

A TOWNSHIP SAGA: SIZAKELE

Screenplay by

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FADE IN

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

BANZI is busy searching for something. He is getting frustrated. His wife, SIZAKELE, is on the bed, painting her nails.

BANZI

Where's my file?

SIZAKELE

What file?

BANZI

The one with all my papers in it. My documents, my contracts...

SIZAKELE

I don't know. Where did you put it?

BANZI

Here! Where I always put it!

SIZAKELE

Where is it then?

Banzy is angry. He starts yelling.

BANZI

I hate it when you do that!

SIZAKELE

When I do what?

BANZI

When you lose something and act like you don't know anything! Sizakele how many times must I tell you? Do not move my things!

SIZAKELE

I didn't move anything. I don't even know what you're talking about.

BANZI

Yeses! You can be annoying sometimes!

Sizakele pauses. She doesn't believe it.

SIZAKELE

What? What did you say?

BANZI

Now I have to look for it everywhere!

SIZAKELE

Banzi did you just say that I was annoying?

BANZI

I'm sure I didn't stutter!

This leaves Sizakele's mouth wide open. Banzi continues his search.

BANZI

Jesus Christ!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY, LATER

Banzi is sitting on the couch, impatient. He keeps tapping his foot on the floor. He checks the time on his watch. He picks up the phone and dials.

BANZI

Listen here! You are somebody's wife! You can't just disappear without your husband knowing where you are! Call me when you get this message!

He drops the call and tosses the phone to the side.

A beat.

He checks the time again.

BANZI

Where the hell is this woman?

The door opens. Banzi stands up. Sizakele walks in. Banzi walks to her.

BANZI

Where the hell have you been?

SIZAKELE

I needed some air.

Sizakele tries to pass but Banzi blocks her way.

BANZI

Bullshit! Then why didn't you answer my calls? I've been calling the whole day.

SIZAKELE

Why would I want to talk to you?

BANZI

I am your husband dammit!

SIZAKELE

No. You are an idiot that thinks his wife is annoying!

BANZI

What did you say to me?

SIZAKELE

Move out of my way!

Sizakele pushes Banzi out of the way. When she passes, Banzi grabs her arm and yanks her to him.

BANZI

Do I have to remind you who's the man in this house?

SIZAKELE

Let go of me, you are hurting me!

BANZI

You are my wife! You have to show me respect!

SIZAKELE

Or else what? You gonna hit me? Go ahead!

BANZI

Don't force my hand woman!

Sizakele is a little scared.

BANZI

Now tell me where were you!

SIZAKELE

I went to see my sister. You happy?

BANZI

Listen...never...ever...go out of this house without asking for permission first! Is that clear?

SIZAKELE

You must be out of your mind!

BANZI

I forbid it!

SIZAKELE

You forbid it? Who do you think you are? My master?
YOU DO NOT OWN ME!

Sizakele pushes him away, turns around and leaves. Banzi is furious.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sizakele is laying on the bed with her eyes open. Banzi appears behind her, standing at the door.

BANZI

Sizakele? Why are you sleeping? Is dinner going to cook itself?

Sizakele just pretends as if she didn't hear him.

BANZI

Sizakele! Are you deaf? What are we going to eat?

SIZAKELE

Whatever you decide to cook.

BANZI

Excuse me?

Silence.

BANZI

So are you just going to sleep? What kind of a wife doesn't cook for her husband?

SIZAKELE

The annoying kind.

BANZI

Oh so you're not going to cook because I said you were annoying? Stop being childish Sizakele! Get up and go do your duties as a wife!

Furious, Sizakele stands up and looks at him.

SIZAKELE

Duties? Duties Banzi? Do I look like a maid?

BANZI

You have one job Sizakele! To take care of me! Go and cook!

SIZAKELE

No!

BANZI

So you choose to go hungry just because you are angry at me?

SIZAKELE

Who said I was hungry?

Banzi pauses and take two steps forward.

BANZI

You are not hungry? Where did you eat? At your boyfriend's house?

SIZAKELE

Wow so now you're accusing me of cheating?

BANZI

Are you sleeping with him?

SIZAKELE

You know what Banzi...just get out! I am tired!

BANZI

Tired of what? Opening your legs for the whole world?

Sizakele pauses. She is deeply hurt by Banzi's words.

SIZAKELE

Who are you? What did you do to my husband?

BANZI

You know what....

EXTREME CLOSE UP on Banzi's angry face.

BANZI (CONT'D)

I wouldn't have married you if I knew you were a
whore!

Banzi storms out of the room leaving Sizakele's face overcome
with sorrow.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Banzi keeps pacing up and down in the living room. He is
bursting with anger.

A beat.

The door opens. Banzi walks up to it. As soon as Sizakele
walks in, Banzi slaps her so hard that she is thrown into a
couch nearby.

SIZAKELE

Banzi!

BANZI

What did I say to you? Huh? Didn't I tell you not to
leave this house without my permission?

SIZAKELE

(confused)

What?

Banzi starts to untie his belt.

BANZI

Today I'm going to teach you a lesson, you bloody
woman!

SIZAKELE

Banzi what are you doing?

Banzi starts beating Sizakele with the belt. As she screams,
each lash grows stronger and stronger. Banzi shows no sign of
remorse.

A beat.

After tiring himself, Banzi walks away, leaving Sizakele laying there on the floor, sobbing.

TIME LAPSE:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

It's early in the morning. Sizakele is still in bed. Banzi walks in carrying a tray with breakfast.

BANZI

Good morning my love. I made you breakfast in bed.

He puts the tray on the table next to the bed and sits on the bed. Sizakele is facing the other side.

BANZI

Sizakele. Wake up. I made you breakfast.

Sizakele is not answering. Banzi sighs.

BANZI

Are you still mad at me? I am sorry baby. I really am. It was a mistake that will never happen again.

Banzi turns her. She is now facing up.

BANZI

I'm sorry. I love you, you know that.

Sizakele answers with a gentle voice.

SIZAKELE

Do you?

BANZI

Yes! And I would never hurt you.

SIZAKELE

But you did.

BANZI

And I'm telling you that it's not gonna happen again.

SIZAKELE

Are you sure?

BANZI

I give you my word.

Sizakele sighs and thinks.

BANZI

Do you forgive me?

She sits up.

SIZAKELE

If you raise your hand on me again, I am leaving. I will not be a victim of abuse.

BANZI

I understand. And that's fair. It will not happen again...I promise.

Sizakele nods.

SIZAKELE

I forgive you.

Banzi smiles and kisses her.

BANZI

Thank you my love. Now eat your breakfast it's getting cold.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Banzi and Sizakele are both sitting on the couch, watching the TV. There is a knock on the door.

BANZI

Can you get it baby?

Sizakele walks up to the door.

SIZAKELE

Oh, Sizwe. Come in.

Sizwe walks in.

SIZWE

Thanks.

SIZAKELE

How are you?

SIZWE

I'm good, how are you?

SIZAKELE

I'm okay.

BANZI

Ey Sizwe.

SIZWE

Just the man I wanted to see.

Sizwe notices Sizakele's blue eyed face.

SIZWE

Whoa. Are you alright?

SIZAKELE

What do you mean?

SIZWE

What happened to your face?

SIZAKELE

Oh, uhm...

She clears her throat. Banzi looks at them.

SIZAKELE

I...uhm...

BANZI

She fell.

SIZWE

What?

BANZI

She fell.

SIZWE

And hit her face?

BANZI

Yes.

Sizwe looks at Sizakele for confirmation.

SIZAKELE

Yes.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sizakele is standing in the kitchen and slowly wiping a plate with a cloth. Her mind is light years away. Banzi walks in behind her.

BANZI

Hey you!

Startled, Sizakele turns around.

BANZI

What is your problem?

SIZAKELE

My problem?

BANZI

Do you want to ruin my reputation?

SIZAKELE

What are you talking about?

Banzi grabs her neck and starts strangling her. She struggles to remove his hand from her neck.

BANZI

Do you want Sizwe to think that I am a woman beater?
Huh?

As hard as it is, Sizakele shakes her head.

BANZI

Then why don't you go fix yourself? Put on make up
or something!

He lets her go.

BANZI

Go!

Sizakele runs out.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sizakele is preparing to cook. She is chopping carrots. Banzi walks in behind her.

BANZI

Hey.

She answers with a lower than usual voice.

SIZAKELE

Hey.

Banzi hugs her from behind. Sizakele pauses for a bit. She is not comfortable. He kisses her on the neck. She flinches. She doesn't want to. He doesn't stop.

SIZAKELE

Stop.

Banzi does not stop.

SIZAKELE

Banzi stop.

BANZI

Why?

SIZAKELE

I'm not in the mood.

BANZI

Not in the mood for what?

SIZAKELE

Banzi just stop.

Banzi grabs her by her arm and turns her around. He slaps her repeatedly. He then grabs her and throws her to the floor.

BANZI

Why do you insist on provoking me? Huh?

Banzi starts kicking her as she lays on the ground. We don't see her but we hear her cry.

BANZI

You inconsiderate woman! I am your husband! I married you! I feed you! I dress you! I give you a roof over your head! And this is how you repay me?

SIZAKELE

(sobbing)

I'm sorry.

BANZI

Sizakele I own you! You are my property!

Banzi starts removing his belt and zipping down his pants.

BANZI (CONT'D)

And I will do anything I want to you at any time I want!

Banzi starts raping her. We CLOSE UP on their feet. Banzi's feet is over Sizakele's. She is trying to kick but Banzi is pressing her down.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

We are on the floor. CLOSE UP on Sizakele as she lays on the floor.

A beat.

Banzi walks in and stands behind her. We only see his legs. He bends his knees, coming down to her level.

BANZI

Are you coming to bed?

Silence.

Angrily, Banzi grabs her so rough that she gets scared. He carries her in his arms and walks out. We track behind them as he takes her to the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Banzi walks in and dumps Sizakele on her side of the bed. He then walks to his side and sits there.

CLOSE UP on Sizakele who cannot hold the tears. She cries in silence. The room is infested by silence for a long while.

BANZI

I'm sorry my love. What has gotten into me?

Sizakele shuts her eyes.

BANZI

I don't know who I am anymore.

Banzi gets up and walks back to Sizakele's side. He kneels before her and starts pleading.

BANZI

Baby I'm sorry. I'm sorry! I know I always say that. I know I always promise not to do it again and then I do. Baby I don't mean to hurt you. I just get so angry and then I cannot control myself.

He hides his face on the bed and starts crying.

BANZI

(sobbing)

I have a problem baby! I need help! I need help!

Sizakele is believing him. Hesitantly, she slowly lifts up her hand, puts it over his back and starts petting him.

BANZI

Please don't leave me baby! Please! I'm gonna get help! I'm gonna be better!

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Sizakele and Banzi are fast asleep.

WE CLOSE UP ON SIZAKELE AS SHE SLOWLY OPENS HER EYES.

P.O.V: AS SIZAKELE OPENS HER EYES, A STRANGE WOMAN APPEARS IN FRONT OF HER.

STRANGER

(screaming)

KILL HIM!!!

SMASH CUT:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

Sizakele quickly wakes up, gasping and sweating. She looks around the room and sees no one. She then looks on the side to Banzi, who is still fast asleep.

She calms herself down, gets off the bed and walks out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sizakele walks in and up to the fridge. She takes out some bottled water to drink. A STRANGER comes out of nowhere.

STRANGER (O.S)

Sizakele!

Startled, Sizakele turns around as she screams. We see the strange woman from earlier.

SIZAKELE

(shaking)

Who are you? How did you get in here?

STRANGER

That is not important.

SIZAKELE

(shouting)

Banzi!

STRANGER

Don't wake him up.

Sizakele looks at the direction of the door.

SIZAKELE

Banzi!

When she looks back at the woman, she is no longer there. She looks around the room, confused and scared. She sees no one.

SIZAKELE

Oh my God, what is happening to me?

The Strange woman suddenly appears next to Sizakele, screaming in her ear.

STRANGER

I said don't wake him up!

Sizakele screams and falls to the floor.

STRANGER

Don't be scared. I will not harm you.

SIZAKELE

Who are you?

STRANGER

I am the spirit of all the women who suffered in the hands of men. The very men that swore to love and protect them.

CLOSE UP ON SIZAKELE'S CONFUSED FACE.

SIZAKELE

What? What are you talking about?

STRANGER

Can't you see? You are in danger! I am here to help you.

SIZAKELE

Help me with what?

STRANGER

Help you escape death.

SIZAKELE

What death?

Sizakele stands up and is now face to face with the woman.

STRANGER

Save yourself! Kill him!

SIZAKELE

Who? UBanzi? I'm not gonna kill my husband!

STRANGER

If you don't kill him, he will kill you!

CLOSE UP on Sizakele's face as it transforms from confusion to anger.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

CLOSE UP ON BANZI WHO IS STILL FAST ASLEEP.

WE THEN SLOWLY PAN OUT, REVEALING SIZAKELE, WHO IS STANDING THERE, STARRING AT BANZI AS HE SLEEPS. WE THEN REVEAL THAT SHE IS HOLDING A BIG KNIFE ON HER HAND.

She quietly climbs the bed, and sits on top of Banzi who is facing up, careful not to wake him up.

She then raises the knife up high over her head and lets out a scream of fury as she brings it down on his chest. He wakes up with a gasp. Sizakele pulls the knife out, raise it up and brings it down again, stabbing him on his chest. Before he has any time to react, Sizakele repeats again. She stabs him again and again and again. Blood is everywhere. Sizakele does this until he stops moving.

She then stops, out of breath and stares at his lifeless body.

TIME LAPSE:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sizakele is standing next to the bed, staring at Banzi's bloody and lifeless body. She blinks, as if to come back to her senses. She looks at the knife on her hand and back at Banzi. The fury in her face has disappeared. Confusion and regret has taken its place.

SIZAKELE

What have I done?

She starts getting emotional.

SIZAKELE

What have I done?!

She looks at the knife on her hand and throws it on the floor.

SIZAKELE

Banzi?

She goes to him and tries waking him up.

SIZAKELE

Banzi wake up. Baby wake up. Wake up. Please, wake up.

There is a knock on the door. Sizakele immediately stops what she is doing, stands up and listen. She is breathing heavily. She waits for a bit and the knock is heard again. She starts panicking. She rushes to grab a towel. She wipes her bloody hands and face.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sizakele rushes to the window and peaks out.

SIZAKELE'S POV

We see Sizwe on the outside, knocking.

Sizakele moves away from the window. She takes deep breaths trying to calm herself down. She checks herself and makes sure that she is okay. She then opens the door.

SIZAKELE

Sizwe...hey!

SIZWE

Hey, how are you?

SIZAKELE

I'm good, how are you?

SIZWE

I'm great.

SIZAKELE

Come on in!

Sizwe walks in. He goes to sit on the couch. Sizakele follows him and sits on the opposite couch.

SIZWE

Where is this guy?

SIZAKELE

Banzi?

SIZWE

Yeah.

SIZAKELE

Uhm...

Sizakele thinks of a lie.

SIZAKELE

Didn't he tell you?

SIZWE

Tell me what?

SIZAKELE

He's gone.

Sizwe is confused.

SIZWE

Gone where?

SIZAKELE

To Cape Town.

SIZWE

To do what?

SIZAKELE

He's gone with work.

Sizwe pauses and thinks.

SIZWE

I'm confused. Last night we were talking on the phone and he didn't tell me anything. He asked me to come.

Sizakele is nervous.

SIZAKELE

Are you sure?

SIZWE

Yes.

SIZAKELE

Well...maybe he made a mistake. You know Banzi forget things sometimes.

The Strange woman suddenly appears next to Sizwe, who doesn't seem to be aware of her presence.

STRANGER

LIES!

Sizakele is startled.

SIZWE

Are you alright?

SIZAKELE

Yes...yes I'm fine.

She fakes a smile and composes herself.

SIZWE

Are you sure?

SIZAKELE

Yeah.

STRANGER

LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!! YOU KILLED HIM!!

CLOSE IN on Sizakele's confused face.

STRANGER

YOU KILLED HIM! LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE! YOU KILLED
AN INNOCENT MAN! LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

Sizakele is getting scared. Sizwe is staring at her.

STRANGER

YOUR HANDS ARE DIRTY! YOUR HANDS HAVE BLOOD! BLOOD
OF AN INNOCENT MAN! LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE! WHAT
DID YOU DO?!

Sizakele is starting to loose it. She holds both her ears
trying to block the Stranger out.

SIZWE

Are you sure you're okay?

STRANGER

TELL HIM! TELL HIM THE TRUTH! SET YOURSELF FREE!
ONLY THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!

Sizakele screams.

SIZAKELE

Okay okay I will tell you!

SIZWE

Tell me what?

SIZAKELE

I killed him! I killed my husband! I killed my
Banzi!

Sizwe's eyes are wide open.

SIZAKELE

His body is in the bed.

Sizwe stands up and runs to the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sizwe runs in. He spots Banzi's corpse on the bed covered with blood.

SIZWE

Jesus!

After freezing for a while, he takes out his phone and makes a call.

SIZWE

(startling)

Hello. Yes, I... I would like to report a mu...
murder.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We slowly PAN IN on Sizakele, who is still sitting on the couch. She is staring deep into the abyss. She keeps whispering something as she rocks back and forth.

SIZAKELE

(whispering)

I killed him. I killed him. I killed him. I killed
him. I killed him.

She has gone completely mad. The Stranger reapers in front of her. Sizakele stops and looks at her. The Stranger points at the bedroom.

STRANGER

KILL HIM!

SMASH TO BLACK