother's been calling  
you barren, all sorts of people  
walking into our lives and  
complicating it. Second marriages  
and all these things.

Lindi approaches him to try and placate him and he moves back.

JOE (CONT'D)  
And the whole time you knew you had  
a child and said nothing!

Lindi tries to contain the lie

LINDI  
Who told you I... Have a child?

JOE  
Stop acting like you don't know  
what I'm talking about!

Lindi is truly speechless. She sees clearly now that Joe is in pain. She crosses to him.

LINDI  
Baby...

He stiffens as she approaches.

JOE  
The cat's out of the bag.  
(bitter)  
**Baby.**

He points at her accusingly.

JOE (CONT'D)  
Gugu told me everything!

Lindi looks totally bewildered. Many thoughts run through her mind. Joe can see she's thinking hard.

LINDI  
Gugu?

Many thoughts flicker through her mind and she cannot even begin to think of anything to say besides repeating her question.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
Gugu said she's my child?

JOE  
Stop lying. Do all women have to  
lie? Is it part of your code?  
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)  
I'm your husband Lindi, remember?  
Remember the vows we took?

She's stuck with them through thick in thin - of course.

LINDI  
How can I forget?

JOE  
Those vows were a lie! Our whole  
life is a lie! This marriage is  
supposed to be my rock. But it's  
nothing but, a sponge. Rubber.  
Chewing gum. It's all lies!

Lindi gets up and tries to hug Joe but he is stiff and so she  
just puts her hand on his shoulder.

LINDI  
Joe -

He shrugs her hand off his shoulder and stands up. He is  
nearly crying now.

JOE  
Sleeping next to you all these  
years...

He shakes his head and keeps quiet to choke back the tears.

JOE (CONT'D)  
She's never met you and she knew  
everything about you.

Lindi stands there paralysed as split loyalties tug at her.  
She looks up at Joe apologetically as her curiosity about  
Gugu wins out.

LINDI  
Where is she? I need to talk to  
her.

Joe looks like he's been punched in the stomach there's a  
slight and quick flash of malice in his eyes.

JOE  
Do you know she tried to hit on me?

Lindi's mouth can't help but open in a silent gasp.

JOE (CONT'D)  
She's a liar Lindi. Reminds me of  
you.

Lindi is having trouble breathing. He starts to walk away.

LINDI  
Joe, please stop.

Joe stops but he's clearly not interested in mending fences.

JOE

The two of you should just go. Hit  
the road and live like the clowns  
you both are.

He goes out slamming the door. Lindi breathes in and out.

Then shakily hurries to her desk and starts looking for the  
list of adoption agencies and charities among her papers. She  
lets out a little sound of accomplishment as she finds it.

She pages through it, finds the number for Gentle Hands and  
dials.

LINDI

Hi. It's Lindiwe. From Joburg.

(listens)

That's right. I was looking for  
Refilwe and I missed the call.

(listens)

I know you told me that but... She  
may be here.

(listens)

No I'm not sure.

(listens)

Did you find the file?

Lindi's eyes widen and she sinks into her chair.

LINDI (CONT'D)

You think she took it?

(listens)

She goes by the name of Gugu.

Doesn't ring a bell?

(listens)

She's 18, a bit tall...

(listens)

Her face? Well...

She thinks for a moment and something suddenly dawns on her.

LINDI (CONT'D)

Well her face is like mine really.

She looks like me I guess.

She hangs up. Lindi knows. She is certain. And yet she wants  
to cling to hope that she'll be proven wrong.

AD BREAK 1

2b

INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY

2b

(LINDI, BEAUTY on phone)

Lindi is sitting staring into space, her mind racing. Her phone rings. She is startled.

She looks at the phone hesitantly for a moment. Should she answer? She grasps the receiver and takes a breath to even out her voice

LINDI  
Dish It Up, Hello

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
It's me again. How's the home front? Did the competition people come to interview you yet?

Lindi had totally forgotten about all that until this moment.

LINDI  
They haven't even set it up.

Lindi draws the list of adoption agencies closer and looks at it like it could give her all the answers she needs.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
I'm sure they'll call soon.

LINDI  
Uh huh.

There's a longer than usual silence. Beauty assumes that Lindi feeling down about the competition again and tries to change the subject.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
I'm doing my best out here to make us some money. I've got a major meeting this morning with a collective of stokvels in Umtata. Seems like it'll be a big order.

LINDI  
Yeah, I've been keeping track of all orders.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
Lindi? Are you listening to me at all?

Lindi snaps out of it and squeezes her eyes shut as she decides whether to cover to or come clean.

LINDI  
I can't take this anymore Beauty.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
That's not you. You don't say things like that.

LINDI

I know. But I can't. I honestly can't. You need to come back. I need some time off.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

What's going on?

LINDI

Joe told me that Gugu, the girl who's working at the shop at home?

BEAUTY (V.O.)

The one you said reminded you of you at that age?

LINDI

Well now I know why. She told Joe she's my daughter. And apparently she tried to come on to him as well.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Do you believe that?

LINDI

Not really.

(beat)

Which part?

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Does it matter? If he's lying about her hitting on him, he could be lying about the whole thing. There's no way of being sure unless you talk to her. You're so pent up. So controlled. I would have gone straight for her.

Lindi is quiet for a moment.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Lindi?

LINDI

Please just come home as soon as you can?

Beauty is quiet for a moment.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

(sighs)

Ah Lindi. I can't cancel all this at the last moment but I'll try to get through it quickly. I'll let you know what's going on.



RAMA (CONT'D)  
Why do you ask?

MADELINE  
You seem strange that's all. It's not baby is it? Are you feeling okay?

RAMA  
I'm feeling fine.

MADELINE  
(shakes her head)  
I think you are overdoing it. Maybe you shouldn't take so many walks. You are a pregnant woman after all.

RAMA  
I'm okay Ma. They say exercise is good for the baby?

MADELINE  
Who says that?

RAMA  
In magazines. Plus everybody says that exercise helps with labour and you have a happy, healthy baby.

MADELINE  
I say, put up your feet and relax. Let your mother-in-law take care of you.

Madeline crosses over to Rama and guides her to a chair.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Now, would you like some tea?

RAMA  
I would love some.

Madeline gives her satisfied "that's more like it" nod and hurries off to the kitchen. Out on Rama looking worried.

5

**INT. SHEBEEN - AFTERNOON**

5

(JOE, EXTRA X1, LOAN SHARK on phone)

Joe is surrounded by a lot of empties. The barman collects them and starts to wipe the counter. Joe is so drunk, it seems like just nudging him will release a flood of tears.

JOE  
Women! Liars! All of them!

Joe' flails his arm in an all encompassing gesture and downs his remaining beer in one gulp.

JOE (CONT'D)

One more.

He taps his glass and the long suffering barman nods and leaves. He returns a short while later with a new bottle, opens it and sets it before Joe.

Joe pulls it closer.

JOE (CONT'D)

I mean, this girl could be my daughter she's so young. And she just throws herself all over me.  
(shakes his head)  
Christ.

The barman is suddenly interested. He sticks around even though he doesn't have much to do at the bar.

JOE (CONT'D)

Of course, I resist. I am a traditional guy. I'm taking my second wife soon.

He takes a swig of his beer.

JOE (CONT'D)

I told this girl she can be my third but she has to be patient.

The barman turns down the corners of his mouth. It's not clear if he's thinking good strategy or thinks he's mad.

Joe's phone starts ringing. He looks at it. It's Lindi. He rejects the call and turns back to the barman.

JOE (CONT'D)

You know what they say. The more wives you get, the more wives want you.

Joe's gulps down his beer and taps the bottle again. The barman takes the empty and walks away.

Joe's phone rings again. He reaches for his phone, annoyed enough to click his tongue. He sees it's a private number and jabs at the "answer phone" button. Ready to give Lindi a piece of his mind.

JOE (CONT'D)

What do you want Lindi? Didn't I just tell you to take your brat and go?



LOAN SHARK (V.O.)  
You owe us money.

Joe jerks slightly in his chair surprised to hear a low, threatening, male voice.

JOE  
Who is this?

LOAN SHARK (V.O.)  
You know exactly who this is.

Joe opens his eyes and blinks several times trying to sober up.

JOE  
My brother please... I don't have the money right now.

LOAN SHARK (V.O.)  
That's not my problem.

JOE  
I'm just saying. People negotiate these things-

LOAN SHARK (V.O.)  
Either you pay up or...

The phone goes dead on the other side.

JOE  
Or what?  
(beat)  
Hello?

Joe is visibly shaken. The barman returns with his beer. Joe gulps it down fast, puts some notes on the counter before the barman can even walk away.

JOE (CONT'D)  
If anyone comes looking for me tell them you haven't seen me for a while.

Joe stumbles off. The barman shakes his head.

(MADELINE, GUGU)

Madeline locks up the place and gets a shock as she sees Gugu standing nearby. Gugu is also a little jumpy.

MADELINE  
You are still here? You will not  
get a taxi now, it's late.

GUGU  
I'm waiting for Lindi

MADELINE  
Well she's not here and I certainly  
don't know when she'll be back.

GUGU  
That's fine. I'll wait.

MADELINE  
What's so important that you can't  
wait until the morning?

GUGU  
I need to discuss some things with  
her.

MADELINE  
(curiously)  
Yes?

GUGU  
I just need to speak to her.

MADELINE  
You know very well. I'm right here  
running the shop, everyday, while  
she's out there doing God knows  
what.

That seems to spark an idea in Gugu. She looks away from Madeline to avoid giving her any clues what she's thinking and pretends she's checking if Lindi is not coming down the street.

Madeline's eyes narrow with suspicion.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I'm sure I could answer any  
questions.

Gugu turns back to Madeline. Although stressed Madeline can't quite read her.

GUGU  
I have some important information  
for Lindi.

Madeline's eyes flick quickly, up and down over Gugu in irritation.

MADELINE  
I see...

She gives Gugu one last disapproving look before walking off. Gugu turns back towards the road, hugs herself and pretends to continue her vigil.

She allows a little time to pass then turns back to make sure that Madeline is gone and then takes off running.

8

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, BACKROOM - NIGHT

8

(MADELINE)

Madeline walks to the picture of Martin, picks up a nearby cloth and starts to dust it off.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
The young women these days?

She half claps her hands as she continues to hold the picture.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
This one has the gall to tell me  
that things are none of my  
business. In my own house!

She picks off an imaginary piece of fluff.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
The other one wants to exercise and  
take walks. In our day there was no  
such thing and we gave birth to  
healthy children. These days it's  
all, eat salad, exercise. What  
nonsense!

She gives the photo one last polish and leans back slightly to make sure the glass is spotless.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
But don't worry. Everything is  
going as planned my love. Soon  
there will be a wedding here, you  
will have an heir and your legacy  
will continue!

She puts the picture back on it's shelf and walks off, humming a wedding song.

(LINDI, GUGU)

Lindi walks out carrying her bag and goes to lock up. She starts and squeals as she sees someone a short distance away in the shadows.

Gugu steps closer and into the light. Lindi is shocked of course and rooted to the spot. Gugu looks exhausted but relieved.

LINDI  
 (tentative)  
 Gugu...  
 (beat)  
 Or.... What do I call you? What are  
 you -

GUGU  
 (interjects)  
 Gugu's fine.

Lindi puts out her hand. Gugu looks at it for second then back up at Lindi as tears start to well up in her eyes. She manages to fight them but her relief gets the gets the best of her.

She closes the gap between her and Lindi very quickly and hugs her. Lindi is taken aback by the gesture and looks around, suddenly feeling very exposed.

LINDI  
 Why don't we go inside?

Gugu keeps hugging her and Lindi gives her a few pats on the back that are meant to be reassuring but only confirm that she's out of her depth and feels uncomfortable about it.

Gugu finally pulls herself away and wipes at her eyes. Lindi gives her a weak smile.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
 Let's go inside.

Gugu nods and meekly follows.

(LINDI, GUGU)

It's the first time Gugu's been here and she looks around trying to make sense of it and maybe get some clues about the kind of person Lindi is.

It's the first time Lindi's ever seen her Gugu, while knowing it's her daughter. So she's trying to make sense of THAT.

She wants to hug Gugu, love her, hate her, be angry, be happy. So she stands and stares, uncertain what to feel, say, or do.

Gugu has retreated slightly. She is clearly hurt at Lindi's stiffness and confusion.

Lindi really doesn't know how to start the conversation. Neither does Gugu. Lindi points to a chair.

LINDI  
Do you want to-

GUGU  
Look. I don't need to stay long.

Lindi puts her arm down and she and Gugu go back to looking at each other awkwardly. Lindi signals that she should speak first.

GUGU  
I just wanted to tell you...

Gugu doesn't quite have the words.

LINDI  
Joe already told me.

Gugu nods worried all over again as she remembers the earlier exchange with Joe. Lindi doesn't notice as she struggles to figure out how to approach the next statement.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
But I... I don't -

Gugu is suddenly worried and Lindi get's even more uncomfortable. She steels herself.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
This is not the way I wanted to meet you. This madhouse and everything going on.

Gugu is giving her a "what do you mean" look. Lindi clears her throat.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
Have you... told anybody else?

Gugu looks at Lindi wondering if she heard right. When Lindi continues to look at her expectantly it confirms her worst fears. This is not really the reaction she was hoping for.

GUGU  
Is that what you're worried about?

Lindi feels guilty and gets defensive.

LINDI  
It's a reasonable question.

GUGU  
(folds her arms)  
How do you figure that?

LINDI  
Why did you lie to me this whole  
time? Why didn't you just come out  
and say it?

GUGU  
I was worried it wouldn't go so  
well. Kind of like now.

Gugu looks for any sign of emotion but Lindi is so terrified and uncomfortable that her jaw is clenched so hard, her face looks like stone.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
Do you feel anything at all?

Lindi slowly gets up, goes to Gugu and hugs her. The hug is still stiff, wooden. Gugu is not even feeling it.

Gugu pulls back slightly.

They stare at one another.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
Not exactly the happy reunion you  
imagined, huh?

LINDI  
It's just the timing...

Gugu whirls on Lindi.

GUGU  
You chose the timing. You phoned  
looking for me. I didn't need you.  
I was doing just fine! Then you  
don't even show up for the phone  
call?

Lindi tries to reach for her but Gugu steps back again

LINDI  
It was crazy. Rama had just come  
and...

Lindi realises that her efforts to placate her are just making things worse.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

Gugu is disappointed.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
You'll understand someday.

GUGU  
Yeah, I'm too young to understand  
now huh?

LINDI  
I don't mean -

GUGU  
You just don't ever know what you  
want do you?

Lindi doesn't know how to answer. Gugu decides she'll need to take charge and her stance changes to communicate just that.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
Well, Here I am, I'm your daughter,  
the secret is out. So now what?

LINDI  
The secret's not out - out.

Gugu is disappointed beyond words.

GUGU  
I think I should just go back to  
Durban. I've troubled you enough.

Gugu goes to leave but Lindi takes her hand and holds on it.

LINDI  
Please stay.

Gugu lets out a small disbelieving snort. Lindi looks her dead in the eye.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
I want you to stay.

It's Gugu's turn to get uncomfortable.

GUGU  
I can't go back to that house.

Lindi studies Gugu for a moment. She shrugs resigned to letting the dice roll. It hasn't been the greatest of first meetings anyway.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
Did he tell you he came on to me?

LINDI  
He told me the opposite.

Gugu has an expression that says "of course he did"

GUGU  
I should go home.

She starts to go but Gugu takes a quick step towards her.

LINDI  
You can work here?

Gugu wasn't expecting this and turns to her wondering if she's being genuine.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
My partner's on the road. We could use the help?

GUGU  
I don't know.

LINDI  
It would also give us time...

Lindi thinks for a moment. Then gives a slight nod. Lindi holds out arms showing that she would like a hug but not wanting to force Gugu into it.

Gugu hesitates for a moment but finally walks towards Lindi and accepts the hug. Although it's a little stiff at first they both slowly relax into it this time.

11      **EXT. SHEBEEN - DAY**

11

(JOE, EXTRA X2)

Joe is hurrying out of the shebeen, unsteady on his feet, when he notices two thugs lurking nearby. Clearly looking for someone.

He starts to hurry in the opposite direction, hoping he hasn't been seen. He makes the mistake of glancing back to check if the guys are following him. The thugs spot him and starts running towards him.

Joe tries to run but all that beer means he's tripping over his own feet and not getting anywhere to quickly.

The thugs easily catch up to him. One grabs him, pulls him back and pins his arms behind his back.

Joe leans forward, hanging helplessly with his breathing laboured as one thug comes round to the front and glares at him.

JOE  
I - I told you I'm working on it.

The thug doesn't speak he pulls Joe up by the scruff of his neck and gives an even more menacing look.



JOE (CONT'D)

Please man. I'm going to pay it -

The thug signals for the man who has Joe's arms pinned to let him go while he holds on to his lapel. Once his arms are free the thug suddenly pushes Joe away violently and pulls him back just as quickly.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hayi mahn. You're going to pull my arm out of it's socket if you aren't careful.

The thug responds by cuffing him over the head. Joe ducks and tries to cover his head.

THUG 1

Do I remind you of Mickey house?  
Huh?

JOE

That's not what-

The second thug gives him a patronising smack on the forehead.

THUG 2

So where's the money?

Joe shakes his head not really wanting to answer because he knows he will be met with another smack or some other violent action.

The thug pulls tighter on his lapel.

THUG 1

Suddenly you can't speak?

Joe looks at him nervously.

JOE

I don't have it.

The thug goes to punch him but Joe ducks. The thug tries to get him back on his feet but Joe tugs and tugs and manages to break free for a second.

His co-ordination hasn't improved much since of the beginning of the exchange and he wastes a lot of time crawling on the ground trying to get up.

The two thugs look at each other exasperated and a little offended by Joe's poor efforts to get away. They don't even bother running.

They walk up and pull Joe up roughly from the ground. Joe anticipating more punches covers his head.

JOE (CONT'D)  
OK! OK! Listen!

The thugs stop with fists poised in mid-air. Joe is surprised to find that a punch hasn't landed on him yet. He opens one eye to assess the situation.

The second thug pulls him again and he holds his hands up in a defensive position.

JOE (CONT'D)  
I don't have much. But I have some  
money in my shoe.

The thugs look at him annoyed that he's been stalling.

THUG 1  
Let's see it.

He lifts one of Joe's feet. Joe has to rush to hold on to the thug to avoid losing his balance as one guy suddenly lets him go. The man roughly takes his shoe off and drops his leg.

JOE  
Not that, one. The other one.

The second thugs help him take the other one off. Now they are each holding a shoe and looking inside. Neither one has any money in it.

Joe runs.

THUG 1  
Heyi wena!

They each drop the shoe they were holding and take off after him. Joe struggles to negotiate the small stones and shards of glass from the smashed bottles outside the shebeen.

The thugs catch up and pull him to the ground. He goes down like a sack. We can't see their kicks land on Joe but by the sounds of it they are landing a few effective ones.

They take his cellphone and wallet and start walking away.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)  
Next time it'll be your legs and  
arms.

THUG 2  
And after that, your life.

Joe is left in a heap struggling to get to his feet.

12        **EXT. TOWNSHIP - MORNING**

12

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

13        **INT. BEAUTY'S HOUSE, OFFICE - MORNING**

13

(LINDI, GUGU)

Gugu sleeps on an air mattress next to Beauty's desk. Lindi sits at her desk staring at her in wonder. Her phone is on silent so she only sees her screen flashing as a call comes in.

She sees that it's Beauty, picks up the phone and hurries to a corner further away from Gugu. She answers but keeps her voice low.

LINDI

Hello

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Why are whispering?

LINDI

Remember Gugu? She's here.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Your sleeping there? Are you serious?

LINDI

Neither one of us can really go back to that house right now. Joe is all over the place, and he's so angry about Gugu.

BEAUTY (V.O.)

Shame, is she OK?

LINDI

Last night was rough. But she's asleep now.

Lindi looks over to Gugu.

LINDI (CONT'D)

It's kind of nice. It's the first time I've ever seen my child sleeping.

Gugu starts to stir.

LINDI (CONT'D)

She's waking up.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
OK. We'll talk later. Sounds like I  
need to get there.

LINDI  
Yes, please, do come back soon.

BEAUTY (V.O.)  
Okay see you soon.

LINDI  
Bye.

Gugu wakes up. She's groggy.

GUGU  
Morning.

LINDI  
How are you doing?

Lindi goes to her and caresses her head. Gugu is a little  
surprised by the gesture but happy about it too.

GUGU  
I'm tired.

LINDI  
You've not been sleeping much.

Gugu covers her mouth as she yawns and Lindi melts.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
We'll sort this all out. We really  
will.

Gugu looks over at Lindi and is happy to see that she means  
it.

14

**EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, SHISA - NYAMA - MORNING**

14

(MADELINE, TSHEPO, RAMA)

Madeline and Rama walk side by side, a big pot of pap  
dangling between them.

MADELINE  
Just look at this. You could give  
birth any day now and you have to  
be lugging pots around.

She clicks her tongue loudly.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
If I could catch that stupid girl.  
She would rue the day she ever set  
foot in this yard.

RAMA  
Maybe she's just late.

They get to a table.

MADELINE  
Just slide your end onto the table  
and then I'll do the rest.

Rama does as she's told. Madeline braces herself and manages  
to get the pot onto the table but it takes some effort.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Shoo! If I ever see that Gugu  
again. She better learn how to fly.  
I knew she was useless from the  
beginning.

RAMA  
Maybe we should try and call her.  
It's not like her to be late.

MADELINE  
Oho. I've already tried and she's  
not answering. I wouldn't be  
surprised if that witch Lindi sent  
her here to sabotage us.

Rama doesn't get the connection and her face says as much.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
I found her loitering around here  
in the dark yesterday. Claiming she  
needs to tell Lindi something. What  
do you call that?

Rama screws up her brow.

RAMA  
I thought it was Joe who had hired  
her?

Madeline picks up a cloth to start wiping the tables. Rama  
goes to do the same and Madeline immediately shoo's her away.

MADELINE  
No, no, no. You sit down. You  
mustn't overdo it.

Rama sits down.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

My Joe is blind sometimes. Can't tell the chaff from the wheat. Especially if it's pretty and smiles at him.

Rama looks a little offended but that soon turns to worry as she begins to wonder if there may be something to Madeline's suspicions about Joe and Gugu.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I don't know what that Lindi has put in his food. He is a complete imbecile these days. We'd have to make plan to have him checked before your wedding.

Rama's worry deepens and she decides to fan herself and breath through her mouth to avoid continuing this conversation.

Madeline looks up and towards the street.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I wonder where he is. He should be nagging me for the fafi results by now.

Rama spots a chance to change the subject.

RAMA

What was the draw yesterday evening?

MADELINE

Number 4. Dead man. Isn't that an odd one?

Rama nods. Madeline starts patting her pockets.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

What did I do with matches? Please tell me I didn't leave them in house.

Rama gets up and points to the area where the braai stand is.

RAMA

No, it's in there.

She starts walking in that direction.

RAMA (CONT'D)

I'll get the box and just start the fire while I'm at it.

MADELINE

Uh-uh. I've been telling you to sit down. You can't be out there chopping wood.

RAMA

It's fine Ma. There are a few twigs I could use and Lindi told Gugu not leave the coal on the ground so I'll manage.

Madeline sucks on her teeth.

MADELINE

I should have know those two would start treating this store like it's theirs. So sickening the pair of them.

Rama smiles slightly at Madeline's rant and head to the back.

A shadow falls on the floor and Madeline looks up to see a young man silhouetted against the door frame.

He steps into the room and we recognise him as Tshepo.

He walks up to the counter.

TSHEPO

Greetings.

MADELINE

Hello my son. Can I help you?

TSHEPO

I'm looking for the girl that works here?

Madeline's face immediately sours

MADELINE

She left. She's not welcome here. Very bad girl.

TSHEPO

The pregnant girl?

Madeline looks at him in surprise. Then suspicion.

TSHEPO (CONT'D)

I'm her cousin. I work nearby and I just thought I should come by and say Hi.

Madeline is still not convinced. She keeps her eyes firmly on Tshepo even as she shouts for Rama

MADELINE

Rama!

RAMA (O.S.)

Ma?

MADELINE

Please come here for a moment.

Tshepo tries to hide his anxiety and excitement as Madeline continues to examine him. He hears Rama's footsteps approaching and stands up a little straighter.

As Rama gets's closer....

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Your cousin is here.

Rama looks over and sees that it's Tshepo. She is shocked to see him there and comes to a momentary halt.

Madeline looks at her and then back at Tshepo. Her suspicions of him deepening. He looks very pointedly at Rama.

She stares at Tshepo, trying to get him to see he should not be there while Madeline's back is turned. He finds it funny.

Rama's hesitation seems to melt away as Madeline turns back to her trying to figure out what's going on. She approaches tentatively.

She reaches them. Squints at Tshepo as if confused.

RAMA

I don't know this man.

Madeline is to say the least, surprised.

RAMA (CONT'D)

I've never seen him in my life.

TSHEPO

Oh come on Rama.

RAMA

How do you know my name?

Madeline turns to Tshepo gearing up for a fight.

TSHEPO

Rama!

RAMA

Who are you and how did you find out my name?



TSHEPO  
I can't believe you're doing this  
to me.

Madeline looks to Rama and her face seems to support what she's saying. She suddenly rounds on Tshepo

MADELINE  
Leave the girl alone.

TSHEPO  
(to Madeline)  
We know each other. We're from the  
same village.  
(to Rama)  
**Tell her.**

Rama looks at him puzzled for a moment and then a look of recognition slowly spreads across her face.

RAMA  
Ohhh. I remember you now.

Tshepo starts to look relieved. Madeline is no longer on sure footing.

RAMA (CONT'D)  
(to Madeline)  
We are from the same village but  
he's not my cousin. He's been  
bothering me the whole time asking  
me to marry him.  
(to Tshepo)  
How could you disrespect my mother-  
in-law's home like this?

Madeline glares at him and he suddenly looks terrified.

MADELINE  
Have you no shame!

Tshepo shakes his head vigorously but can't quite find the words to explain himself.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Running after a woman who is  
clearly spoken for! Carrying  
another man's child? Sies!

Tshepo looks at Rama hoping for a rescue.

RAMA  
(mouths)  
Go away.

Madeline doesn't notice as she's now walking around the counter eager to get to Tshepo.

MADELINE  
Why are you looking at her? What do  
you want from her?

Tshepo start to back away.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Filthy minded swine!

Madeline is starting to pick up pace.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Get out of here!

Tshepo makes a run for it. Madeline stands at the door to  
make sure he's gone.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(shouts after him)  
You don't come around here any more  
stalking people!

She clicks her tongue as she stalks back into the room.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Absolutely no respect.  
(shakes her head)  
What kind of strangeness is this?  
Strangers walking in and out of  
hear like it's some sort of train  
station. Who does he think he is?

Rama is feeling guilty. She's not sure how long she can  
maintain the facade.

She suddenly flinches and holds her stomach. Madeline rushes  
to her side.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
What's wrong? It's not coming  
already?

Rama shakes her head and then flinches again.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Oh my goodness! That idiot just  
killed my grandchild!

Rama shakes her head again and takes Madeline's hand.

RAMA  
I'll be fine. I think I just need  
to lie down

Madeline is in complete panic now.

MADELINE

No. I'm going to call Joe. He needs to come home and take you to the doctor right this instant.

Madeline tries to move off to get her phone but Rama holds on to her for dear life.

RAMA

Please Ma I'm feeling really dizzy.

She leans her head on Madeline's shoulder. Madeline suddenly feels guilty and props Rama up more firmly.

MADELINE

Okay my dear. Let's get you into the house and then I'll see if I can find Joe.

Rama shambles forward pretending she doesn't want to put too much weight on one foot.

Rama continues to milk her "illness" as they make slow progress to the door and out of the room.

15

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

15

(MADELINE, RAMA)

Madeline walks through the door supporting Rama and holds her as he lowers herself onto the couch.

RAMA

Thank you Ma. Could I please have some water as well?

MADELINE

Of course my dear. Anything you need. I'll boil some water and put some ginger in it as well.

Rama nods thankfully, kicks off her shoes and lies down on the couch.

Madeline hurries off to the kitchen complaining all the way.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

If that stupid girl had come in I could send her out for some ginger beer. Whenever Joe gets here, he's going to get an earful from me.

The room is suddenly silent and Rama hears Madeline putting the kettle on and getting various glasses and cups and from the cupboards.

Rama manages to lift herself up on her elbows and peek over the sofa to make sure that Madeline isn't coming. She takes out her phone from her pocket and scrolls down to Tshepo's number.

She keeps an eye on the door to the kitchen.

RAMA  
(whispers)  
Why did you do that?  
(listens)  
I don't care if you feel like  
seeing me. You could ruin  
everything.

She hears the kettle making a snapping sound as it stops boiling and looks nervously towards the kitchen.

RAMA (CONT'D)  
I told you. **Just stay away.**

She hears Madeline approaching with a tray. She switches her phone off completely and puts it quickly back in her pocket.

As Madeline comes round to her side of the couch. Rama slowly swings her feet down to the floor and pretends that she was just scooting forward to get her water.

MADELINE  
You should lie back down as soon as  
you've had a drink of water.

Rama takes the glass and puts on her act.

RAMA  
Thank you Ma.

She takes a few small, delicate sips then immediately lies down.

MADELINE  
There you go. Now you just wait for  
the ginger water to cool down and  
take small sips now and then. I'm  
just going to lock up outside and  
see if I can't find Joe.

RAMA  
Okay Ma.

MADELINE  
Call me if you need anything.

RAMA  
Thank you. I will.

Madeline hurries out of the room headed for the shop. Rama hears the door shut and heaves a huge sigh of relief.

She lies down on her side rubbing her belly and thinking for a moment.

She reaches for her phone and looks at it for a moment. Her finger hovers above the on button for a few seconds. Just then Madeline bursts into the room. Rama starts but she needn't worry because Madeline has far bigger things to worry about.

MADELINE

I just got a call. They say Joe is in the hospital.

Rama's eyes widen.

RAMA

What happened?

MADELINE

No one seems to know. I'm going to have to take a taxi and see what's going on myself.

Madeline seems uncharacteristically flustered. She's not sure what to do first. She sees the tray she brought for Rama and suddenly remembers that she's ill.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Who can I call to look after you?

She talking more to herself than Rama.

RAMA

I'm feeling better already. I'm sure I'll be fine after taking a nap.

Madeline is still not leaving.

RAMA (CONT'D)

Please go Ma.

MADELINE

Okay.

She pats her pockets to make sure she has her keys.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

You have your keys right?

Rama nods.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Lock the doors in case you fall asleep.

She heads towards the door then turns back just as suddenly.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Dear God. How am I going to pay for  
a taxi without my wallet?

She heads in the direction of the backroom. Rama watches her  
leave. Then as an afterthought shouts after Madeline.

RAMA

You'll let me know how Joe is  
doing.

The door shuts as Madeline rushes to the backroom. Rama  
settles back down on the couch. He mind clearly hard at work.

16      **EXT. TOWNSHIP - DAY**      16

ESTABLISHING SHOT

17      **EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE - DAY**      17

(JOE)

Joe enters the yard, barefoot. His face and movement tell the  
story clearly. He lost the fight last night. It's also quite  
clear he hasn't bathed in two days. He heads towards the  
backroom.

18      **INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY**      18

(RAMA)

Rama is lying on the couch with her eyes shut. On the verge  
of nodding off. There is the sound of things bashing around  
and furniture shifting around. She opens her eyes and  
listens.

The sound seems to be coming from the backroom. She sits up  
and looks in the direction of the noise, puzzled. She hears  
more things moving around and struggles to get up from the  
chair and heads out.

19      **INT. MADELINE'S BACKROOM - DAY**      19

(RAMA, JOE)

Joe looks under each knick-knack and every item. Shaking some  
of them to see if any money falls out. Rama enters and is  
surprised at how upside down the room is.

RAMA

What are you doing?

JOE

You stay out of this!

Rama looks at him like he 's an alien.

RAMA

What gotten into you? You're wrecking your mother's room.

JOE

I'm going to find this money.

Joe keeps looking around the room, even in the unlikeliest places without much success. Now Rama wonders if Joe is well at all as she takes in his appearance.

RAMA

Where are your shoes?

JOE

Never mind!

Rama is slightly shaken by his tone. Joe continues his frantic search.

RAMA

What if there's no money?

Joe doesn't respond. Rama is really getting worried now.

RAMA (CONT'D)

Are you sure you're alright? We heard that you were in the hospital.

Joe stops and looks around the room

JOE

There's money. I know there's money. I know my mother.

Rama looks at the mess in shock.

RAMA

She'll be back any minute Joe. What are we going to do about all this?

Joe straightens up exhausted and stressed. The walls are closing in. He puts a hand over his mouth as it dawns on him that he's truly out of options. He looks at Rama.

JOE

Tell her the guys wrecked it looking for the money.

Rama is struggling to make sense of it all.

JOE (CONT'D)

Tell her I couldn't pay the loan shark, they beat me senseless and I had to run.

Joe squeezes passed Rama and she steps out of the way just in time.

RAMA  
Where are you going?

Joe doesn't respond intent on getting to the door.

RAMA (CONT'D)  
What about the baby?

Joe throws his arm out in an uncaring gesture.

JOE  
I know it's not mine!

Joe leaves the yard. Rama watches him mouth agape.

The sound of a car starting then pulling away.

Rama sinks into a nearby chair struggling to keep the tears at bay. She looks around the room her mind running at million miles per hour.

She takes a few breaths, gets up and starts cleaning the room. A determined look on her face.

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

ESTABLISHING SHOT

21      **INT. MADELINE'S BACKROOM - NIGHT**      21

(MADELINE, RAMA)

Madeline is sitting down at the table looking wrung out. Things don't seem to be in the right places at all. Rama watches her taking in the room as she makes tea for both of them.

Rama looks at her out of the corner of her eye and decides to distract her, worried that she will figure out that Joe was trashing the place and someone cleaned it up.

RAMA  
So they said he wasn't there?

MADELINE  
(shakes her head)  
I don't know anymore. I've been trying to think.... Who would pull such a sick prank?

Rama brings two cups to the table and hands Madeline one before sitting down.



RAMA

Maybe someone thought it was Joe.  
Have you tried calling him?

MADELINE

Let me try again.

She takes her phone out and dials.

JOE (V.O.)

Hi. This is Joe. You know what to  
do.

Madeline hangs up.

MADELINE

I don't understand him. How can he  
go a whole day without speaking to  
anyone?

Madeline takes a sip of his tea and frowns.

RAMA

There's no sugar.

MADELINE

Please go inside and get some  
sugar?

Rama leaves.

Madeline turns to Martin's picture.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Something strange is going on here,  
Martin. Something is not right at  
all.

Rama comes back inside. She looks bewildered. She has a bag  
of sugar in one hand and in the other what looks like a  
letter.

RAMA

Ma. Look at this.

She hurries towards the table as quickly as her stomach will  
allow and hands Madeline the paper. Letters have been cut out  
of a magazine and arranged into some sort of message.

Madeline looks at it completely confused.

RAMA (CONT'D)

It's a ransom note.

Madeline is still struggling to join the dots.



Madeline shakes her head. She holds out the ransom note.

MADELINE  
Look at this.

Lindi takes it, and looks at it carefully. She is terrified but also not sure whether to believe it.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Come home with me. Please. Let's figure out what to do about this.

Lindi nods and hurries towards the room where the sound on the TV is coming from.

AD BREAK 3

23b

INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

23b

(LINDI, MADELINE, GUGU, RAMA)

All four women sit around the table looking at the note. We get our first good look at it. It reads " BRING MANEY, R50 000 & JOE LIVES"

RAMA  
He told me he was in trouble with the bookies or loan sharks. Maybe they took him.

GUGU  
We just need to call the police. It's obvious.

Everyone looks at Gugu. Rama shifts in her chair.

RAMA  
We should keep the police out of this.

All the bitterness Lindi has towards Rama resurfaces

LINDI  
Why?

RAMA  
Joe is not exactly blameless.

Lindi seems to be considering Rama's statement.

GUGU  
Are you people crazy?

LINDI  
I agree with Rama. No police. Let's keep it in the family.

GUGU  
Your husband's been kidnapped! They  
say they'll kill him.

LINDI  
(unsure)  
They won't do anything to him as  
long as they are trying to get the  
money.

MADELINE  
Don't they say it takes 2 days to  
be a missing person, at least?

GUGU  
Not if there's a ransom note.

MADELINE  
Let's try to keep this in the  
family.

Gugu gives her a "what's that supposed to mean" look. Lindi  
can see trouble brewing and decides to re-focus everyone.

LINDI  
(to Madeline)  
So you'll pay it right?

MADELINE  
Where will I get fifty thousand  
rand?

LINDI  
With your savings. Everyone knows  
you have money hidden away.

Madeline looks at her like she is the dumbest person she's  
ever come across. Then all her anger wells up.

MADELINE  
This is all your fault. If you  
could have had a child, none of  
this would ever have happened.

It's Lindi's turn to look at Madeline like she's lost it and  
is about to say something when Gugu pipes up, looking at the  
note.

GUGU  
I think they've misspelled "money."

Everyone looks at Gugu.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
I mean what kind of kidnappers  
would misspell money?

Madeline thinks this is the most frivolous, annoying thing she's ever heard. She turns to Gugu.

MADELINE  
I don't think you should be here.  
This is a family matter and a  
family decision.

Gugu looks pleadingly at Lindi but it's clear she is not going to tell the truth.

LINDI  
When you say this is a family  
decision.  
(indicating Rama)  
Are you saying **she** is involved?

Madeline cross her arms and nods.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
As the first wife -

MADELINE  
Barren first wife.

Gugu looks hopefully at Lindi again but she is about to let down again.

LINDI  
As the first wife, I'm pretty sure  
I get to decide who the second wife  
is and what her duties are. That's  
tradition.

MADELINE  
What do you know about tradition?

LINDI  
That's how it works, isn't it?

Madeline shrugs acceptance.

LINDI (CONT'D)  
You want Gugu out? You say she's  
not family? I want Rama out.

Gugu looks at Lindi again. This is not what she expected. She is completely wounded.

MADELINE  
Alright. Rama, go rest please and  
take Gugu with you.

Rama is not pleased. She takes as long as she can to leave. Gugu looks at Lindi one last time. When Lindi doesn't meet her gaze she pushes her chair back loudly and follows Rama out.

LINDI

I've never wanted your money. I never asked for it, I never looked for it and I never thought about it. But now we need it.

MADELINE

I don't know what you're talking about.

LINDI

Stop it! This is your son. Your only son!

MADELINE

Exactly why I don't trust this.

LINDI

What do you mean?

MADELINE

The people he is around always, are no good. If they took him like this, how can we know they won't just take the money and ask for more again?

Lindi takes a breath to steady her emotions.

LINDI

If you honestly don't have the money, fine. But I think you do. I really think you do.

Madeline and Lindi stare each other down, hoping someone is going to speak the truth.

24a

**INT. MADELINE'S BACKROOM - NIGHT**

24a

(RAMA, GUGU)

Gugu sits staring at Gugu's stomach.

GUGU

What's it like?

RAMA

(shrugs)

It kicks sometimes.

GUGU

Can I feel it?

RAMA

Sure.

Gugu feels the tummy. She really likes it.

GUGU

It's so pure. Unlike anything around here. Everyone just lies all the time.

RAMA

I don't lie do I?

GUGU

I don't know. You don't say much.

RAMA

Not much to say. I want my family. I want security. I want the father of my baby. I think it's pretty simple.

GUGU

It should be. Nothing in this family is simple.

RAMA

You've never had a family, have you?

Gugu shakes her head.

RAMA (CONT'D)

Well. You'll learn. All families are crazy.

Gugu looks around hoping that Rama is wrong. They both look up as the door opens. It's Lindi followed by Madeline who has clearly had to run to keep up with her.

MADELINE

Who says I have hidden money!

LINDI

Let's not start this again.

GUGU

I'm not saying anything.

MADELINE

I still say you shouldn't be here.

Lindi steps in front of Madeline to get her attention.

LINDI

Do you have the money to pay the ransom or not?

Rama also turn to Madeline with interest. Before she can say anything there is a huge thud at the door. The women all let out squeals and yelps.

They all look at each other frightened. Lindi finally takes it upon herself to walk towards the door and open it slightly.

The other women watch on anxious. She picks up something just outside the door and quickly closes and locks the door. Everyone looks at Lindi's hands. She's holding a rock that is wrapped in paper.

Lindi unfurls the paper and looks at it.

LINDI (CONT'D)

It's another ransom note. It says, we have to pay or they will kill him. They will wait for us at Park Station at 9 PM.

RAMA

We need to pay. Ma, do you have that money?

LINDI

Just be honest and tell us if you do. This is your son. You only have the one!

Everyone is very expectant. Curious.

AD BREAK 4

24b

INT. MADELINE'S BACKROOM - DAY

24b

(MADELINE, RAMA, GUGU, LINDI)

All the women stare at Madeline expectantly waiting to discover where the money is.

Madeline crosses to the wall. She puts her hands on the newspapers that are serving as wallpaper. She grabs a chunk in her fist. She pulls, and rips.

A chunk of newspaper rips from the wall. Madeline flips it over. On the back are pasted numerous bills. Each one is wrapped in thin plastic. The women are transfixed.

Rama goes over to the wall and pulls a chunk off. Rama is excited at the money she has uncovered. Gugu and Lindi join in. All three girls assist in tearing down the newspaper

It goes on for a while.

FADE TO:



(MADELINE, RAMA, GUGU, LINDI)

Lindi, Rama and Gugu start to count the money. Madeline watches them like a hawk.

MADELINE  
No. It's unacceptable.  
(points to Gugu)  
This girl? Here?

LINDI  
Leave her alone. We need all the  
help we can get.

Gugu glares at Lindi. Although Lindi is defending her, it is not in the way that she would like.

They carry on counting. Madeline walks among them, checking that every single bill is accounted for.

MADELINE  
Don't forget! I see all! Don't even  
think about stealing from me  
ladies.

They count and count.

LINDI  
You didn't move out there to give  
us space, did you.

MADELINE  
I don't understand.

LINDI  
You moved out there so you could be  
with the money. You were worried we  
would find it.

MADELINE  
So much distrust.

LINDI  
It's alright ma. I think I'm  
starting to understand you.

Gugu stops counting and reaches into her pocket to get tissues. Madeline immediately grabs Gugu's hand.

MADELINE  
You are trying to steal are you?

GUGU  
I didn't do anything!

MADELINE

Yeah, sure.

Gugu pulls her hand away.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

It's all your fault Joe is even missing. He ran out and you stayed here until late. Something fishy was going on with you. What did you do to him?

Gugu looks at Lindi pleadingly.

LINDI

Ma, please. This is no time for this.

MADELINE

I've been saying it again and again. I don't want this silly girl here and I don't see why you should be telling me anything.

GUGU

Fine!

Gugu storms off into the bedroom.

LINDI

Ma. Honestly! Just keep counting.

Lindi follows Gugu.

26

**INT. TOWNSHIP HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY**

26

(GUGU, LINDI)

Gugu is sitting on the bed. Tears trickling down her cheek  
Lindi walks in, sits next to her and puts her hand on her  
shoulder.

Gugu stiffens but doesn't pull away.

GUGU

I'm fed up.

LINDI

I know. Let's just -

GUGU

(interrupts)  
You're a coward.

LINDI

Gugu. Please. Let's fix this. Then we'll worry about us. This is no time to be selfish.

GUGU

Selfish? Why did you even bother trying to find me after all these years? I wish to hell you didn't.

LINDI

You don't mean that.

GUGU

Yes. I do! Everyone told me it wasn't a good idea come after you. Now I understand.

LINDI

Baby -

GUGU

I wish things could be different. But I can't anymore. I can't. If you aren't going to tell them who I am, really... It's enough.

LINDI

What do you mean?

GUGU

If you're not going to acknowledge our relationship then we don't have one. I'd rather be on my own again, than keep waiting like this.

LINDI

Let's just get Joe safely -

GUGU

(interrupts)

You can't have it both ways. Make a choice for goodness sake!

Lindi glances nervously towards the door. Gugu notices.

GUGU (CONT'D)

It would have been better to always wonder, and miss my mother forever, than live with this reality. You're ashamed of me!

LINDI

I am not

GUGU

Well, I'm ashamed of you too!

Madeline and Rama enter.

MADELINE  
We're finished. No thanks to you  
two. What's all the noise you're  
making here.

GUGU  
Lindiwe has something to tell you.

They all stare at Lindi, who has nothing to say it seems.

GUGU (CONT'D)  
Screw this. I'm out of here.

Gugu storms out. Lindi starts to follow her.

Madeline grabs Lindi's arm roughly.

MADELINE  
Let her go, Lindi. She doesn't  
belong here.

Lindi stares out after Gugu. She begins to say something. But  
says nothing.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Now we have to figure out how we  
are delivering this.

RAMA  
I'll take it.

Lindi and Madeline both stare at Rama as if this is an  
astoundingly bad idea.

RAMA (CONT'D)  
They'll never suspect a pregnant  
woman.

MADELINE  
I don't know my child. I don't  
think that's a good idea.

LINDI  
I'll take it.

Madeline looks at Lindi this does seem like a good idea but  
she has a condition.

MADELINE  
We'll both go.

Rama looks from one woman to the other in anticipation.

(GUGU)

Gugu is about to go straight through the room. Just then she sees the ransom money, neatly stacked.

She crosses to the money.

She puts her hand on the bag straps.

**-END CREDITS-**