

TV DRAMA SCRIPT

# TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1

A gripping corporate drama that explores the dark world of South Africa's mining elite, navigating political intrigues and power games.

A KENNETH MANGUNDHLA FILM.

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**\*\*\* THE END \*\*\*.**

**TREACHERY: UBUGE BENGU S1.**

1.i) **Title:** TREACHERY

ii) **Sub-title:** UBUGE BENGU

iii) **Genre:** DRAMA

iv) **Sub-genres:** CORPORATE THRILLER/ CRIME DRAMA/ FAMILY DRAMA/  
MELODRAMA

iv) **Format:** TV SERIES

v) **Category:** TELENOVELA

**2. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

i) **Runtime:** 22-30 minutes per episode

ii) **Language:** multi-lingual (English, primary), isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, Venda, with potential for international adaptations in other languages.

iii) **Rating:** 16 (suitable for mature teenagers and adults)

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**AUTHOR:** Kenneth Mangundhla is a screenwriter and novelist who is a candidate member of the WRITERS GUILD OF SOUTH AFRICA (WGSA). His special field of interest is in social commentary and economic matters.

Emerging screenwriter and storyteller Kenneth Mangundhla ignites the screen with this brand new, original narrative. His latest series: TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU explores the dark underbelly of the corporate mining jungle, exposing the sinister intersections of human exploitation and environmental destruction, sparking a clarion call for justice, accountability and the preservation of our planet's fragile biodiversity.

**AUTHOR REGISTRATION:** WRITERS GUILD OF SOUTH AFRICA (WGSA)

**REGISTRATION NUMBER:**

**WGSA SCRIPT REGISTRY:**

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**SEASON:** 1

**EPISODES:** 13



**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1.**

**LOGLINE:** When a devastating roadside crash kills her mentor, a tenacious mining inspector, driven by anger and survivor's remorse embarks on a perilous quest for truth. As she confronts her dark past and take on the ruthless forces controlling South Africa's deadly mining industry she must fight to survive and uncover the secrets that threaten to destroy her.

**SHOW'S TAGLINE:** POWER DEMANDS LOYALTY.BETRAYAL DEMANDS SURVIVAL.

**SYNOPSIS: TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1.**

In the scorching mining towns of eMalahleni, a cauldron of corruption, exploitation, and environmental degradation simmers beneath the surface. VILIAMI NYONI aka "Ukhozi womnyama" (the black eagle), a cunning and ruthless mogul, reigns supreme over his crumbling empire, Nova Africa Mining and Energy. His family's opulent world is a facade for the dark secrets and lies that threaten to destroy them.

When ZURI RADEBE, a brilliant and fearless junior mining inspector survives a near-fatal accident, she's catapulted into the Nyoni family's inner circle. THANDOLWAZI NYONI, Viliami's philanthropic wife takes Zuri under her wing, but their bond conceals a dark secret. As Zuri navigates this treacherous new world, she becomes entangled with JAYSEN NYONI, Viliami's charming but troubled son.

Unbeknownst to Zuri, Jaysen's hiding a deadly secret: his involvement with the notorious "INKABI" mob, known for illegal mining activities and sponsored terrorism in the mining trenches. The stakes escalate when Zuri discovers an unsettling truth about her accident and the Nyonis' involvement, forcing her to choose between her loyalty and national duty.

**SEASON FINALE:** As the season culminates in a jaw-dropping cliffhanger, Zuri's fate hangs in the balance. Will she succumb to the corrupt system or risk everything to expose the truth and bring justice to the forgotten? The mining elite will stop at nothing to maintain their power, and Zuri's defiance may prove fatal.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This show is a work of art, intended for entertainment purposes only. The occasional mention of real persons or places are used only to create the illusion of reality. All characters, events, and institutions portrayed in this show are a product of the author's imagination and should not be inferred to be, connected, or affiliated with any real-world entities. Any resemblance to actual persons or events is unintentional and purely coincidental.

### **RATING**

This show contains mature themes, strong language and suggestive content. Viewer discretion is advised. Restricted to persons 16 years and older. Parental guidance recommended. Additional restrictions may apply.

**16 VL.**

**"IN MEMORY OF THE 34 MINERS AT MARIKANA WHO LOST THEIR LIVES. YOUR SWEAT, TOIL AND SACRIFICES WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN."**

**(R.I.P- AUGUST 16, 2012)**

TV SCREENPLAY

# TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1

(EPISODES 1-13)

POWER DEMANDS LOYALTY. BETRAYAL DEMANDS SURVIVAL.

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**TREACHERY: UBUGE BENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 1: "MERCURY RISING"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. POLLSMOOR REMAND PRISON. CAPE TOWN. DAY.

High concrete walls, iron bars, and dim fluorescent lighting create a somber atmosphere. JAYSEN NYONI, son of mining tycoon VILIAMI NYONI, with rugged handsome features and a bald shave, sits on the cold floor, his back against the concrete wall. The sounds of murmured conversations and clanging metal fills the air. MASEGO, a towering inmate and gang leader with scars and tattoos, stands guard beside him.

MASEGO

(low, coarse voice)

Uzophuthelwa yinsizwa.

(you will be missed...young man)

Jaysen opens his eyes, a hint of sadness showing.

JAYSEN

(devotedly)

Akukho ukuvalelisa unomphela. Isibopho sethu sisekhona bra Masego.

(No permanent goodbyes. Our bond remains.)

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK. INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT. DAY.

Modern decor, sunlight filters through panoramic windows offering breathtaking Cape Town views. TINASHE SITHOLE, a stunning Zimbabwean supermodel and social media influencer, stands before the mirror, applying make-up. Jaysen wakes up, stretching lazily on the plush

bed.

JAYSEN

(groggily)

Yini ukuphuthuma?

(What's the rush?)

TINASHE

(excited)

It's the FAB Bridal Expo, baby. I'm so hyped. I have early meetings with our wedding planner and stylist.

She walks over to the bed and perks Jaysen on the lips. They exchange a brief intimate moment. Jaysen whispers something in her ear and she giggles playfully, hitting him on the arm. The camera zooms in on the massive diamond engagement ring on her finger.

JAYSEN

(teasingly)

Ngiyakubona ufisa ukuthulula isibaya sikababa.

(I can see you are so eager to empty my father's kraal.)

Tinashe chuckles, walking back to the mirror.

TINASHE

(humouring back)

Well, I guess that's one way to make sure I don't get too comfortable in our future home.

Jaysen laughs back.

JAYSEN

(smirking confidently)

You look amazing.

Umakoti angakhanya ngaphandle komkenyana?

(Can the bride shine without the groom?)

TINASHE

(twirling)

Ngazalelwa ukukhanya.

(I was born to shine)

Red carpet ready...Durbanville here comes your next bride!

JAYSEN

(beaming)

Ngiyazi uzokhanyisa uthando lwami.

(I know you will shine my love)

Ngizakubona later.

CUT TO:

INT. POLLSMOOR REMAND PRISON. DAY.

Jaysen's expression darkens, revealing unease as memories flood back.

MASEGO

(gravely)

Kuzwakala nje izidumbu ezimbili zamadoda ethu zisanda kutholwa endaweni yokulahla udoti. Kufanele kube umphumela we-cynide. uButhelezi usabaleka kumele umthole.

(Just heard two of our men's bodies have been recovered from a dump site. It must have been the cyanide's aftermath. Buthelezi's still on the run and you must find him.)

JAYSEN

(nodding gravely)

Ngicabanga ukuthi ngiyazi lapho ecashe khona. Ngizothumela umuntu abone ubufakazi bucekela phansi...ngokuphelele.

(I think I know where he is hiding. I will send someone to see the

evidence is destroyed...completely.

MASEGO

(glancing at him with bloodshot eyes)

Ngiyokubona nini?

(When will I see you?)

JAYSEN

(resolute)

Maduze. Ngizofika ngizokuhlenga.

(Soon. I'll catch up with you)

MASEGO

(intensely)

Unkulunkulu muhle. Sebenzisa ngokugcwele ithuba lakho lesibili.

(God is good. Make the most of your second chance.)

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT. INT. DAY.

Tinashe's expression turns serious.

TINASHE

Babe, your pa's stressing. Ngiyakuncenga Jaysen, ngimbize manje.

(Call him back now)

Jaysen's demeanor darkens.

JAYSEN

(tightly controlled)

Yini manje? Ufunani kimi kulokhu?

(What now? What does he want from me this time?)

TINASHE

(hesitantly)

The truth about your dealings with the Inkabi mob, hayi bo!  
Uyaphetelwa yithemba.

(He is getting desperate)

Serious tension hovers between them as Jaysen looks back at Tinashe  
with a hint of guilt)

TINASHE

(curtly)

Right, Jaysen, more secrets?

CUT TO:

POLLSMOOR PRISON. INT. DAY.

Masego hands Jaysen a small beaded necklace with a circular shield  
that represents the "INKABI BROTHERHOOD"

MASEGO

(gravely)

Faka lokhu, kuzokuvikela.

(Put on this, it will protect you.)

Jaysen wears the necklace, determination and courage etched on his  
face.

JAYSEN

(embracing Mashego)

Ngiyabonga bra Masego ngokungivikela.

(Thanks brother, for protecting me)

MASEGO

(holding Jaysen's shoulders, their eyes locking in mutual respect)

Kwangathi indlela yakho ingakhanyiswa.

(May your path be illuminated)

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 1: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. NYONIS MANSION. BANTRY BAY. OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT AREA WITH INFINITY POOL.

DR. VILIAMI NYONI, a charismatic and ruthless billionaire mogul with a commanding presence, dressed in a navy suit and crisp white shirt sips coffee across his beautiful wife, THANDOLWAZI MBALI NYONI. Her elegant morning gown and intricately wrapped headscarf exude sophisticated elegance. Recliner deck chairs and colorful umbrellas dots the pool deck.

THANDOLWAZI

(sipping coffee, scanning her iPhone)

What's this rumor about party youths turning against Tshabalala?

VILIAMI NYONI

(flipping through the newspaper, serious)

Karma. Tshabalala's intimidation tactics have finally caught up with him.

Thandolwazi's gaze fixes on her husband, her expression a mix of curiosity and concern.

THANDOLWAZI

(annoyed)

Tshabalala's a devil. No conscience whatsoever. That bitcoin ponzi scam he orchestrated ruined small-scale miners.

VILIAMI NYONI

(placing the newspaper beside her)

Kungcono ufunde lokhu!

(You better read this)

The headline screams accusations featuring Thandolwazi's picture.

Her eyes widen as she scans the article.

THANDOLWAZI

(stunned, disgusted)

Imuphi umbhedo lo?

(What nonsense is this?)

VILIAMI NYONI

(firm, his voice low)

Amacala okubulala ngokungenhloso, Thando.

(Culpable homicide charges)

Baza kuwe.

(They're coming for you)

Thandolwazi's composure breaks down, defensiveness creeps in.

THANDOLWAZI

(emotion rising)

That's ridiculous! I'm a certified driver. It was an accident!

VILIAMI NYONI

(looking hard at her, playing Devil's advocate)

Akekho onendaba neqiniso lapho. Amanga ejabulisa kakhulu.

(Nobody cares about the truth, when the lie is more entertaining)

Thandolwazi's eyes blaze with anger.

THANDOLWAZI

(exasperated)

So this is about politics, not truth?

VILIAMI NYONI

(unyielding, with a menacing look)

What do you think? Perception is reality, Thando. We can't afford bad publicity...especially with my parliamentary run.

Thandolwazi stares back hard at Viliami. The tension between them thickens.

THANDOLWAZI

(emotional)

Yilokho kuphela okubalulekile kuwe, Viliami...akunjalo? Isifiso sakho?

(That's all that matters to you, isn't it? Your ambition?)

Viliami Nyoni's expression softens, but resolve remains.

VILIAMI NYONI

(resolute, cold calculation in his eyes)

Sizogibela lokhu ndawonye, kulungile?

(We'll ride this out together, O.K?)

Thandolwazi's nod is hesitant, doubt showing in her eyes.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 1: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE - BEDROOM.

Soft uplifting Afro-pop music plays in the background, filling the air with hope and resilience. The camera pans over the narrow streets and alleys of Khayelitsha township, revealing a tapestry of vibrant, everyday life. As the camera continues its gentle sweep it settles on an unremarkable, labyrinthine building. A faded sign reads: KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES: Support and Advocacy for Female Empowerment.

ZURI RADEBE, a naturally beautiful young woman in her mid-20s with understated elegance, rises slowly from bed, wincing in pain. She reaches for her crutch and begins to limp towards the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. BATHROOM.

Zuri steps into the simple yet clean and well-maintained bathroom. She approaches the mirror above the sink, its surface reflecting her hard-bitten face. The glass is old with subtle imperfections that distort her image, but it reveals the harsh reality of her situation. As Zuri examines her injuries, the mirror light exposes a patchwork of faded scars on her cheeks testifying to the near-fatal accident she experienced in recent weeks. Her eyes well up with emotion as she gazes at her bandaged head and injured body. Suddenly she breaks down into heartfelt sobs, her body shaking with the weight of her emotions.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK MONTAGE.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. MINERALS AND ENERGY AGENCY. DR. CALEB DHLAMINI'S OFFICE.

The scene opens on a modern office space with government employees

working diligently. The camera settles on DR CALEB DHLAMINI, a burly, slightly over-weight and experienced man in his 50s; Chief Inspector of the Agency, sitting behind his desk.

Zuri Radebe, formally dressed and adorned with a dusk coat emblazoned with the Agency's logo and looking dapper and nerdy in cat eye glasses, sits across the desk nervously.

DR CALEB DHLAMINI

(warmly, with professional demeanor)

Zuri, your exceptional work on the Ermelo conservation project is impressive.

ZURI

(nerves shifting into a beam)

Thank you, Dr Dhlamini.

DR DHLAMINI

(serious tone)

I have concerns about Nova Africa's involvement. Their biodiversity conservation methods in eMalahleni are questionable.

ZURI

(curious)

What do you mean, sir?

DR DHLAMINI

(with a hard look at Zuri)

Their environmental impact assessments are flawed. I suspect they're bribing some of our officials to overlook violations.

Zuri's expression turns determined.

ZURI

(firmly)

We should investigate, sir.

DR DHLAMINI

(cautiously)

Be cautious, Zuri. Nova Africa have very deep pockets. They won't  
hesitate to silence us.

Zuri nods nervously.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. BATHROOM.

Dr Dhlamini's words echo in Zuri's mind as she stands before the  
mirror.

DR DHLAMINI (V.O)

Be cautious Zuri...Nova Africa...

Zuri's expression falls, her eyes reflecting a combination of fear  
and resolve.

FADE OUT

EPISODE 1: SCENE 04 (CONT'D)

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. LUXURIOUS MANSION - DRIVEWAY.

The camera quickly pans over the upscale and modern Nyoni mansion in Bantry Bay, showcasing its grandeur and stunning oceanic views. Two armed security guards stand at vigil with radio pagers and leashed pitbull terriers by their side. An array of luxury vehicles lines the driveway.

Viliami Nyoni stands beside his sleek black Mercedes, his wife Thandolwazi holding his briefcase.

VILIAMI NYONI

(stroking Thandolwazi's hair affectionately)

Injani intombazane?

(How's the girl doing?)

THANDOLWAZI

(measured tone)

Ngitshelwa ukuthi uselulama.

(I'm told she's recovering well)

Viliami's intense gaze settles on Thandolwazi.

VILIAMI NYONI

(low, even tone)

Fathi liyini iphuzu lokummama? Asiphathe i-charity lapha!

(What's the point of inviting her over? We're not running a charity.)

THANDOLWAZI

(meeting his gaze, her voice firm)

Pastor Evelyn uthi uZuri uhlakaniphile. Kodwa ukhathazekile.  
Singasiza.

(Pastor Evelyn says Zuri's brilliant but troubled. We can help.)

Viliami's expression turns cold, skeptical.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly, rude)

Asiwadingi amagesi e-Khayelitsha's lapha.

(We don't need Khayelitsha's gas-lighters here)

THANDOLWAZI

(persistent, hint of frustration)

Ngicela, Ukhozi. Usuku lwakho lokuzalwa. Isenzo esincane.

(It's your birthday. A small gesture.)

Viliami's rude voice cuts her off.

VILIAMI NYONI

(voice rising)

Angifuni abantu engingabanzi abahlupa emzini wami. Baletha idrama.

(I don't want troubled strangers in my house. They bring drama.)

Thandolwazi's face registers humiliation.

THANDOLWAZI

(subdued)

Hhayi, Viliami. Ngiyabuzwa. Kahle, phila. Noma yini oyithandayo.

(Fine, I hear you. Whatever you want.)

Viliami regains his composure, his tone softening.

VILIAMI NYONI

(retrieving his briefcase)

Ngizoba late namhlanje ebusuku. Ngizothatha indiza ngibheke

Mpumalanga.

(I'll be late tonight. I will be taking a flight to Mpumalanga.)

He kisses her cheek routinely and opens the car door.

VILIAMI NYONI

(authoritatively)

Lalela, shayela THE VOICE ubenze bahoxise leyondaba.

(Listen, call the Voice, get them to retract that story)

Thandolwazi nods, subdued, her expression a mix of disappointment and concern.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 1: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. BASEMENT PARKING LOT. NOVA AFRICA MINING AND ENERGY HEADQUARTERS.

The camera pans over the modern architecture of Nova Africa Mining and Energy headquarters in Cape Town Metropolitan city before descending into the basement parking lot with access control systems.

Dr Viliami Nyoni steps out of his impressive black Mercedes, briefcase in hand, amidst the rows of luxury vehicles. The soft glow of fluorescent lights reflects off the polished cars.

VILIAMI NYONI

(answering phone)

Pravin...

(PRAVIN PATHER is a seasoned and elderly Indian businessman, who is the executive deputy chairperson of Nova Africa Mining and Energy)

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O)

(distinct Indian accent)

Viliami, we have a problem. The Minerals agency is pushing for a forensic audit into our eMalahleni operations.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Who is driving this?

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O)

It's unclear, but our contacts suggest it's a co-ordinated effort from the top. There's growing pressure to increase transparency in the mining sector.

(pauses, hesitates)

...And Dhlamini's sudden passing has raised eyebrows.

VILIAMI NYONI

(pauses, tone darkening)

That's unfortunate. But unrelated.

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O)

(cautious)

Viliami, your wife was involved. The coincidence is too glaring. Some are suggesting foul play.

There is a brief, tense silence. Viliami glances backwards to check his surroundings, the sound of his footsteps pounding on the concrete floor.

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O) (CONT'D)

Viliami...are you there? The agency says it has credible evidence of suspicious transactions.

VILIAMI NYONI

(scoffs)

What transactions?

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O)

(hesitant)

Allegations of embezzlement and bribery... our close ties with Minister Gumede and the recent Exploration Fund scandal has ...opened a can of worms...

VILIAMI NYONI

(interrupting)

No, Pravin. The agency made recommendations not policy.

PRAVIN PATHER (V.O)

(persistent)

We can't ignore this, Viliami. Our investors are nervous. The audit could jeopardize our mining licenses.

VILIAMI NYONI

(confidently)

Dhlamini's report is political, not judicial, Pravin. No obligation to let them in.

Pravin's concerns remain, but Viliami's confidence and reassurance remains unwavering.

VILIAMI NYONI

(authoritatively)

I'll put CLOETE and his legal team on standby...just in case the Hawks start stalking...

He lets out a cynical smirk, locks his car remotely and walks toward the elevator. The doors slide open revealing a gleaming steel interior with the Nova Africa Mining and Energy logo showing subtly. Viliami steps inside confidently and the doors close behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 1 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1.**

**EPISODE 2: "FRACTURED BONDS"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE - COMMUNITY ROOM.

The room is abuzz with activity. Young women, all dressed in bright orange T-shirts and black caps with "SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES" emblazoned on them chat and laugh as they work on various crafts. Some are weaving baskets, others painting ceramics, and a few are sewing colorful fabrics.

PASTOR EVELYN KOFI, a warm and nurturing figure in her middle ages, stands at the front of the room, surveying the young women's craft projects, guiding them.

PASTOR EVELYN

(warm-heartedly)

Ngiyabona abanye benu basazabalaza nalobu buciko bobuciko.

(I see some of you are still struggling with the whole "craftsmanship" thing.)

She steps towards Zuri, monitoring her rookie's basket craft.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

Zuri... kubukeka sengathi ubhasidi wakho udinga uthando oluthe xaxa

(It looks like your basket needs a little more love)

The girls giggle and Zuri, with a visible healing scar above her left eyebrow, smiles sheepishly.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

Kodwa ngokungathi sina amatombazane, isihluthulelo sobuciko obuhle ukubekezela nokunaka imininingwane.

(In all seriousness girls...the key to a good craft is patience and attention to detail...)

As Pastor Evelyn speaks, the door to the Community room opens and Thandolwazi Nyoni walks in with an aide, poised and elegant. The township girls are awed and mesmerised by her commanding presence and celebrity status.

THANDOLWAZI

(smiling warmly)

Pastor Evelyn, thank you for having me. I'm honored to support the incredible work being done here.

Pastor Evelyn smiles warmly, her eyes immediately darting between Thandolwazi and Zuri.

PASTOR EVELYN

(warmly)

Thandolwazi, sibonga kakhulu ngokuseseka kwakho.

(We're so grateful for your support)

Thandolwazi's eyes lock onto Zuri as she is shown around by Pastor Evelyn and a mix of emotions exchange between their eyes.

THANDOLWAZI

(cordially)

Ngizele ukuzokweseka ukululama kweZuri's mathupa. Ngiyazi ukuthi izinyanga ezimbalwa ezedlule bezinzima kangakanani kuye.

(I've come to support Zuri's recovery personally. I know how difficult the past few months have been for her)

Thandolwazi's voice shakes slightly as she talks to Zuri.

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

(with empathy)

Losing Dr Dhlamini was...a tragedy. He was a phenomenal man.

ZURI

(courteously)

Ngiyabonga, Mrs Nyoni. Ngiyawazisa isenzo somusa.

(Thank you. I appreciate the kind gesture)

THANDOLWAZI

(warmly)

I want to help you, Zuri. I want to support your recovery and ensure you get back to your work quickly.

Zuri's eyes never leave Thandolwazi's face.

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

(addressing Pastor Evelyn)

Today...I pledge my Foundation's full support to Khayelitsha Safe House, ensuring all these remarkable young women receive the empowerment they deserve.

The room erupts into applause. Zuri smiles, her initial unease fading.

FADE OUT

EPISODE 2: SCENE 02

FADE IN

INT. DAY. UPSCALE SEASIDE RESTAURANT.

The soft glow of polished wood, subtle hum of conversation and clinking glasses envelope the room. Jaysen Nyoni, dressed in casual elegance sits across JABU, sipping a glass of amber scotch. JABU is a charismatic and dreadlocked urban guy who exudes confidence and affluent lifestyle. He savours a burger and fries with a glass of soda.

JABU

(scoffing, voice laced with disdain)

I'm seeing something you're not seeing here. uTinashe ukufake ngaphansi kwesilingo sakhe.

(Tinashe's got you under her spell)

JAYSEN

(defensive, his voice low)

Yini inkinga yakho naye?

(What's your problem with her?)

Jabu leans back in his chair, a cynical smirk spreading across his face.

JABU

(coarsely)

For starters, she's a scandalous slay queen...unfit for home consumption.

he takes a quick sip of his drink.

JABU (CONT'D)

For crying out loud Jaysen... that girl made a viral sextape with a Nigerian superstar and still you want to wife her!

Jaysen sips his juice contemplatively and Jabu wipes the grease from his lips with a napkin, his eyes glinting with amusement.

JABU (CONT'D)

Look Jay...she came from nothing, slept her way to the top. Now she's milking you dry, calling for a telenovela wedding just to spite her celebrity exes!

Jaysen's face darkens as he shifts in his seat.

JAYSEN

(uncomfortable)

Akulungile lokho, Jabu. uTinashe wasebenza kanzima.

(That's not fair. She's worked hard.)

Jabu chuckles, the sound low and mocking.

JABU

Wasebenza kanzima kuphi? All that girl does is spend time in the mirror. Social media's got her number. Everyone knows she built her brand on... (pauses, searching for the right derogatory words)

Jaysen raises his hand and stops him.

JAYSEN

(frustrated)

Enough, Jabu. You don't understand my real problem. The fitness center is struggling. I'm drowning in debt.

He sips his whisky in frustration.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

Angicabangi ukuthi ngingakwazi ukuxhosa umshado.

(I don't think I can fund the wedding)

JABU

(rude, gesturing with his burger)

Of course Tinashe's your real problem. Her expensive tastes are bleeding you dry. And the only option you'll soon be left is to jump off a building before the wedding day.

JAYSEN

(contemplatively)

Ngizothola okuthile ukuze ngiphumelele.

(I'll figure something out to make things work)

JABU

(stark tone)

Time to wake up, Mr Charmer. Your dad's money and your family's influence are her real attractions. That Zimbo girl loves the soft life. Don't be blinded.

JAYSEN

(defeated)

I don't know man...

JABU

(firmly, places a hand on Jaysen's shoulder)

Look Jay...why are you asking the clock to do what a decision can do? You're in a financial mess, bra. Drop the wedding for now. Go back to your pa and ask for forgiveness. He will bail you out.

Jaysen's eyes drop as he considers the advice. He gazes outside the restaurant, the sound of the sea nearby mingling with the hum of patrons.

Suddenly, Jaysen's phone buzzes on the table. He glances at the screen, his eyes showing discomfort.

JAYSEN

(with panicky eyes)

Ngidinga ukuthatha lokhu, sorry.

(I need to take this)

He sighs warily as he gets up, leaving JABU watching him with a mixture of concern and curiosity.

FADE OUT

EPISODE 2: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PASTOR EVELYN'S OFFICE.

Pastor Evelyn, poised and calculating, sits at her desk, scrutinizing some financials with SEYI OKORO, a well-muscled, chubby chap in his 30s with well-groomed features who is the house administrator. The gentle chatter and laughter of young women in the background create serenity.

SEYI OKORO

(Nigerian accent)

I have short-listed ten girls for the Eduaid scholarships, Ma. Just as bishop requested.

PASTOR EVELYN

(her eyes locked on the report)

I can see our scholarship initiative is gaining momentum with the community teenagers. The number of applicants exceeded expectations.

SEYI OKORO

(handing her a file, looking upset)

Bishop Gilbert said you should vet the girls yourself. I thought that was my job...but I have been thoroughly directed to hand over everything to you.

PASTOR EVELYN

(composed, sensing SEYI'S frustration)

Bishop knows your current...problems, Seyi. I'll make the necessary arrangements...as per his instructions.

Just then, MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA, widely considered a cult figure in South African apartheid history and radical politician, bursts in unannounced. His walking Zulu cane taps against the floor, a hint

of a limp accompanying his confident stride.

He exchanges a bloodshot look with Seyi full of unspoken threats as they pass each other in the office.

PASTOR EVELYN

(her eyes sparkling with intrigue)

MP TSHABALALA...the legend himself in living colour.

MP TSHABALALA

(arrogance lacing his tone)

EVE of God, Hayi bo! Umsebenzi wakho womphakathi uyakuthaza. Icishe ikhuthaze njengemihlatshelo yami...

(Your community work inspires. Almost as inspiring as my own sacrifices.)

He gives an insincere, scornful laugh followed by some troubling deep cough.

PASTOR EVELYN

(appreciative)

Ngiyabonga, MP Tshabalala. Ukwesekwa kwakho kusho lukhulu kithi.

(Your support means a lot to us)

MP TSHABALALA

(flattered)

Hhayi, hayi bo...ngimuntu wabantu. Izimpande zami zihlala kubantu.

(I am a man of the people. My roots are always with the people.)

MP Tshabalala's demeanor suddenly transforms to business-like, his voice taking a more sinister tone.

MP TSHABALALA

(menacing tone, low voice)

Iprojekhti iyachuma. Kodwa angithembi loya mfana wakho oSeyi...

(The project is moving smoothly. But I don't trust that Nigerian boy  
of yours)

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

Ukukhala kwakhe nxazonke kungabeka yonke into engcupheni.

(His nosing around could jeopardize everything)

PASTOR EVELYN

(discreetly)

Ungakhathazeki ngaye. Ngizomphatha.

(Don't worry about him. I will handle him.)

It's my job to make sure our interests remain...protected.

The tension between them is palpable, the air thick with unspoken secrets. Their cryptic exchange hints at a hidden human trafficking scheme, with the absentee bishop Gilbert as their handler.

MP TSHABALALA

(with a gangster smirk)

uGilbert wangitshela ukuthi amantombazane aselungile?

(Gilbert told me the girls are ready?)

He grins greedily.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

Zonke ezinhle kakhulu.

(All the finest ones)

PASTOR EVELYN

(uncomfortable)

Yebo, Tshabalala. Ngikethe eziyishumi kodwa uZuri akayi ndawo.  
Usadlule ezintweni eziningi.

(I've selected ten girls but Zuri's not going anywhere. She's been  
through a lot.)

MP Tshabalala nods slowly, his intimidating glance at Pastor Evelyn  
piercing and chilling.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

(firmly)

That girl belongs to me, Tshabalala. Kodwa ngithole ozongena  
esikhundleni esifanele.

(But I found a worthy replacement.)

Let's just say our partners will be pleased with the selection.

MP Tshabalala stands, his ornate Zulu cane thumping against the  
floor.

MP TSHABALALA

(coldly, menacingly)

Bheka ukuthi bahlale banelisekile.

(See that they remain satisfied)

FADE OUT

EPISODE 2: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

EXT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION.

The grandeur of the Nyoni mansion looms, its lights casting an eerie glow across the driveway. Jaysen's luxury SUV crunches up the gravel, the sound of the distant barking dogs and swashing ocean waves echoing through the night air like a warning.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. LIVING ROOM.

Thandolwazi, composed and dignified in a silk night gown, stands by the window, her gaze fixed on Jaysen as he enters. The air is thick with tension.

THANDOLWAZI

(voice low and even)

Jaysen, sidinga ukukhuluma.

(We need to talk)

Jaysen's eyes scan the impressive living room, his gaze settling on the whiskey decanter before returning to Thandolwazi.

JAYSEN

(voice laced with resignation)

Yini, Ma Thando?

(What is it?)

THANDOLWAZI

(voice carefully measured, expression concerned)

Uyihlo ukhathazekile nguwe, Jaysen.

(Your father's worried about you)  
Jaysen's demeanor looks sceptical.

JAYSEN

(his tone biting)

Ukhathazekile? Mayelana nani? My addiction? My past?

THANDOLWAZI

(calmly)

Ngilalele, Jaysen. Izinkathazo zikayihlo ziyiqiniso.

(Listen to me. Your father's concerns are valid.)

uMasego nesixuku sakhe siyiqembu eliyingozi. Akubona abantu  
okufanele uzihlanganise nabo.

(Masego and his mob are a dangerous crew. They're not people you  
should be associating with.)

JAYSEN

(defiantly)

Kahle...ufana nomfowethu kimi. Uyena wangivikela ejele.

(He's like a brother to me. He's the one who protected me in prison)

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly, a hint of sarcasm)

Yebo. Ngoba uyena owakuthola kwasekuqaleni.

(Yes...because he's the one who got you there in the first place.)

She pauses sensitively, a distant knowing smile across her lips.

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

Jaysen, ubaba wakho uyena owakuvikela kulawo maqembu ezimayini.

(Your father is the one who protected you from those mine gangs)

Futhi wasebenzisa izinsiza zakhe ukuze akubayisele ekhaya uphephile.

(And he used his resources to get you back home safe)

JAYSEN

(tone full of bitterness)

Wangivikela from the beast that he created? Noma wavikela idumela lakhe?

(Protected me? Or protected his reputation?)

Thandolwazi shakes her head in empathy but slowly regains her composure and looks at Jaysen with a softened expression.

THANDOLWAZI

(gently)

Ngijabule wena noTinashe...siyaxhuma kabusha.

(I'm glad you and Tinashe are...reconnecting)

Jaysen's face remains guarded.

JAYSEN

(his tone neutral)

Yebo...sisebenza kukho.

(Yeah. We are...working on it.)

Thandolwazi's face breaks into a warm smile.

THANDOLWAZI

(warmly)

Jaysen, Tinashe ukuthathalela ngokujulile. Ungampushi.

(Tinashe cares about you deeply. She's been a rock for you even when you were at your lowest. Don't push her away.)

Jaysen's gaze settles on Thandolwazi, a glimmer of hope in his eyes.

JAYSEN

(softening)

Ucabanga ukuthi uyena ngempela?

(You really think she's the one?)

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

Yes, Jaysen. I do. Regardless of her past mistakes...she's good for you. We're all supporting the resumption of the wedding plans.

Jaysen's face relaxes, a small smile playing on his lips.

FADE OUT

EPISODE 2: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Tinashe sits beside Viliami Nyoni looking ravishing in a designer suit and heels. They sip fine scotch on the plush couch, the amber liquid glowing in the dim light.

TINASHE

(seductively)

Your business acumen is unparalleled, Ukhozi. Congratulations on your new milestone as South Africa's official richest black man. Move over Patrice...

The two make a toast with a hearty chuckle. Viliami Nyoni's eyes gleam with calculation as he savors his scotch, his formal demeanor relaxed.

VILIAMI NYONI

(leaning back on the couch, relaxed)

Futhi wena, Tinashe unomsebenzi oyingqayizivele wokuxoxisana.

(And you, young lady, possess a unique negotiating craft.)

One that's proven invaluable to my interests.

Tinashe's smile falters and she takes another sip with a hint of guilt.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

(voice low, persuasive)

I must confess, I underestimated your...bargaining skills. You're a worthy distraction. Amehlo ami nezindlebe.

(My eyes and ears)

And who knows...maybe very soon, my right-hand daughter-in-law?  
Viliami chuckles at his own sarcasm but Tinashe's eyes flash with  
discomfort and she forces a smile.

TINASHE

(cautiously)

One does what's necessary to get to the top, Ukhozi.

Viliami's lustful gaze roves on Tinashe's great body and beauty, his  
voice taking on a sudden intimacy.

VILIAMI NYONI

(low authoritative voice)

Ngicabanga ukuthi siyezwana. Sobabili siyakwazisa ukubaluleka  
kwamalungiselelo azuzisanayo.

(I think we understand each other. We both appreciate the value  
of...mutually beneficial arrangements.)

Tinashe's iPhone buzzes on the coffee table, breaking the sexual  
innuendoes and tension. She glances at the screen, her expression  
shifting.

TINASHE

(nervously)

Excuse me.

She reads Jaysen's text, her fingers trembling.

JAYSEN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Hey beautiful. Missing you. Where u @ ?

Tinashe types back, her eyes darting towards Viliami Nyoni nervously.

TINASHE (TEXT MESSAGE)

Hey LOVE. MISS U MORE. JUST WRAPPING UP A SHORT MEETING. WILL CALL  
YOU SOON. I.L.Y. XOXO. \*KISS EMOJI\*

Viliami Nyoni's intimidating gaze stays on Tinashe, his features

menacing.

VILIAMI NYONI

(unamused)

Ngicabanga ukuthi yisikhathi sokuthi sicacise imigomo yohlelo  
lwethu. Akunjalo?

(I think it's time we clarified the terms of our...arrangement. Don't  
you?)

Tinashe looks fearful and she sets her glass down, her hand shaking.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

(his tone menacing)

You see, Tinashe, I've invested a great deal in you. And I expect  
a good return on that investment.

Tinashe's face pales, and she nods faintly in fearful submission.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 2 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU S1.**

**EPISODE 3: "TOXIC ASSETS"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NOVA AFRICA MINING AND ENERGY HQ.

The modern boardroom is filled with tension as Dr Viliami Nyoni, Pravin Pather, Mr Wang Li and Mrs Vilakazi face off against Advocate CHRISTIAN CLOETE, a handsome and confident middle-aged white male whose senior partner of CLOETE AND SMITH law firm. On his side sits Advocate DINEO, a feisty looking young woman with attractive features who is Cloete's assistant.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with professional demeanor)

Advocate Cloete, what's the ministry's stance on our carbon footprint in eMalahleni?

CHRIS CLOETE

(clears throat respectfully)

Sir, the Department of Resources rejected our proposals to expand Plant B... citing gross negligence and ecological devastation.

He passes a sheet of paper to each board member, starting with Viliami who scans it with a stern face.

CHRIS CLOETE (CONT'D)

As you can see, they've filed an urgent petition for us to halt the project until further notice.

PRAVIN PATHER

(irritated)

This is unexpected. I thought you assured us our compliance was solid.

CHRIS CLOETE

(defensively)

We followed all due procedures, Mr Pather. But...the late Dhlamini's Responsible Mining Audit exposed our...inefficiencies.

PRAVIN PATHER

(accusingly)

What do you mean you followed all due procedures, Cloete? Apparently it's not good enough. And you are telling us we pay your law firm hefty legal fees to give us this!

He throws the paper on the table in exasperation.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with solid calm)

Enough, Pravin. Cloete, what's our strategy to counter this set back?

CHRIS CLOETE

(relieved)

Thank you, sir. We have written to the ministry, demand our constitutional right to continue operations...as a tax-compliant entity and critical sector of the economy.

ADVOCATE DINEO

(emphatically)

And we've emphasized our measures to mitigate environmental impact in our expansion program.

MRS VILAKAZI (C.O.O)

(skeptical)

And what about the other issue? The Kleinfontein villagers?

The two lawyers exchange an uneasy look.

ADVOCATE DINEO

(uneasily)

We are still negotiating with the leadership of the community trust, Mrs Vilakazi...about the displacement perks. Minister Gumede's subpoena to NCop is complicating the negotiations. Parliament wants an independent commission to broker the deal.

VILIAMI NYONI

(frustrated)

And now the Hawks will likely interfere, grandstanding about corruption.

ADVOCATE DINEO

(cautiously)

Sir, their concerns aren't entirely unfounded. The Resources Inspectorate says we should address legitimate issues...it's us who displaced the villagers from their homeland without upfront compensation.

VILIAMI NYONI

(curtly)

Their zealotry will cripple our economy. Contain this, Cloete. Ensure we're prepared for the Hawks' involvement.

CHRIS CLOETE

(obliging)

Yes, sir. We can't let them bully us.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Advocate Dineo, I want a comprehensive report on the negotiations with the village elders by tomorrow. I want names and faces of whom we're up against.

ADVOCATE DINEO

(scribbling in her notepad)

I will get right on it, Dr Nyoni.

CHRIS CLOETE

(cautiously)

Sir, I should warn that Dhlamini's post-humous audit is quite damning if it sails through. We'll need to be strategic in our expansion into the restricted reserve area...and grazing lands.

Cloete pauses and looks honestly at Viliami.

CHRIS CLOETE (CONT'D)

That part of eMalahleni is a no go area...politically and culturally. (chuckles mirthlessly) The legend of the "Mfolozi's Vein"...unexplained tunnel collapses and equipment malfunctions and mysterious breakdowns.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with a dark tone and menacing look at Cloete)

I am not concerned with that myth, Cloete. I'm much concerned about the public perception on this land crisis. Elections are round the corner.

PRAVIN PATHER

You're right, Nyoni. We need to control the narrative. Tshabalala's intensified his media onslaught against you because of this crisis!

VILIAMI NYONI

(with cold menace in his tone)

Leave Tshabalala to me, Pravin. I'll take care of him.

The executives and lawyers exchange uneasy glances, the tension in the room palpable.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 3: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES BACKYARD.

The camera pans over the vibrant streets of Khayelitsha, showing kids playing soccer, vendors selling fresh produce, and locals chatting on the sidewalks. The sound of Amapiano beat drifts through the air, adding to the lively atmosphere.

Zuri settles into a woven chair at the backyard, her injured leg spread on a cushion for comfort. AYANDA, a lively "genzie" young adult and LOYISO, a transgender and gay female who retains some masculine characteristics begin locking Zuri's hair, their fingers moving in tandem.

AYANDA

(with a hint of frustration)

Yazi, Zuri, ukube nginobuchopho obufana nobakho ngabe angikho la.

(You know, if I had a brain like yours, I wouldn't be here)

AYANDA (CONT'D)

Babaketha kanjani abawine imifundaze noma kunjalo?

(How do they even select the scholarship winners, anyway?)

LOYISO

(exhibiting LGBTQ mannerisms)

(baritone voice)

Yeka ukukhala uAyanda. Awuboni uSeyi ekhetha amantombazane awathandayo.

(Stop whining. Can't you see Seyi chooses girls he's smashing!)

ZURI

(skeptical)

Angazi, bafo. Angikwazi ukubeka umunwe wami kuyo kodwa kukhona something's fishy lapho.

(I don't know, guys. Can't put my finger on it but there's something suspicious there)

AYANDA

(low, conspiratorial voice)

Ngike ngezwa amahlebezi...uyazi ngobhishobhi Gilbert nomshana wakhe Seyi...

(I have heard rumours...about bishop and his nephew, Seyi.)

ZURI

(curious)

What rumours?

AYANDA

Ukuthi uma sebekuthethile...ba...uya...zi...balindele umusa.

(That once they select you...they expect...favours.)

LOYISO

(skeptical)

Kuthiwani uma kuyinhlebo nje?

(What if it's just gossip?)

ZURI

(concerned)

Kuthiwani uma kuyiqiniso? Mhlawumbe kuzomele sikhulume namantombazane alandwe uSeyi.

(What if it's true? Maybe we should talk to the girls who got picked by Seyi)

AYANDA

(scoffs)

Futhi ucabanga ukuthi bazolivuma ihlazo? Okwenzeka eKhayelitsha  
kuhlala eKhayelitsha.

(You think they would admit the scandal? What happens in Khayelitsha  
stays there.)

The girls chuckle.

ZURI

(wincing)

Khululeka kimi uLoyiso. Uyazi ukuthi ngisazolimala ekhanda.

(Take it easy on me. I'm still nursing head injuries.)

LOYISO

Ngiyaxolisa, chomi.

(I'm sorry)

The conversation shifts to Thandolwazi's recent visit to the girls'  
home.

AYANDA

Unenhlanhla Zuri. Kubonakala sengathi ishwa lakho lingase libe  
isibusiso ngokufihla. Now you're mingling with some very high people.

(Lucky you, girl. Seems your misfortune might be a blessing in  
disguise)

LOYISO

(skeptical)

Wazi kanjani ukuthi we Thandolwazi unenhloso efihliwe? Kuthiwani  
owesifazane olungile wendodana yakhe elahlekile?

(How do you know Thandolwazi's kindness has a hidden motive? What  
if she's looking for a good woman for her spoiled step son?)

ZURI

(smirks, gasps playfully)

Hayi bo! I'm not even Jaysen's type. He dates models and celebrities.  
Ngaphandhle kwalokho, intombi yakhe, Tinashe, yinhle kakhulu.

(Besides, his girlfriend, TINASHE, is super-hot)

AYANDA

(firmly, teasingly)

Gosh that's you, Zuri. You like to believe that good things can't  
happen to you...

LOYISO

(gesturing animatedly)

Yes we all know Tinashe's drop dead gorgeous kodwa ukanawo ubuchopho!

(But she doesn't have the brains)

LOYISO (CONT'D)

(doubling down)

And nothing says role model like Tinashe's scandalous past. Talk of  
her viral adult movie with a Nigerian playboy...

(she smirks gayishly)

LOYISO (CONT'D)

I'm sure Cape Town's most eligible bachelor will have to think twice  
about wifing a girl who gets whacked like that in front of the cameras!

The girls burst into laughter.

AYANDA

(teasingly)

Futhi mhlawumbe isipetho sizoxhuma iCinderella bachelorette yami  
nePrince Jaysen futhi simbonise ukuthi ushoda ngani.

(Maybe fate will connect my Cinderella bachelorette with her prince  
Jaysen and show him what he is missing)

ZURI

(shaking her head with a blush)

You guys are impossible!

Ayanda and Loyiso high five each other enjoying Zuri's teasing over Jaysen. Zuri looks away, her heart racing with the possibility of meeting with Jaysen Nyoni someday.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 3: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. UPSCALE RESTAURANT.

The cameras pan across the luxurious dining area. Trendy urban-pop music plays subtly in the background, blending with the clinking of glasses and soft laughter of affluent patrons.

Tinashe and Thandolwazi, impeccably styled in designer outfits and trendy shade glasses, sit at an elegantly set table, enjoying cocktails and hors'd'oeuvres. The camera highlights the intricate patterns of the expensive china and sparkle of statement diamonds on both pretty ladies.

TINASHE

(with a hint of frustration)

I need your help, auntie Thando. Jaysen's fitness center is struggling. He's deeply in debt. I don't know if the wedding will go on.

THANDOLWAZI

(probing)

How bad is it?

TINASHE

(frustrated)

He's hiding it from me, but I think he's bankrupt. I'm worried sick. Thandolwazi's expression turns sympathetic, but her gaze drifts off, her thoughts elsewhere. She takes a sip of her cocktail, the ice clinking against the glass.

THANDOLWAZI

(absent-minded)

Tinashe, to be honest, I'm not sure this'll be the best time to ask.  
I have got my own...demons begging for my soul.

TINASHE

(probing gently)

Kwenzenjani, auntie Thando? Ubukeka uphaphathekile.

(What's wrong? You look...pale.)

THANDOLWAZI

(exhales)

It's Dr Dhlamini's homicide enquiry. And the media won't let it go.  
The trolls...it's relentless. I feel suffocated.

Tinashe's expression softens, her voice empathetic.

TINASHE

(supportive)

You're in a toxic space, auntie Thando.

Icala, ukucuthshungulwa ngokobulili, ubuvila bezopolitiki.

(The guilt, the sexist scrutiny, the political vitriol...it's  
unfair.)

Thandolwazi regains her composure. She changes the subject.

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

Ngimeme uZuri ukuthi azokhuluma emcimbini omusha wokwethulwa  
kwesizinda sikagesi...if it gets the green light.

(I've invited Zuri to speak at the new power launch)

TINASHE

(skeptical)

Hhayi...Zuri...you mean...

THANDOLWAZI

(nodding firmly)

Yes, the environmental activist.

Ngivakashela emzini wakhe wesonto eKhayelitsha.

(I took a visit to her church home in Khayelitsha)

TINASHE

(dismissive)

Ungumuntu nje, auntie Thando? Angasilethelani etafuleni?

(She's just a nobody. What could she possibly bring to the table?)

Thandolwazi's expression remains calm, but a hint of authority creeps into her voice.

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

uZuri unomlayezo onamandla.

(Zuri has a powerful message.)

She has been fighting for environmental justice in all spaces. Her voice matters...and it's good for Nova Africa's P.R.

Immediately, a charming waiter approaches, stars truck. He comes and kneels before the table.

WAITER

(reverential)

Ngiyaxolisa ukuphazamisa izintokazi. Kuyilungelo ukukusebenzela emzini wethu.

(Sorry to interrupt, ladies. It's an honor to serve you in our house.)

I'm a huge fan of you both. Could I get a selfie?

Tinashe and Thandolwazi exchange amused glances.

TINASHE

(laughing)

Of course.

The waiter hands Tinashe his phone and they pose together, smiling.  
After the snapshot, the waiter beams.

WAITER

Ngiyabonga makhosikazi.

(Thank you, ladies)

As he walks away, TINASHE and THANDOLWAZI share a playful glance.

TINASHE

(teasingly)

For a moment, I thought he wanted to propose.

THANDOLWAZI

(laughing)

Ngicabanga ukuthi ulwenzile usuku lwakhe.

(I think you have made his day)

TINASHE

(laughing)

Mhlawumbe unyaka wakhe!

(Maybe his year)

The scene fades to black as they share a light-hearted chuckle.

EPISODE 3: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Viliami Nyoni, sits behind his imposing mahogany desk, desk phone pressed to his ear. The city skyline stretches beyond the glass, a breathtaking view of towering skyscrapers and bustling streets. The distant hum of traffic outside creates a soothing background.

VILIAMI NYONI

(into phone)

Global lithium markets are doing very well...tell them we won't budge on the price. We're not desperate.

The door opens, and Jaysen Nyoni enters, looking uncertain. Viliami's eyes rove towards him, then back to the conversation.

VILIAMI NYONI (into phone) (CONT'D)

I don't care if they're representing Elon Musk... I've better offers from China and India. Fine. Walk away.

He hangs up and swings his chair, his expression unreadable as he leans back.

VILIAMI NYONI

(curtly)

Jaysen.

JAYSEN

(hesitant)

Father...

Tension hangs in the air like a challenge. A large portrait of the "Black Eagle" (Ukhozi olumnyama) shows in the background; the Nyonis' proud totem and ancestral name. Jaysen's eyes drift to his father's proud photo smiling between President Trump and Mr Elon Musk in the Oval Office. His gaze finally lands to the family photo on Viliami's

desk, his late mother, NTOMBI, smiling warmly.

JAYSEN

(bitterly)

Ngisadlala isithombe sikamama, ngiyabona.

(Still displaying Mother's picture, I see.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(cautiously)

Ungaphinde uvakashele okwedlule ndodana.

(Let's not revisit the past, son.)

Jaysen's emotion rises.

JAYSEN

Awukaze uphinde uvakashele okwedlule baba. Usanda kulingcwaba.

(You never revisited the past, Father. You just buried it.)

Viliami's expression softens, regret etched on his face. He rises from his chair, his eyes locking onto Jaysen.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Ngiyazi bengingekho kuwe ngemuva kokudlula kukamama wakho. Kodwa ngiyazama manje.

(I know I wasn't there for you...after Ntombi's passing. But I'm trying now.)

JAYSEN

(intensely)

Awukho baba.

(You are never there, Father)

The room falls silent, the tension deepening.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with a hint of desperation)

Jaysen, ngicela. Nguwe wedwa indodana yami. Asiqale kabusha. Umndeni  
uza kuqala.

(Please, you are my only son. Let's start anew. Family comes first.)

JAYSEN

(breaks down emotionally)

The...fitness center...it's struggling. I'm...bankrupt.  
Viliami's expression transforms, relief washing over him.

VILIAMI NYONI

(embracing him)

Siyoyiqeda ndawonye ndodana.

(We will get through it together, son.)

He looks at Jaysen with a hopeful face.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

I have a fantastic opportunity for you. Heading our new power plant  
in eMalahleni.

JAYSEN

(relieved, grateful)

Ngiyabonga baba. Lokho kusho konke.

(Thanks, Father. That means everything.)

Viliami smiles, his eyes warming.

VILIAMI NYONI

(reflectively)

Inkhumbulo kamama wakho...no Tinashe kade bephusha ukuthi  
sibuyisane.

(Your mother's memory...and Tinashe, have been pushing for us to reconcile.)

JAYSEN

(smiles slightly)

Oh, Tinashe...ngicabange kanjalo.

(I figured as much)

The tension dissipates, replaced by a tentative understanding.

VILIAMI NYONI

(holding Jaysen's shoulders, their eyes locking)

Welcome back, son.

Ngifuna sibeke ithimba lethu lamathegi akudala futhi asabekayo  
Ukhozi.

(Let's put up our vintage Ukhozi tag-team)

JAYSEN

(with family pride)

Yebo baba, sizoyenza.

(Yes we will...boss!)

Viliami extends his hand with a satisfied smile and Jaysen takes it, sealing their fragile truce. The camera lingers on their clasped hands.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 3: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri's bedroom is a humble sanctuary, filled with inspirational quotes and photos on the walls. A poster of the iconic Nelson "Madiba" Mandela hangs above her head with the caption: 'NO EASY WALK TO FREEDOM', showing. A framed black and white picture of Zuri with her late grandmother sits on her nightstand.

Ayanda is soundly asleep in her own bed and the room is dimly lit, with only a sliver of moonlight peeking through the curtains.

Zuri tosses and turns, her face contorted in anguish. She's trapped in a nightmare.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT. ABANDONED HIGHWAY.

Dr Caleb Dhlamini's ghostly apparition emerges from the darkness, eyes filled with sadness. The wind whispers through the desolate landscape, carrying the faint vision of smoke and ash.

DR DHLAMINI

(voice echoing, serious face)

Zuri, angibanga nalo ithuba lokukutshela.

(I didn't have a chance to tell you.)

Zuri's eyes widen as Dr Dhlamini hands her a worn leather-bound folder. The cover is embossed with a strange 'eye' symbol written bold numbers and the pages seem to rustle with an otherworldly energy.

An unidentified man in black with an invisible face wrestles Dr Dhlamini, pulling him back from behind.

DR DHLAMINI (CONT'D)

(stifling for breath as the unidentified man whisks him away)

Landela imali...veza iqiniso...

(Follow the money...expose the truth.)

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri jolts awake, gasping. Sweat drips from her face. Ayanda, wearing a skimpy night attire, switches on the room lights and rushes to Zuri's side.

AYANDA

(full of concern)

Zuri, ukuhle?

(Are you ok?)

Zuri gasps for breath and words.

ZURI

(nervous)

Dr Dhlamini...he came to me.

AYANDA

(comfortingly)

Kuyiphupho elibinje. Uphephile.

(It's just a nightmare. You're safe.)

ZURI

(horror filled)

It felt so real, Ayanda. He wanted to tell me something...but he was being silenced.

Ayanda wraps a reassuring arm around Zuri. As they hug, Zuri notices the curtain flapping ominously at the window.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Viliami Nyoni sits back in his chair, exhaustion and wariness etched on his face. His large screen 'Apple' desktop displays horrific pictures of the road accident that killed Dr Caleb Dhlamini along the N4 Highway. The headline on the news blog reads "MINES INSPECTORATE CHIEF PERISHES IN MYSTERY CRASH". Viliami looks at the screen for a moment analysing the carnage with a hint of reflection.

His phone rings, shrill and insistent. Viliami Nyoni answers, his voice laced with anxiety.

VILIAMI NYONI

Nyoni...

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

(gravely)

Viliami, ucabanga ukuthi umcebo wakho owathole ngendlela engafanele kanye namandla akho angakuthengela isihlalo ePhalamende.

(You think your ill-gotten wealth and influence can buy you a seat in parliament?)

VILIAMI NYONI

(unfazed, leans back in his chair)

Sibusiso, siyizikhova zasebusuku sobabili. Wazi kangcono - my financials are just one aspect.

(We are both night creatures, you should know better)

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

(sneering)

They call you a self-made man...Ihlazo elingaka kubantu bakithi...ukubingelela umgulukudu ogqoke isudi njengawe.

(What a great shame amongst our people to honour a gangster in a suit like you)

VILIAMI NYONI

(scoffs)

Ufunani?

(What do you want?)

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

Uzenzele ingcebo ehlazisayo ngokuxhaphaza lezi zisebenzi ezishibhile.

(You've made a scandalous fortune exploiting this country's cheap labour and mineral resources)

MP TSHABALALA (V.O) (CONT'D)

Kodwa awazi ukuthi kusho ukuthini ukusebenzela isizwe ngokweqiniso.

(You've no idea what it means to truly serve the nation with honor.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(dismissive)

We've heard the rhetoric, Tshabalala. You are a relic of the past. The country needs fresh direction.

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

(anger rising)

Uzothuliswa Nyoni. I-party vanguard ngeke ibuke abantu aba dayisayo nabakhohlisayo njengawe ukuduna umzabalazo wenkululeko!

(You will be silenced. The Party will not watch sell-outs and political impostors like you hijack the liberation agenda.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Angehli emjahweni umakuyilokho ongcicela ukuba ngikwenze.

(I'm not stepping down from the race if that's what you're asking

me)

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

(menacingly)

Ngiyakwazisa ngengamanje.

(I'm putting you on notice right now)

VILIAMI NYONI

(scoffs)

You think your targeted lobbying will take me down, Sibusiso?

MP TSHABALALA (V.O)

(coldly)

Ujabulele umbuso wakho ngenkhathi usekhona, Viliami.

(Enjoy your fossil empire while it lasts.)

We will see how you fare when Nova Africa is stripped of its mining licenses and litigated into oblivion.

The line goes dead. Viliami puts his cellphone on the table, his eyes looking bloodshot and burning with determination. He pours himself a glass of scotch.

VILIAMI NYONI

(whispers to himself as he gulps down the glass)

Lethe.

(Bring it on)

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 3 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 4: "CRACKS IN PARADISE"**

SCENE 01

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. DINING ROOM.

The opulent room glows with warm golden light, crystal chandeliers casting magnificent hues across polished marble. Soft jazz drifts through the air, mingling with the sounds of laughter, clinking champagne glasses, and the subtle scent of expensive perfumes.

The Nyoni family and several polished guests gather around an elegantly set table, adorned with fine china and a magnificent centerpiece of fresh flowers.

Thandolwazi Nyoni, resplendent in shimmering crimson, sits beside Viliami, her diamonds jewellery glinting in the light. Jaysen sits closer, sharing tender glances with Tinashe who look stunning in a sexy mini dress that accentuates her curves.

Pastor Evelyn and her team including Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso are well-dressed in modest elegance and exchange polite smirks with the affluent hosts. JABU and Pravin Pather are amongst the polished guests.

A magnificent birthday cake, adorned with candles and edible gold is wheeled in. Applause erupts on the table as Viliami Nyoni rises, champagne in hand.

VILIAMI NYONI

(poised and polished in a suit and crisp white shirt without a tie)

Namuhla ebusuku sigubha ngaphezu nje kosuku lwami lokuzalwa.

(Tonight, we celebrate more than just my birthday)

Sihlonipa ukuqina kwemindeni yethu.

(We honor the resilience of our family)

THANDOLWAZI

(smiling pleasantly, touching Viliami's arm)

Nothando olusihlanganisayo.

(And the love that holds us together)

Viliami warms to the moment, his eyes locking onto Thandolwazi.

VILIAMI NYONI

Thandolwazi, my love, your survival in that horrific accident was  
a miracle.

He pauses briefly, a solemn moment of reflection weighing across his  
face.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

Emva kokulahlekelwa ingane yethu yesibili kwaphinde kwaphuphunyelwa  
yisisu angazi noma isindile yini ngaphandle kwakho.

(After losing our second child into yet another...miscarriage, I  
don't know if I'd have survived without you by my side.)

The whole table murmurs a sweet "ooh" chant with Thandolwazi's eyes  
misting in deep emotion. Viliami's gaze shifts to Jaysen.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

Nakumfana wami omuhle, Jaysen wamulelekile ekhaya.

(And to my handsome boy, welcome back home)

I'm sure Ntombi would be proud to see us reunited.

JAYSEN

(smiling with heartfelt pride)

Ngiyabonga, Ukhozi.

Viliami raises his glass and the room falls silent.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

Eziqalweni ezintsha.

(To new beginnings)

Futhi ekuchumeni okwengeziwe nasekuqhubekeleni phambili  
kwempumelelo yozalo lwethu.

(To more prosperity and the continued success of the Ukhozi dynasty)

The whole table toasts in unison, the sound of clinking glasses and  
laughter filling the air. Viliami's eyes land on Zuri as he sits at  
the head of the table.

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

I'd like to acknowledge my wife's new friends...Pastor Evelyn and  
her team of stunning young women from Khayelitsha Safe home.

Tinashe makes a subtle face.

VILIAMI NYONI

Zuri ngitshelwa ukuthi ungumhloli wezimayini okhaliniphile  
onothando lokusindisa imvelo.

(Zuri, I'm told you're a brilliant mining inspector with a passion  
for saving the planet?

There is a minor roar of chuckles at Viliami's dry sense of humour  
at Zuri. Their banter is playful but foreshadows serious future  
events.

ZURI

(with modest humility)

Hhayi amazwi ami, Dr Nyoni.

(Not my quote)

VILIAMI NYONI

(teasing)

Kahle ngiyajabula ukuthi ulapha uluze ungigcine ezinzwaneni zami.

(Well I'm glad you are here to keep me on my toes.)

I have one question for you? Iyiphi ingxenye eyinselele kakhulu yomsebenzi wakho?

(What's the most challenging part of a person who inspects miners?)

Zuri smiles politely, embarrassed by the spotlight put on her unexpectedly.

ZURI

(with a good-humored small laugh)

Abanga ukuthi bangaphezu komithatho.

(I'd say it's dealing with stubborn executives who think they are above the law...)

A few guests are awed by the blunt response. There is a brief tense silence which Viliami quickly dissolves with his dry sense of humour.

VILIAMI NYONI

(humours back)

Hayi, ngicabanga ukuthi ngiyabazi abambalwa balapo buphathi.

(I think I know a few of those executives. Buy me a whistle and I will blow it for you anytime I get to meet them)

The whole table roars into appropriate laughter with Viliami's sarcastic irony.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 4: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION.

The luxurious living room is aglow with warm, golden light. Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso lounge on plush white couches, sipping cocktails and laughing together. The sound of jazz music floats through the air, mingling with the hum of conversation.

LOYISO

(animatedly)

Ngiyathanda uma abantu bengibuza, ukhomba kanjani? Futhi ngiyathanda, ngizikhomba njengomuntu olambile...futhi futhi njengomuntu!

(I love when people ask me, How do you identify? And I'm like, Uh, I identify as hungry...and also as a human being!)

The girls erupt into laughter again, their joy infectious. Jaysen enters with a glass in hand, his charming smile and athletic body commanding attention from the girls.

AYANDA

(whispering to Zuri)

He's like a snack. Usemhle ngisho eduze.

(He's even more cute up close.)

JAYSEN

(charmingly)

Ngiyaxolisa ukuphazamisa izintokazi.

(Sorry to interrupt the fun, ladies...)

AYANDA

(clears throat as she nudges Zuri mischievously)

Mmm...not at all.

Thandolwazi appears with Pastor Evelyn just on time.

THANDOLWAZI

Nangu uJaysen. Ngifuna uhlangane no Zuri. Uzobe ethula inkulumo  
yosuku emcimbini wokwethulwa.

(There you are Jaysen. I want you to meet Zuri. She'll be giving a  
keynote speech at the launch.)

JAYSEN

(smiling warmly)

Ngijabulela ukukwazi. Ngiyaxolisa ngengozi.

(Nice to meet you. I'm sorry about the accident.)

But I can see you are recovering pretty well.

As Jaysen shakes hands with Zuri, a spark of chemistry passes between  
them.

ZURI

(smiling affectionately)

Nami ngiyajabula ukukwazi, Jaysen. Ngiyabonga ngezifiso ezinhle.

(Nice to meet you, too. Thanks for the good wishes.)

LOYISO is shown fanning herself comically in excitement whilst AYANDA  
is explicitly thrilled as she winks at Zuri subtly and downs her own  
cocktail.

Tinashe strides in, confidence radiating, her mini dress looking  
impeccable. She locks her arms on Jaysen territorially, her gaze  
settling on Zuri with contempt.

TINASHE

(sarcastic, disdainful)

Oh, finally, The Green Vixen is here. Ngizwa uzokwethula inkulumo

emcimbini wokwethula. Ethandeka kanjani.

(I hear you'll be participating at our launch. How adorable.)

ZURI

(unfazed)

Iyathandeka? Ungacabanga ukuthi inxusa lomkhiqizo we- Nova Africa lingaqonda ukubaleleka kokusi mama nokugcina imvelo iphephile.

(Adorable? You'd think Nova Africa's brand ambassador would understand the importance of keeping our environment safe)

Tinashe's smile is icy, her voice dripping with condescension.

TINASHE

(dismissively)

Oh ngiyakuqonda kakhulu sithandwa. Umbuzo uwukuthi ingabe unalo ithonya ukuze kwenzeke.

(I understand it very well sweetheart. The question is doing you have the influence to make it happen?)

This is not some third-grade podcast aired in some shanty backyard in Khayelitsha! It's the big league girlfriend.

ZURI

(hitting back with composed sarcasm)

Lowo umehluko wethu, ngiyacabanga.

(That's our difference. I guess.)

I don't need Instagram likes or carefully placed selfies to influence what I believe in. My work is based on genuine passion and not superficial posturing.

Thandolwazi intervenes, her voice calm, conciliatory.

THANDOLWAZI

(diplomatic)

Ah mantombazane ami abathandekayo, ake sigcine ingxoxo ilula.

(My dear girls, let's keep the conversation light.)

We're all here to celebrate Ukhozi's birthday.

Jaysen is visibly embarrassed by Tinashe's belligerence, but his eyes never leave Zuri's face.

JAYSEN

(smoothly)

Ngicabanga ukuthi sonke singavumelana kulokho.

(I think we can all agree on that)

Tinashe's face registers displeasure, her eyes promising future menace to Zuri. The room is filled with tension, making everyone around uncomfortable.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 4: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. GRAND FOYER.

The lavish party has wound down, leaving only a handful of close friends and associates mingling in the grand foyer. Soft jazz playing Miriam Makeba's classic

"Pata Pata" song drifts through the air.

Viliami Nyoni, sipping his scotch with commanding presence, walks towards Zuri who's standing alone by the picture gallery, admiring the Nyoni family's milestone achievements and heirlooms.

VILIAMI NYONI

(warmly, standing behind Zuri)

That's me and my first wife, Ntombi...at Jaysen's graduation at Stanford University, California. Umfana othandekayo akunjalo?

(Lovely boy isn't he?)

Zuri turns around with her walking crutch, her eyes locking straight onto Viliami with a hint of embarrassment.

ZURI

(courteously)

Yebo...ngiqonde ukuthi yisithombe esihle impela.

(Yes he is...I mean it's quite a beautiful picture.)

And happy birthday, Ukhozi.

Viliami acknowledges with a soft nod, his eyes dancing mischievously on Zuri.

VILIAMI NYONI

(confidently)

I have been looking forward to discussing your invitation by my wife to the Nova Africa launch. Mhlawumbe singakwenza lokhu ngesinye isikathi?

(Perhaps we could do this sometime soon?)

Zuri's smile remains courteous, but her eyes betray a hint of wariness.

ZURI

(diplomatic)

Unomusa kakhulu lowo, Dr Nyoni.

(That's very kind of you)

Nginama phrojekthi amaningi okumele ngiwaqedele ngaphambi kokuthi ikhefulami lokugula liphele.

(My hands are tied. I have plenty of projects before my sick leave expires.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(probing)

I've been meaning to ask, Radebe...do you have any insight into Dhlamini's so-called Project 2030? Ngiyazi ngokuqiniseki ubuyingxenywe yabafundi bakhe.

(I know for sure you were part of his graduate trainees.)

Zuri's eyes register discomfort.

ZURI

(cautiously, measured tone)

Only what's been publicly released, Dr Nyoni. That project is classified to top leadership only and the Minister's office.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with a menacing tone)

I've heard rumours the government is crafting a policy, using that document, to push for stricter regulations and cut fossil exports?

Zuri's eyes remain guarded.

ZURI

(firmly)

Dr Dhlamini's intentions were pure, Dr Nyoni.

I think his work will speak for itself.

The air is thick with tension as Viliami throws a bloodshot glance at Zuri, his eyes full of suspicion.

VILIAMI NYONI

(with subtle threat)

Ngizazisa ukwethembeka ngaphezu kwanoma yini enye kunoma ubani odla etafuleni yami.

(I value loyalty to anyone who shares a meal at my dining table)

Viliami flashes an insincere wry smile and turns away from Zuri. Zuri is left looking after him with a spine chilling sensation of his parting words.

FADE OUT

EPISODE 4: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION.

The grand mansion shines with breathtaking lights. Soft jazz fills the air from a distance. Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso admire the incredible home as they walk around admiring as they prepare to leave.

AYANDA

(with awe)

Ubonile ukuthi ingubo kaThandolwazi yayimangalisa kanjani? Ngisho u Khanyi Mbau ngabe wafela leyo ngubo.

(Did you see how stunning Thandolwazi's gown was? Even Khanyi Mbau would have killed for it)

As they move around, Jaysen and Tinashe's argument escalates nearby and the girls pause, listening.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. GRAND FOYER.

TINASHE

(shouting, frustrated)

Jaysen, I don't understand why you're being so stubborn. It's the fashion week in Joburg and you know we have to show up!

JAYSEN

(adamant)

Tinashe, I'm not flying to Jozi for one event! I've got prior commitments. And honestly, ngicabanga ukuthi wukumosha imali.

(i think it's a waste of money)

TINASHE

(anger rising)

Uhlala ukhansela izinhlelo! Ungamane uchithe isikhathi sakho ulungiselela izinkulumo naleyo ntombazane eshibhile obuconsa amathe ezikhathini ezedlule!

(You're always cancelling plans! You would rather spend your time preparing speeches with that cheap girl you were drooling over moments ago!)

JAYSEN

(defensive)

Ukhuluma ngani?

(What are you talking about?)

She's not even my type!

TINASHE

(skeptical, confrontationally)

Oh, kanti iluphi uhlobo lwakho ngempela, Jaysen?

(And what's your type exactly, Jaysen?)

JAYSEN

(trying to calm Tinashe, soothingly)

Uyalwazi uhlobo lwami, sithandwa sami.

(You know my type, baby)

He locks his eyes on Tinashe intimately.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

Someone with class. Not some...nobody from the wrong side of town.  
Nguwe kuze kube sekupheleni noma ungalokothi.

(It's you till the end or never.)

CUT TO:

Zuri's eyes drop with humiliation as she and her friends overheard everything. Ayanda and Loyiso exchange concerned glances.

AYANDA

(whispering with bitterness)

Isikathi sokuhamba.

(Time to leave)

LOYISO

(dragging Zuri)

Asambe, chomi. Lo mkhathi uba nobuthi.

(This atmosphere is getting toxic)

They exit the grand mansion discreetly.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. PASTOR EVELYN'S CAR.

Pastor Evelyn drives, her eyes fixed on the road. Zuri sits beside her, staring out the window absent-mindedly.

PASTOR EVELYN

(concerned)

Zuri, sweetheart, ngiyazi ulimele. Sonke sizwe uJaysen elwa noTinashe ngenxa yakho.

(I know you're hurt. We all overheard Jaysen's fight with Tinashe over you)

ZURI

(curtly)

Ngiyaphila, Ma.

PASTOR EVELYN

(gently)

Ungakuvumeli lokho okushiwo yilo mfana kufinyelele enhhliziyweni yakho.

(Don't let what that cheese boy said get to your heart)

ZURI

(emotional, wiping a stream of tears)

Angifuni, Ma.

(I won't)

PASTOR EVELYN

(knowingly)

Ngashada nomdeni ocebile waseNigeria. Abantu abacebile bayinkimbinkimbi.

(I married to a rich Nigerian family. Wealthy people are...complicated.)

Jaysen is a spoiled son of a billionaire father. You should understand how he views...the less fortunate.

AYANDA

(teasing Zuri)

Ungakhathazeki ngaye mfundisi. uZuri wathola iziqa zehonours ekuziba abafana abazidlayo.

(Don't worry about her. She's got an honours degree in ignoring arrogant guys.)

LOYISO

(laughing)

And a PhD in walking away from drama!

The girls share a light-hearted laugh with Pastor Evelyn as they drive off.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 4: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. PLUSH BEDROOM.

The lavish bedroom is dimly lit, with soft, golden lighting casting a warm glow. Viliami and his wife, Thandolwazi, share a cosy moment.

They are both dressed down in comfortable silk night attire.

Thandolwazi tries to initiate an intimate play, whispering in Viliami's ear.

THANDOLWAZI

(seductively)

Usuku oluhle lokuzalwa sithanda sami.

(Happy birthday, my love.)

I saved the best present for last.

Both of them laugh out mischievously, Viliami's eyes fixed onto Thandolwazi suggestively. Suddenly, his phone buzzes on the side headboard just as they begin foreplay.

VILIAMI

(irritated)

Not now...

THANDOLWAZI

(teasingly, as she continues the foreplay)

Umhlaba ungalinda. Switch it off.

(The world can wait...but I can't.)

Viliami's gaze peeps upon the screen as he lies under Thandolwazi, his eyes scanning the cryptic text message from "COMMISSIONER"

COMMISSIONER (TEXT MESSAGE)

CD's Homicide enquiry getting complicated. Public Bureau pushing for

second autopsy. Will keep you heads up of new developments.

Viliami's demeanor suddenly changes as he pulls away from Thandolwazi, his face pale and tense. Thandolwazi notices the shift in his mood and her eyes are filled with deep concern.

THANDOLWAZI

(concerned)

Kwenzenjani?

(What's wrong?)

VILIAMI

(tensely, voice low and measured)

It's just business, Thando. Nothing to worry about.

Thandolwazi's gaze settles on Viliami. She knows that he is hiding something, but she's not sure what it is.

THANDOLWAZI

(probing with concern)

Ingabe ohulumeni basongela ngokumisa umsebenzi waMalahleni? Khuluma nami Viliami, ukhathazekile ngokuphikisana kwezakhamuzi?

(Is it the government's threat to halt the eMalahleni project? Talk to me. Are you worried about the villagers' dissent?)

Viliami's expression remains tense, his eyes avoiding Thandolwazi's.

VILIAMI

(dismissively)

Alukho uThando. Ibhizinisi nje elijwayelekile.

(It's nothing. Just routine business)

The tension between them builds, the air thick with unspoken secrets. Thandolwazi's eyes remain fixed on Viliami, searching for answers. Viliami's expression remains guarded.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 4 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGE BENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 5: "PUSHING BOUNDARIES"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NYONI MANSION. DINING ROOM.

Jaysen sits at the dining table, enjoying a bowl of cereal. Viliami sits across from him reading the financial gazette with a stern expression.

Thandolwazi enters the room, looking stunning in a designer outfit that looks official. She appears to be in a hurry for some meeting.

THANDOLWAZI

(kissing Vilami on the cheek)

Morning boys. Ngigijima late kakhulu for the Forbes Woman meeting.

She pats Jaysen on the shoulder.

THANDOLWAZI

(CONT'D)

Good luck with your new role, sweetie. Ngenze ngiziqhenye.

(Make me proud)

Thandolwazi hands her purse to the maid who discreetly takes it and they both exit the room.

VILIAMI NYONI

(approvingly)

uPravin ungitshela ukuthi kade wenza izinqumo ezihlakaniphile muva nje.

(Pravin tells me you've been making some smart decisions lately)

JAYSEN

(guarded)

Ngiyabonga baba.

(Thank you)

VILIAMI NYONI

(puts paper down, serious)

Manje ngiyazi ukuthi uzimisele ngokuba luhlaza ngesithalo esisha.

(I know you're keen on going green. But let me tell you, son, fossil fuels are the lifeblood of our economy)

JAYSEN

(nods reluctantly)

Ngiyazi baba ukuthi nje ngiyanaka okushiwo ososayenzi.

(I'm aware, dad. It's just... I'm listening to the scientists as well)

VILIAMI NYONI

(scoffs)

Ungalingitsheli ukuthi uthenga kuwo wonke lo global warming hoax?

(Don't tell me you buy into this whole global warming hoax?)

As a top business leader, you need to be pragmatic, not idealistic.

JAYSEN

(firmly)

But Father...don't you think we have a responsibility to consider the environmental impact of our operations? Thousands of families were unfairly displaced by our expansion...and the biodiversity consequences are heavy.

Viliami's expression turns cold, his voice low and menacing.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Ake ngicacise intoleyodwa insizwa.

(Let me make one thing clear, young man.)

In the mining industry, you're either the explorer or the exploited.  
Uma ufuna ukuba umhloli wamazwe udinga ukuthatha izinqumo azinzima.

(And if you want to be the explorer you need to be willing to make  
the tough decisions.)

The scene fades to black with Viliami's words hanging in the air like  
a warning to Jaysen's ideals.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PASTOR EVELYN'S OFFICE.

Pastor Evelyn Kofi's office is a cosy, warmly decorated space filled with inspirational and scriptural books, artwork and comfortable furniture. Zuri enters, looking a bit uncertain.

PASTOR EVELYN

Zuri, abe nesihlalo.

(Have a seat)

PASTOR EVELYN

(serious tone)

Ndodakazi yami kade ngicabanga ngekusasa lakho. Ubushoshova bakho bezemvelo buzuza amandla futhi lokho kuyinto enhle.

(My daughter, I've been thinking a great deal about you and your future. Your environmental activism is gaining traction...and that's a good thing.)

ZURI

(guardedly)

Thank you, Ma

PASTOR EVELYN

Kodwa futhi kusho ukuthi udonsa ukunakwa kubantu abanamandla okungenzeka bengenazo izintshisekelo zakho ezinhle enhlizyweni yakho.

(But it also means you're attracting attention from powerful people who may not have your best interests.)

ZURI

(determined)

Angesabi, Pastor. Ngiyazi ukuthi ngilwelani akhukho lutho lomunto  
siqu.

(I'm not afraid. I know what I'm fighting for. It's nothing personal.)

PASTOR EVELYN

(smiles thinly)

Ngiyazi uyakwenza. Kodwa kwesinye isikathi kuyadingeka ukuthi kube  
ngamasa.

(I know you do. But sometimes it's necessary to be strategic.)

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

Ngengoba ukhula uzofunda ukukhetha izimpi zakho ngobuhlakani.

(As you grow up you'll learn to choose your battles wisely.)

ZURI

(confused)

Usho ukuthini kahle, Ma?

(What do you mean exactly, Pastor?)

PASTOR EVELYN

(leans back in her chair)

I mean that the Nyonis are our friends and important partners to this  
ministry. Bangicelile ukuthi ulinganisele ekukhulumeni kwakho.

Bafuna ukugwema noma iyiphi impikiswano.

(They have asked me to remind you to be...moderate in your speech  
at the launch. They want to avoid any...controversy.)

ZURI

(disturbed)

But Ma, Mrs Nyoni invited me knowing fully what I represent. They  
know my mind about Nova Africa's gross environmental violations and  
degrading labour exploitation?

PASTOR EVELYN

(smirks with subtle irritation)

Zuri, we all understand your work and passion. But sometimes it's necessary to compromise. Like I said, It's crucial to work within the system to create the change you want.

ZURI

(skeptical)

Kodwa Ma, angiqiniseki ukuthi ngiyavuma.

I'm not sure I agree.

I think sometimes it's necessary to challenge the system...to push boundaries and take risks.

PASTOR EVELYN

I know you do, Zuri. And I admire that tenacity and conviction about you. But for now let's just focus on getting through this launch without any...incident.

(Pastor Evelyn smiles wryly.)

PASTOR EVELYN CONT'D

Ungangenzela lokho?

(Can you do that for me?)

Zuri nods reluctantly, a look of disappointment on her face.

PASTOR EVELYN

(smiling mirthlessly)

Ngangazi ukuthi ngingathembele kuwe. Kodwa okwamanje ake sigone isandla somusa somgane wethu.

(I knew I could count on you. You will have your chance to speak truth to power. But for now, let's embrace our friends' hand of kindness.)

Zuri nods faintly again, a sad smile on her face.

FADE TO BLACK

EPISODE 5: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NOVA AFRICA CONFERENCE ROOM.

The room is filled with employees of Nova Africa Energies, some in business suits and others in orange worksuits and white hard hats, all chatting and laughing. Jaysen, dressed in a suave business suit, enters the room accompanied by Pravin Pather and Mrs Vilakazi, a top executive at Nova Africa. The chatter dies down. All eyes are on Jaysen.

PRAVIN PATHER

(smiling broadly, with professional demeanor)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to welcome back Mr Jaysen Nyoni, young Ukhozi, who has been duly appointed by the board as the new C.E.O of our eMalahleni Supernova Power Station.

The room erupts in applause as Jaysen smiles and waves. Several female colleagues can't help but stare admiratively at him.

PRAVIN PATHER (CONT'D)

I'm sure you all know what Nyoni Junior brings to the table. Through his wealth of firsthand experience and expertise...we are confident he will lead our biggest coal plant to even greater heights.

Jaysen steps forward, a confident smile on his face.

JAYSEN

(with solid confidence)

Thank your sheikh Pravin.

(Pravin laughs off the nickname shaking his head with amusement.)

Ngiyabona obeningi bobuso obudala.

(I can see a lot of old familiar faces)

I'm honored to be back at Nova and to be leading this huge and ambitious project with such a great team.

(he pauses, smiles as he receives a brief applause)

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

My vision for our Supernova plant in eMalahleni is based on three things: innovation, sustainability and smart technologies.

Ngikholwa ukuthi singasebenza ngokubambana futhi sizuzele izwe lethu izinto ezinkulu.

(I believe that together, we can achieve great things and make a real difference in our nation)

The room erupts in applause again, with several female colleagues looking at Jaysen with even greater admiration. As Jaysen begins to mingle with the top leadership, a group of female colleagues gather in the corner, chatting and gossiping.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE 1

(with a mischievous, low voice)

Ngiyafunga okushiwo ngamaphephandaba ngaye kuyiqiniso.

(I swear what the tabloids say about him is true...)

Cape Town's most eligible bachelor got that boardroom to bedroom swagger...

The girls erupt into suppressed giggles.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE 2

You are nowhere near his league, Lerato. uTinashe usevele wayihlwitha leyandoda emnandi.

(Tinashe already snatched the cute boy)

FEMALE COLLEAGUE 1

(smirking with notoriety)

Ubani onendaba ngoTinashe umauke wathola umphathi onjalo?

(Who cares about Tinashe when you've got a hot boss like that?)

(she screams lowly with sexual innuendo)

Ngikhona Jaysen...be my baby daddy ocebile!

The girls erupt again into stifled chuckles.

The camera pans back to Jaysen who is smiling and shaking hands with his leadership, oblivious to the admiring glances.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri sits on her bed, wearing a "Green Vixen" T-shirt and a pair of denim shorts. She wears a pair of nerdy glasses that gives her an aura of intellectual sophistication. She types away on her laptop, her eyes scanning the screen intently.

The camera zooms in on the laptop screen, showing a document titled "PROJECT 2030 MASTERPLAN": REFORMING NATIONAL MINING FRAMEWORK. The document is filled with charts, graphs and statistics, outlining a comprehensive plan for a green energy revolution.

ZURI (V.O)

Dr Dhlamini's energy masterplan outlines a plan to transition South Africa to green energy by 2030. Isifiso sayo kodwa kungenzeka.

(It's ambitious but it's possible.)

As Zuri continues to read, the camera cuts to a flashback news clip of Dr Dhlamini's ministerial nomination.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

Following the political pressure on embattled Energy minister, Fikile Gumede to step down...analysts say Dr Caleb Dhlamini is tipped to be the next minister of Resources and Energy...He is expected to play a key role in sanitizing the chaotic mining industry rocked by illegal activities and massive corruption scandals...

The camera cuts to a clip of Dr Viliami Nyoni, the powerful executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy, speaking at a press conference surrounded by a group of stern-faced mining plutocrats and executives of mixed ethnicities.

VILIAMI NYONI (ON TV)

(with a stern expression)

We strongly oppose Dr Dhlamini's nomination to succeed Professor Gumede as Minister of Resources and Energy. Dhlamini's radical views on fossil energies will harm our economy and destroy jobs...

CUT TO:

Zuri's face set in determination as she analyses the document.

ZURI (V.O) (CONT'D)

But Dr Dhlamini's nomination was not without controversy. Dr Viliami Nyoni, President of the Allied Coal Miners Federation, fiercely led a consortium of powerful elites to oppose the nomination.

The camera cuts to an online video clip of Dr Dhlamini speaking at a conference, his voice passionate and urgent.

DR DHLAMINI (ONLINE VIDEO CLIP IN ZURI'S LAPTOP)

We will not be silenced by a select few in exposing the truth about the state of our mining industry. We must act now to sanitize the mining industry. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations.

ZURI (V.O) (CONT'D)

I will make sure that Dr Caleb Dhlamini's Masterplan sees the light of day. I will fight for climate justice and for human dignity under those shafts...

The camera zooms out, showing Zuri's determined face.

EPISODE 5: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PASTOR EVELYN'S OFFICE.

Pastor Evelyn sits behind her desk, her expression intense as she listens to her husband, BISHOP GILBERT KOFI based in Doha, Qatar over the phone.

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(Nigerian accent)

Seyi is doing a good job...as always. I need you to take some of the reserve funds in the tithes coffer and advance him a loan as part of his request.

PASTOR EVELYN (into phone)

(upset, disapproving strongly)

Gilbert, you need to talk to Tshabalala to give him more time. I'm not comfortable using church funds to cover Seyi's financial woes.

Futhi kuthiwani ngama hemu hemu engiwezwa ngamantombazane?

(What are these rumours I'm hearing...about the girls?)

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(firmly)

Those are just lies, Evelyn...spread by our detractors! You know I would never do that.

A moment of tense silence passes.

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

How is Zuri?

PASTOR EVELYN

(stiffens, firms her voice)

uZuri uyalulama, Gilbert. Vele ngacacisa ukuthi ngekhe ajoyine lelo qembu.

(I already made it clear she won't be joining that second group)

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(chuckles)

Evelyn my dear, I know you love that girl so much. But don't forget we already bought her for a huge price. I paid off ten beasts to her uncle...TEN!

PASTOR EVELYN

(firm, anger rising)

Akunjalo Gilbert. Isikhundla sami siwujugu. Leyo ntombazane isusiwe.

(No, Gilbert. My position is final. That girl is delisted.)

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(sharp tone)

Suit yourself, then. But don't forget she's already married off to me. Thought we agreed I'd not take her as my second wife. Just recouping my investment.

PASTOR EVELYN

(frustrated)

The girl doesn't even know about this, Gibert!

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(testily)

But she will have to...at some point?

PASTOR EVELYN

This topic is over, Gilbert. I wish...I wish we could just...start afresh.

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(persuasively)

I know. But I promise you, I'm doing this for us. For our financial future.

PASTOR EVELYN

(desperately)

Ngiyawazi uGilbert. Ngiyakukhumbula nje.

(I know. I just miss you.)

BISHOP GILBERT (V.O)

(laughing)

I miss you more, my dear. I will be home soon.

The camera zooms out as Pastor Evelyn hangs up the phone, a mix of emotions on her face.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Jaysen sits behind his desk, looking confident and poised. Pravin Pather, the deputy executive chairman of Nova Africa, sits opposite him, a warm smile on his face.

PRAVIN PATHER

Congratulations again on your new role. I know you're going to do great things.

JAYSEN

Thank you, Pravin. I'm excited to get started.

PRAVIN PATHER

(with a dark tone)

I know you are aware of some of the...sensitive nature of our business practices here...

JAYSEN

(darkens face)

Yes, I've reviewed some of the files...and dad had given me some hints. There are some concerns about...environmental violations.

PRAVIN PATHER

(rises from chair and walks to the wall displaying a group of mining workers on a memorial for fallen colleagues in the 2012 Marikana massacre which he analyses reflectively)

Let me tell you something, son. Your past history with Mashego and those twelve bodies recovered damaged our reputation significantly.

Jaysen drops his eyes, nodding slowly.

PRAVIN PATHER

(takes his seat back with a serious, dark expression)

That episode taught me a lot of hard lessons about how mining works in this country.

JAYSEN

(uncomfortable)

I understand, Pravin. It's a dark chapter of my life... but this is different now. I'm not sure I'm comfortable with...(pauses)...compromising our values like this.

PRAVIN PATHER

(firmly)

I was about to make that point. You need to understand that our "values" are forged in the gospel of profit.

(chuckles mirthlessly)

We do what we have to do for the company. For our shareholders and investors.

Jaysen looks intently at Pravin.

PRAVIN PATHER

(low, measured voice)

You know Jaysen, your father...he is the one who built this company from the ground up. And he's the one who taught me how...mining is a bloody spiritual business! The ground eats before it gives back. A very fundamental principle.

JAYSEN

(musing slightly)

You are the one who went to Harvard, Pravin. Everyone says you are the genius behind his success?

PRAVIN (chuckles first)

No, it's the other way round. They don't just call him the black eagle

for no reason. His vision is brilliant. And he's the reason why Nova Africa is where it is today.

Jaysen nods slowly, his mind racing with the implications.

PRAVIN (CONT'D)

(serious tone)

If you hope to ever succeed this empire one day...you're going to have to develop some steel balls. That's what it takes to run a continental giant like Nova Africa.

JAYSEN

(firmly)

I understand, Pravin.

PRAVIN

(smiling wryly)

You'd better.

The camera zooms out as Pravin exits the office, leaving Jaysen looking conflicted and weighted.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM. (CONT'D)

Zuri sits on her bed, her laptop open. She types away with a look of intense focus. She dials a number on her phone and THABANG'S voice comes through. THABANG is a handsome working colleague of Zuri at the Minerals Agency who is the software engineer.

THABANG (V.O)

Zuri sekunesikhathi, kwenzenjani?

(It's been a while. What's up?)

ZURI (into phone)

(persuasively)

Hey Thabang, I need a favour. I'm working on a report about Project 2030. My access is blocked. Can you link me in?

THABANG (V.O)

(hesitant)

Mmmm chomi, angazi noma ngingakusiza yini ngalokho.

(I don't know if I can help you with that.)

THABANG (V.O)

That project is classified. And I was ordered to ghost all interns by the Iron lady.

ZURI

(persistent)

Thabang, ngiyazi uyangethemba.

(I know you trust me)

You know how much I respected DR CD. Ngizama nje ukuqhubeka nefa lakhe.

(I'm just trying to carry on his legacy)

THABANG (V.O)

(sighs)

Ok, chomi. Kodwa kuzomele ungithembise ukuthi uzoqaphela.

(You have to promise me you'll be careful)

That document is ultra-sensitive. There are people who will stop at nothing to keep it under wraps.

Zuri nods, even though Thabang can't see her. She glances around the room, ensuring she's alone.

ZURI (into phone)

(determined)

Ngiyakwethembisa, Thabang. Ngiyabonga.

THABANG (V.O)

(cautious)

Zuri, ngicabanga ukuthi umnyango wethu ubanjiwe.

(I think the agency has been...captured.)

THABANG (V.O) (CONT'D)

Big corporations on our watch list have a lot of influence over us...of late.

ZURI

(curious, concerned)

Usho ukuthini Thabang?

(What do you mean?)

THABANG (V.O)

The biggest of them all, Nova Africa, they've been making donations,

hiring our people as consultants...kunzima ukwenqaba kubo.

(It's hard to say no to them)

ZURI

(looking wary, with a hint of guilt)

Ngiyabona. Kahle ngiyabonga ukwethembeka kwakho, Thabang. I owe you one.

(I see. I appreciate your honesty.)

The camera zooms out as Zuri hangs up the phone and turns her attention back to her laptop. She types away, her eyes scanning the screen with a look of intense focus.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Jaysen sits at his desk, his computer in front of him. He types away, a look of determination on his face.

CUT TO:

A VERTICAL SPLIT SCREEN, WITH ZURI AND JAYSEN ON EITHER SIDE, BOTH TYPING AWAY ON THEIR COMPUTERS WITH DETERMINED FACES.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 5 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 6: "BROAD WAYS"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. GOLF COURSE.

Viliami Nyoni, Advocate Christian Cloete and Pravin Pather walk along the lush green fairway, their golf clubs slung over their shoulders.

ADVOCATE CHRIS CLOETE

It seems we have a PR nightmare on our hands. Tshabalala has been mobilizing the Municipality and displaced villagers to block our launch.

VILIAMI NYONI

(scoffs)

It's a clever political gimmick. Tshabalala thinks he can earn votes in the election using bleeding-heart politics.

PRAVIN PATHER

If you ask me, I'd say Dhlamini's Project 2030 should worry us most. Insiders say the Minerals Agency have compiled a list of companies targeted for hefty penalties or deregistration. It awaits the President's signing as we speak.

VILIAMI NYONI

(dismissively)

Dhlamini's project is a bunch of ambitious recommendations and empty threats. I say we'll keep negotiations with the villagers open but won't let them stop us.

PRAVIN PATHER

I agree, Viliami. The launch must go ahead...even though it comes with a bruising political fallout on our side.

CHRIS CLOETE

That means I have more work to spin the mass protest to our advantage. Our best shot against Tshabalala's divisive politics is to play the economic card...ensure his far left policies fall on hungry stomachs!

VILIAMI NYONI

Work on it, Cloete. You have all resources at your disposal to open the mouths of those we need on our side. Talk of honour among thieves!

The three men share a crude laugh at the joke, but the tension beneath the surface is palpable.

ZOOM TO:

A CLOSE-UP SHOT OF VILIAMI NYONI'S FACE, HIS EXPRESSION WEIGHTED WITH MOUNTING WOES.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. MINERALS AND ENERGY AGENCY. DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Zuri, smartly dressed in formal and looking debonair, stands confidently in front of Director-General KARIN FOURIE'S massive desk.

DIRECTOR KARIN FOURIE is a sophisticated white Afrikaans woman in her fifties, with a stern and authoritative expression and notorious reputation of strictness and racism. She looks up from the files spread across her desk at Zuri.

DIRECTOR KARIN FOURIE

(firmly)

Zuri, I'm afraid your internship with our agency is no longer available. The Department of public service is reshaping the agency...and we've had to let go some of ours. Junior staff.

Zuri takes a deep breath, her voice shaking with disbelief.

ZURI

(voice shaking)

I... I was assured I'd have my job back after the sick leave?

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(with a poker face)

(Afrikaans) Ek is bang dit het verander.

(I'm afraid that's changed)

ZURI

(tears welling up her eyes)

What about...what about my degree, mam Fourie? I'm in my final year

and I was working towards completing my requirements here?  
Director Fourie leans back in her chair, steepling her fingers.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(objectively)

I understand your concern, Zuri. You'll need to speak with the University about transferring your credits. We can't guarantee your work here under Dr Dhlamini will count towards your degree.

Zuri nods slowly, a stream of disappointment rolling down her cheeks.  
Director Fourie's expression remains neutral.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(firmly)

And Zuri, ek moet jou waarsku.

(I must warn you)

As a former intern of this agency's inspectorate team you're no longer authorized to speak on behalf of this department.

(she looks intensely at Zuri, her blue eyes piercing)

There are rumours that you've been invited to speak at Witbank's Supernova launch?

Director Fourie's eyes become menacing.

DIRECTOR FOURIE (CONT'D)

Laat my duidelik wees.

(Let me be clear.)

You no longer represent this agency. And you must surrender all your project files.

Zuri wipes off her tears with a hint of defiance.

ZURI

I understand the protocol, director Fourie. But with all due respect, I won't be silenced. It's my right to speak out about the issues that

matter to me.

Director Fourie leans forward and puts across an icy smile on her face.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(with a subtle threat)

I'm aware that you've been accessing our server, revisiting Project 2030 Masterplan. I must remind you this project is classified. It's for top management and senior cabinet officials only.

Zuri's eyes widen slightly, her face turning pale. She knows the implications.

ZURI

(nervously)

I... I was just reviewing my old work under Dr Dhlamini.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(sternly)

Ek stel voor jy vergeet dat jy dit ooit gesien het.

(I suggest you forget you ever saw it.)

And that's for your own good, young lady. OK?

The air is thick with tension as the two women lock eyes. Zuri's determination is clear, but Director Fourie's warning is unmistakable.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. NYONIS' DAIRY FARM.

The sun casts a warm glow over the rolling hills of the Nyonis' FAIR MILK DAIRY FARM in Phillipi, western Cape. Viliami Nyoni, looking relaxed in a cowboy hat sits at a beautifully crafted wooden table on the front porch of his farm house enjoying the view. He sips on a glass of scotch.

Thandolwazi sits beside him, wearing an elegant sundress and hat. Jaysen sits on the table with Tinashe, both in elegant casual urban.

In the background, a group of servants can be seen tending to the dairy farm while one worker expertly rakes the hay. A sleek black Range Rover SVA and Toyota Landcruiser Sahara ZX can be seen parked in the distance near the farm house.

VILIAMI NYONI (firmly)

Thando, ngiyazi umeme uRadebe ngenhiziyo enhle. Ekuqaleni ngacabanga ukuthi kuwamqondo omuhle kodwa manje anginankinga.

(I know you invited Radebe on goodwill to the launch. At first I thought it was a good idea but now I'm not so sure.)

THANDOLWAZI

(gracefully)

Yini enshintshile, Ukhozi?

(What's changed?)

VILIAMI NYONI

(gravely)

Umsindo wa Tshabalala mayelana nezakhamuzi zasemakhaya. Konke kuqhuma ebusweni bethu.

(Tshabalala's noise about the villagers, it's all blowing up in our

faces)

VILIAMI NYONI (CONT'D)

(offering his mature whisky)

Akekho ongihlanganisayo?

(Nobody's joining me?)

Tinashe's gaze strays to Jaysen, a hint of guilt in her eyes.

THANDOLWAZI

(with humour)

Mhlawumbe sizodlula sonke ubhiya sihambe siyofuna ubisi.

(Maybe we will pass the scotch and go for the milk.)

They all chuckle appropriately, the tension easing up.

TINASHE

(condescending)

Ngicabanga ukuthi ubaba Ukhozi uqinisile. Umyalezo kaZuri ungase ube isiphazamiso.

(I think Ukhozi is right. Zuri's message might be a distraction.)

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

Angivumi Tinashe. Uyazifela ngemvelo futhi abantu bayalalela.

(I disagree. She's passionate about the environment and people are listening.)

Her "Green Vixen" podcast launched in Khayelitsha is doing very well and she's reached over half a million followers on social media.

Tinashe smirks with jealousy. Jaysen beams distantly.

VILIAMI NYONI

(sternly)

Uyingxenye yeprojekthi ku - Dhlamini ka 2030. Ngeke simethembe.  
(She's part of Dhlamini's Project 2030 masterminds. We can't trust her.)

JAYSEN

(defensively)

Kodwa lokhu kumayelana naye.

(This isn't about her)

Besides, Project 2030 has some merits. It has some forward-thinking opportunities that could shape the future of our company.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

Ngicabanga ukuthi kufanele sixhumane nabantu abafana naZuri ukuze basebenze nathi.

(I think we should engage people like her to work with us.)

As the debate winds down, Thandolwazi turns to Tinashe with a mischievous grin.

THANDOLWAZI

(teasingly)

Tinashe sthandwa sekusele izinyanga ezimbalwa umshado uphele. Uyazi nokusenga inkomo?

(Darling, the traditional wedding is around. Do you even know how to milk cows?)

TINASHE

(laughing)

Ngikhulele eBulawayo city. Angicabangi ukuthi nginganyelwe impilo yasepulazini.

(I grew up in Bulawayo city. I don't think I'm cut for farm life)

THANDOLWAZI

(dragging Tinashe teasingly)

Woza makoti, ngizokufundisa ukusenga inkomo. Ubumnandi bayo obukhulu.

(Come on makoti, I'll teach you how to milk a cow. It's great fun!)

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

(voice fading in the distance)

Owathi ama Supermodels awakwazi ukwenza lokhu!

(Who said supermodels can't do this?)

As the scene fades to black, the sound of soothing laughter is heard as Thandolwazi and Tinashe banter as they head to the barns. Viliami and Jaysen look on speculatively with unreadable expressions upon their faces.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

FLASHBACK. INT. DAY. MINERALS AND ENERGY AGENCY.

Zuri sits at her workstation, signing off some papers. Dr Caleb Dhlamini approaches her whilst holding a coffee paper cup, a warm smile on his face.

DR CALEB DHLAMINI

(jokingly)

Hey Zuri, ngizwa inkampani yeYoga inxenxa abalandeli be United mahhala ukuze babhekane nengcindezi. uThabang, ucabanga ukuthi kufanele ufake isicelo.

(I hear a yoga class is recruiting United fans for free to cope with the stress. Thabang thinks you should apply.)

THABANG

(good-naturedly, as he swings on his chair on the nearby workstation)

Yes, Dr C.D, at least we have someone representing the real Manchester in this agency...just looking out for our neighbours!

ZURI

(teasing back Thabang with subtle sarcasm)

Yeah Thabang, by the real Manchester you mean the one with the most titles ever, right?

DR CALEB DHLAMINI

Umakunjalo angiboni lapho izici- zeLiverpool eziphumelelayo!

(If that be the case I don't see where my all-time successful Liverpool features in this discussion.)

They all laugh appropriately. Dr Dhlamini leans against Zuri's workstation, watching her work from behind.

DR DHLAMINI

(with professional demeanour)

Zuri, I need a favour. We've got a snap executives seminar coming up in eMalahleni, eMpumalanga Province. Ngifuna uhambi nami.

(I want you to come with me)

ZURI

(caught off-guard)

Executives' seminar? Kodwa uDr Dhlamini... ngingumfundi ofunda unyaka wesire nje?

(I'm just...a final year student intern. Am I eligible?)

DR DHLAMINI

(smiles, with a hint of good-spirited sarcasm)

Ngiyabonga ngokungikhumbuza who's the boss here.

(Thanks for reminding me who calls the shots)

Zuri is visibly embarrassed, smirks her face with an unspoken apology. Dr Dhlamini's expression becomes serious.

DR DHLAMINI (CONT'D)

Yingakho ngifuna ukuthi uze.

(That's exactly why I want you to come)

You have got a fresh perspective...and I think you'd really benefit from this experience.

ZURI

(hesitantly)

Angazi mnumzane. Ngenhlonipo ngibe nezinye izinhlelo ngempelasonto.

(I don't know, sir. With all due respect...I had other prior commitments for the weekend.)

DR DHLAMINI

(firmly)

Zuri, you got to trust me this is worth it. All the big guns and environmental minds will be there.

ZURI

(nodding courteously)

OK...thank you, sir. Ngiyalwazisa ukhoho lwakho limi.

(I appreciate your faith in me.)

DR DHLAMINI

(sipping his coffee)

Kodwa, ngibe nephapho elihlanya kakhulu namhlanje ekuseni.  
Ngangiyinkukhu egijima ehovisi ngingenakhanda.

(By the way I had the craziest dream. I was a headless chicken, running around the office)

ZURI

(amused)

Inkhuku engenakhanda? Iphupho elingakanani ngempela.

(A headless chicken? What a crazy dream indeed)

DR DHLAMINI

(laughing it off)

Mhlawumbe kuwuphawu lokuthi imbongolo yami isiguga kakhulu njalo msebenzi!

(Maybe it's a sign that my ass is getting too old for this job.)

As Dr Dhlamini walks back to his office, Zuri can't shake off the feeling that something is off.

DR DHLAMINI

(shouting whilst throwing his paper cup in the trash can like a basketball)

Sizobe sisebenzisa ibhasi lenkampani. Labo abahamba nathi

bangangqonqoza kusenesikathi!

(We'll be using the staff bus, by the way. Those going with us can  
knock off early!)

ZURI

(shouting back)

And Dr Dhlamini...what's the agenda of the seminar exactly?

DR DHLAMINI

(shouting back before he closes his door)

Konke kuhamba kahle intokazi. Ake sithi kuzoba isipiliyoni  
esikhanyiselayo.

(All in good time, young woman. Let's just say it'll be an  
enlightening experience.)

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

FLASHBACK. INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. PLUSH BEDROOM.

Thandolwazi lies in a plush double bed, her head tied in a messy bun, flipping through a glossy fashion magazine. Viliami stands in front of the expansive windows gazing out at the distant ocean.

Thandolwazi sets the magazine aside and snuggles under the plush duvet, watching Viliami as he pours himself another glass of scotch from the crystal decanter on the dresser.

THANDOLWAZI

(concerned)

Uzoguqula isibindi sakho sibe yibhola elithambile le-scotch ngolunye lwalezi zinsuku.

(You're going to turn your liver into a soft ball of scotch one of these days.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(laughing uneasily)

Futhi uzoguqula umzimba wakho ube unodoli wemfashini ngolunye lwalezi zinsuku.

(And you are going to turn your body into a fashion doll one of these days)

Thandolwazi playfully throws a pillow at Viliami who dodges it artfully with a grin.

VILIAMI NYONI

(serious)

Thando, ngidinga ukukucela umuso.

(I need to ask you for a favour)

THANDOLWAZI

(curious)

Kwenzenjani?

(What is it?)

VILIAMI NYONI

(sits beside the bed)

Ngimenyiwe ukuthi ngizokhuluma engqungutheleni yamandla eMpumalanga kodwa ngeke ngikwazi ukuphumelela.

(I've been invited to speak at the summit of energy companies and environmental authorities. But I won't be able to make it.)

THANDOLWAZI

(surprised)

Ini? Kungani kungenjalo?

(What? Why not?)

VILIAMI NYONI

I've got a trip planned to Zimbabwe. I need to check on our lithium project, see how it's moving.

THANDOLWAZI

(nods slightly)

Kulungile.

(OK)

Viliami Nyoni strokes her arm gently, his face looking grim.

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

(supportively)

uPravin yena? Akakwazi ukukumela? Uyi deputy wakho phela.

(What about Pravin? Can't he stand in for you? He's your deputy after all.

VILIAMI NYONI

(firmly)

Hhayi Thando. Ngifuna ungimele.

THANDOLWAZI

(reluctant)

But Viliami, I'm not exactly an expert in the field. Uyazi ukuthi angilungile ngokuma ezingxoxweni.

(You know I'm not good with stand-in speeches.)

VILIAMI NYONI

(confidently)

You're the best person for the assignment, Thando. You know my views, and you can represent me well.

Thandolwazi looks at her husband, sensing that there's more.

THANDOLWAZI

(curious)

Thembeke nami, Viliami. Kungenxa yobudlewano bakho obushubile noDhlamini? Awuncono ukuthi ulungise ubudlewano naye?

(Be honest with me, Viliami. Is it because of your frosty relationship with Dhlamini? Aren't you better off mending relations with him?

Viliami's expression changes, and he looks at Thandolwazi with a cryptic intensity.

VILIAMI NYONI

(metaphorically, poetic)

Ake sithi umoya woshintsho uyavunguza. Uma kufika isiphepho ukhozi olumunyama luhlezi lungoba inyamazane yalo.

(Let's just say the winds of change are blowing. When a storm comes

the black eagle always triumph against its prey.)

Thandolwazi looks at Viliami quizzically, concerned by his poetic words.

THANDOLWAZI

(alarmed)

Viliami, usho ukuthini?

(What do you mean?)

VILIAMI NYONI

(calmly)

Lutho, Thando. Vele ukhohlwe ngisho lokho.

(Nothing. Just forget I said that.)

Thandolwazi looks at her husband, unsure of what to make of his spine chilling words. She snuggles closer to him, feeling a sense of unease.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

FLASHBACK. DAY. MINERALS AND ENERGY AGENCY. ZURI'S WORKSTATION.

The fluorescent lights above cast a gentle glow over the bustling agency. Zuri sits at her desk with a paper cup of coffee analysing some Mining shafts diagrams. The soft clacking of keyboards and muted chatter of co-workers create a soothing background noise.

Zuri picks up her phone and dials Pastor Evelyn's number, her eyes sparkling with tentative excitement. She leans back in her ergonomic chair.

ZURI (into phone)

Ngiyaxolisa kakhulu Ma, ngeke ngikwazi ukufika emhlanganweni wabesifazane abesabasha kusihlwa.

(I'm so sorry, I wont be able to make it to the young ladies meeting this evening.)

PASTOR EVELYN (V.O)

Zuri, my daughter, what's going on? You're always so reliable.

ZURI

(apologetic)

Ngiyaxolisa, Ma. Ngicelwe ukuhambela umhlangano obalukile emsebenzini eMpumalanga. uDr Dhlamini ucabanga ukuthi ngizohlomula kakhulu.

(I'm so sorry, Ma. I have been chosen to attend an important meeting at work. Dr Dhlamini things I'll benefit a lot.)

PASTOR EVELYN (V.O)

Kuhle lokho Zuri. Kodwa ngifuna uqaphele ngane yami. Bengilokhu  
nginemibono ephazamisayo ngawe.

(That's wonderful. But I want you to be careful. I have been having  
some disturbing visions about you.)

ZURI

(concerned)

Hlobo luni lwemibono, Ma?

(What kind of visions, Pastor?)

PASTOR EVELYN (V.O)

Mangithi ngibona izulu elinesi phepho ngaphambili. Kodwa  
ungakhathazeki ngizokuthandazela.

(Let's just say I see some stormy weather ahead. But don't worry,  
I'll pray for you.)

ZURI

(cautious)

Ngiyabonga, Ma.

PASTOR EVELYN (V.O)

Khumbula njenge - intern uyinyama entsha. Qaphela eduze kwamakati  
amakhulu.

(Remember, as an intern your fresh meat. Be careful around the big  
cats.)

ZURI

Ngizoza mfundisi. Ngiyabonga ngesiqondiso sakho.

(I will, Pastor. Thanks for your guidance.)

Zuri hangs up the phone, feeling a sense of purpose. She turns back  
to her work but as she reaches for a file, she accidentally knocks  
over a small container with red ink. The liquid spills all over her  
desk and dusk coat, staining it with a deep crimson.

ZURI

(cursing)

No! Hhayi manje!

(Not now!)

Zuri quickly removes the stained white coat, her hands shaking slightly. She can't shake off the feeling that this is a bad omen. Just then, Dr Dhlamini's secretary, Mrs MOKOENA, a dignified, smart and middle-aged lady, walks in confidently.

MRS MOKOENA

(authoritatively)

Zuri, isikhathi sokupakisha. Staff bus lizobe likulindile ngo 6 sharp.

ZURI

(nervously, panicking)

Kulungile mama Mokoena. Ngizozilungiselela.

(Alright, mam. I'll get ready.)

Mrs Mokoena nods and walks out, leaving Zuri packing up her things ahead of the journey. As she packs her personal belongings, she can't shake off an eerie feeling that something is terribly wrong.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 6: SCENE 07.

FADE IN

FLASHBACK. EXT. DAY. NYONI MANSION.

The camera pans over the oceanic Capetonian views and the state-of-art modern architecture of the Nyonis' luxurious mansion. A sleek black BMW XM is parked in front of the house with a personalized plate "BLACKBIRD". An aide efficiently loads Thandolwazi's designer luggage into the trunk.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. BMW XM.

Thandolwazi settles into the driver's seat, the soft cream leather enveloping her. She adjusts her make-up on the rearview mirror, her eyes scanning the interior of the impressive car.

THANDOLWAZI

(to herself as she applies some lip gloss)

Time to get going blackbird. Mpumalanga here I come...

She presses the ignition button. The big engine roars to life, but the dashboard lights flicker and the brakes check lights illuminate.

THANDOLWAZI

(frustrated)

Nxaa! Anginaso isikathi blackbird!

(I dont have time for your tricks blackbird!)

She mutters under her breath, her eyes narrowing on the electronic dashboard signalling brake fluid attention.

THANDOLWAZI

(irritated)

What's wrong now, blackbird?

(muttering)

I will probably fix this at the gas station...

Her iPhone rings immediately. She answers, her voice laced with irritation.

THANDOLWAZI (into phone)

Hello?

(OLD WHITE LADY) HOTEL MANAGER (V.O)

(distinct British accent)

Good day, Mrs Nyoni. This is Grace Smith from Imali Safari Lodge. I'm confirming your booking, arranged by Dr Viliami Nyoni.

Thandolwazi takes a deep breath, composing herself.

THANDOLWAZI

(calmly)

Ah, thank you, Mrs Smith. I was meaning to call later. You're very...efficient.

HOTEL MANAGER (V.O)

(warmly)

We strive for excellence, Mrs Nyoni. Your customized suite will be ready upon your arrival. It comes with a personal butler. Plenty of good surprises too...courtesy of Dr Viliami Nyoni.

Thandolwazi's gaze drifts off, a hint of a smile playing on her lips.

THANDOLWAZI

(musing)

Oh...and how could I even forget our wedding anniversary is tomorrow? Viliami always was one for details.

She refocuses, her expression composed once more.

THANDOLWAZI

(courteous)

Thank you, I can't wait to get there. I appreciate your gesture.

HOTEL MANAGER (V.O)

Very well, Mrs Nyoni. We look forward to seeing you in the evening.

Safe journey.

Thandolwazi ends the call, her eyes scanning the road ahead. She puts the safety belt in gear and begins to drive off the mansion.

The camera pans out as the impressive BMW XM glides smoothly down the driveway, the sound of gravel crunching beneath the tires.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 6 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 7: "SHADOW PLAY"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri lounges on her bed, dressed to relax but with a hint of wariness on her expression. Ayanda and Loyiso sits on the other bed, Ayanda unlocking her hair and Loyiso painting her toenails.

AYANDA

Chomi, kuzokwenzekani ngepodcast yakho? Are you sure your sponsors wont call?

ZURI

(distracted, sighs)

Angimazi u -Ayanda. Ngizawa sengathi umhlaba uyangicindezela futhi.

(I don't know. I just feel like my world's crushing all over me again. And now that I've lost my job at the agency...I don't know if the podcast sponsors think it's still worth it.

Just then, Zuri's phone rings. She looks at the screen, confused.

ZURI

(muttering)

I don't recognize this number. Kungaba ubanilo?

(Who could this be?)

Zuri answers the phone hesitantly.

ZURI

(cautiously)

Hello?

JAYSEN (V.O)

(confidently)

Sawubona, lo Zuri? Unjani? It's Jaysen.

Zuri sits upright, heart beating fast.

ZURI

(blushing)

Jaysen...bengingalindele ukuzwa kuwe.

(I didn't expect to hear from you.)

JAYSEN (V.O)

I hope I'm not interrupting anything. I was wondering if you'd be available to meet with me? I have a proposal which I think you might be interested.

Zuri looks at her friends, who are watching her and listening with interest.

ZURI

(intrigued)

What kind of...proposal, Jaysen?

JAYSEN (V.O)

I want to explore ways to fuse best practices for the Supernova Power plant. And I think your expertise would be invaluable.

ZURI

Ngingathanda ukuzwa okwengeziwe, Jaysen.

(I'd like to hear more)

JAYSEN (V.O)

Sharp. Kanjani ukuthi sihlangane kusasa ekuseni?

(How about we meet for lunch tomorrow?)

One sharp, the Tavern?

Zuri pauses, considering.

ZURI

(firmly)

O.K, tomorrow one works for me.

JAYSEN (V.O)

Sharp. I'll send a car for you. Looking forward to it.

Zuri hangs up the phone, a mixture of emotions swirling. Her friends exchange a knowing glance before they probe her.

AYANDA

(firmly)

Ngizwe nje uvumelana no Jaysen or what? Umlomo wakho uyagoqa, uphume nawo.

(Did I just hear you agreeing a date with Jaysen or what? Your mouth is curling, out with it.)

ZURI

(skeptical)

Ayikho into enjalo bafo.

(It's nothing of that sort, guys.)

I'm just interested in his business proposal.

LOYISO

(teasingly)

Looks like someone is striking sparks with Mr hot pants again. (she snaps her fingers animatedly)

Kodwa umalowo nondindwa oqhoshayo ephinda ezama ukulubukela

phansi...ngiyafunga ukuthi nginamabhola akhe esidlweni sakusihlwa!

(If that arrogant bitch dares undermine you again I swear I'm having  
his balls for dinner!)

Zuri and Ayanda laugh out. The three ladies share a warm tender hug  
as they sit on the bed with sisterhood camaraderie.

ZURI

(warmly)

Bengizokwenzenjani ngaphandle kwenu bafo?

(What would I do without you guys?)

The girls embrace adorably, leaning on each other.

ZURI

(teasingly)

Noma ubani ozizwa elambile njengami?

Anyone feeling hungry like me?

(The girls playfully raise their hands.)

ZURI

(with mock seriousness to LOYISO)

Kodwa asinawo amabhola kabani ngesidlo sasemini!

(But we are not having anyone's balls for lunch)

The girls laugh out playfully, throwing pillows at each other as they  
leave the room.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

**FLASHBACK.** EXT. DAY. N4 HIGHWAY.

Thandolwazi's BMW speeds down the N4 Highway, the only sound being the soft hum of the engine and the inspirational music drifting from the speakers.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. BMW XM.

Thandolwazi sings along to Ishmael's "Avulekile Amasango", her voice blending with the powerful vocals in a moment of spiritual connection.

THANDOLWAZI

(singing)

Avulekile Amasango...hay hay hay...hey yeah ...hoho Na Na...

As she sings, Thandolwazi's eyes stray to the dashboard camera. Suddenly she notices a car lurking behind her. Thandolwazi checks the camera again, the car following closely and her eyes show panick.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. N4 HIGHWAY.

A mysterious white Toyota Hilux GD6 keeps pace with Thandolwazi's BMW, its speed matching hers.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. BMW XM.

Thandolwazi's grip on the steering wheel tightens as she presses the Google Maps button. The screen displays the route to her destination:  
IMALI SAFARI LODGE, 220 KM away on the N4 route.

THANDOLWAZI

(muttering)

Yini manje lena?

(What's this now?)

she peers on her dashboard camera again.

Ngibambeni uma nikwazi amabhadi!

(Catch me if you can bastards!)

She floors the accelerator, the powerful BMW surging forward in full force. She overtakes two other cars in a split minute, the electronic speedometer climbing fast.

As she drives, she calls Viliami using handsfree phone.

THANDOLWAZI (into handsfree speaker)

Hey, Viliami...uyangizwa?

(Can you hear me?)

The phone goes to voicemail and Thandolwazi's face looks worried.

THANDOLWAZI

(sighing)

Viliami...it's me, Thando. Ngisendleleni eya ezi Imali Safari lodge. Ngicabanga ukuthi kukhona ongilandelayo. Ngicela ungishayeke futhi ngokushesha.

(I'm on my way to Imali lodge. I think someone might be following me. Please call me back as soon as you can.)

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT. N4 HIGHWAY.

It's now dusk and Thandolwazi slows down when she approaches a white

Toyota Quantam staff bus in front of her emblazoned with the Minerals and Energy Agency's logo.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

**FLASHBACK.** INT. NIGHT. TOYOTA QUANTUM.

DR CALEB DHLAMINI, Chief Inspector of the Minerals and Energy agency, sits in the front passenger seat, wearing a company shirt. His colleagues, a group of three lively and chatty individuals, sit behind him. They are all sharing jokes and laughter.

COLLEAGUE 1

(jokingly)

Dr CD, ngizwe ukuthi ama braais akho ayi legendary. Kodwa angiqiniseki ukuthi yini ehlaba umxhwele...ubukhulu beziteki noma usayizi wezindaba ozixoxayo ngenkathi uzipheke.

(I heard your braais are legendary. But I'm not sure what's more impressive - the size of the steaks...or the size of the stories you tell while cooking them!)

The executives break into laughter, enjoying their beer and the ride.

DR DHLAMINI

(laughing)

Ah CHIMELA, I'm not just a braai master, I'm a braai philosopher! Umdala wami used to say nginga braai isiteki ngixoxe indaba ezokuhlekisa, ukhale, uzibuze ukuthi ngiyinyanga yini!

(My old man used to say I can braai a steak and tell a story that'll make you laugh, cry, and wonder if I'm actually a witch doctor.)

The group erupts in laughter again.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. TOYOTA QUANTUM.

Zuri sits quietly in the back seat, wearing bluetooth headphones and vibing to herself as she rests against the window. Mrs Mokoena, Dr Dhlamini's secretary, sits beside her.

MRS MOKOENA

(reflectively)

Zuri, uke waqaphela izikathi ezinhle kakhulu ekuphileni yilezo esingazihlelelanga?

(Have you ever noticed the most beautiful moments in life are the ones we don't plan for?)

She looks at the bright night lights through the window.

MRS MOKOENA

(dreamily)

A sunset on the way home, a good cup of tea on a rainy day...those are the things that make life worth living.

ZURI

(smiling agreeably)

Lokho kuyiqiniso, Mrs Mokoena.

(That's so true, Mrs Mokoena.)

The two smile at each other for the last time as they ignore the coarse banter and laughter by their male colleagues in the front seats.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT. TOYOTA QUANTUM BUS. N4 HIGHWAY.

The driver checks his rear-view mirror, noticing a black BMW SUV personalized "BLACKBIRD" flashing lights behind them.

DRIVER

(subtle comment)

Kubonakaba sengathi Sine-Blackbird beamer esilandelayo. Bayazibuza ukuthi bazama ukuvala isikathi esilahlekile noma bagweme okuthile.

(Looks like we've got a cute beamer tailing us. Wonder if they're trying to make up for lost time...or avoid someone.)

Dr Caleb Dhlamini and his colleagues continue laughing and drinking, oblivious to the subtle comments of the driver.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. UPSCALE RESTAURANT.

Jaysen rushes in, slightly disheveled. He apologizes for being late. Zuri looks up, her eyes meeting Jaysen's. He's dressed in a well-cut suit, his tie perfectly knotted. Zuri looks smart in elegant casual and reading glasses.

JAYSEN

(looking stuffed up)

I'm sorry for being late. Had an urgent meeting with investors.  
(sighs)

It ran longer than expected.

ZURI

(teasingly, a hint of adoration playing in her eyes)

You know what they say...never trust a man who gets late on the first date.

They both chuckle.

JAYSEN

Ngiyathembisa ukuthi ngizofika ngesikathi ngokuzayo.

(I promise to be on time, next time.)

ZURI

(smirks)

Esikhathini esizayo? Ubani owathi kuzoba nesikathi esilandelayo?

(Next time? Who said there'll be a next time?)

Jaysen shrugs with a sheepish smile.

ZURI

(smiling sweetly)

I'm just kidding, Jaysen. Bengilindele ukuthi uhluke.

(I was expecting you to be different.)

JAYSEN

(curious)

Ezhlukene? Usho ukuthini?

(Different? What do you mean?)

ZURI

(teasingly)

Well, ngizwile ukuthi ungu-landi. Kodwa ubonakala uphansi ngempela.

(I heard rumours that you're something of...a narcissist. But you seem really down-to-earth.)

JAYSEN

(laughing, amused)

Mina, i-narcissist? Ungacabanga ukuthi lelo gama lifanelana nomuntu omnyama.

(I don't think that word fits a South African black man)

It could be another presumptive fifty oneth shade of Jaysen by the social media...

They both laugh appropriately, Zuri impressed with his sense of humour.

JAYSEN

(with objective demeanor)

I don't mean to take much of your time. I'm looking for someone to advise me on how to intergrate smart technologies into our fossil driven power plant.

ZURI

(with serious demeanor)

That's a great initiative. I'd be happy to help. But I have to say, I'm a bit surprised that Nova Africa is taking steps towards... sustainability.

JAYSEN

(uncomfortably)

Yes...well, my father is...open to new ideas. I'm sure you can understand our business mainly relies on fossil energy and it's difficult to convince the old school boys otherwise...

Zuri raises her eyebrow, looking deep into Jaysen's eyes.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

(stuttering)

But I'm serious about reducing our carbon footprint...and the health hazards of our workers.

The waiter arrives with their food and as they continue talking, the chemistry between them becomes increasingly evident. They laugh and joke, argue intellectually, their eyes locking in a way that suggests a deeper connection.

CUT TO:

As they finish their meal and prepare to part ways.

ZURI

(smiling sweetly)

Ngiyabonga ngesidlo sasemini, Jaysen. Ngiyijabulele kakhulu myxoxo yethu. Futhi ngofunda okuningi.

(Thanks for lunch. I really enjoyed our conversation. And I learnt a lot.)

JAYSEN

(with a hint of wanting more)

Likewise, Zuri. I learnt a lot too. Would you like us to...do this again? Dinner maybe?

Zuri's eyes meet Jaysen's and for a moment they just stare at each other intensely. The air is charged with tension and Zuri can feel the chemistry between them.

ZURI

(with a sly smile, teasingly)

Ngicabanga ukuthi kufanele sinamathele ebhizinisi kuphela uJaysen. Khumbula ukuthi angiyona i-type yakho.

(I think we should stick to business only. Remember I'm not really...your type.)

Jaysen's expression registers confusion before it dawns on him what Zuri is referring to.

CUT TO:

**FLASHBACK MONTAGE.**

QUICK SHOT: EPISODE 4: SCENE 04.

\*\*JAYSEN ARGUING WITH TINASHE\*\*

CUT TO:

Jaysen shakes his head with a sense of dejavu.

ZURI

(teasingly)

Zishilo usho wena, Jaysen.

(You said it yourself, Jaysen)

I don't belong to your class. You deserve girls who fits into your...priviledged world, I presume?

Jaysen shakes his head sheepishly, as Zuri turns to leave. He watches her go, his eyes never leaving her back until she disappears in the restaurant.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PARLIAMENT BUILDING. CAPE TOWN.

The hearing room is filled with selected Members of Parliament and media personnel. They face the House Speaker's podium where the Republic's Coat of Arms shows in the background. The chairperson of the Minerals and Energy Committee, a dignified and Afro-haired elderly woman with large framed spectacles sits on the vantage chair, flanked by two deputies of elderly and austere stature.

MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA, a decorated apartheid hero, walks in confidently with the aid of an ornate Zulu cane. He wears a yellow and green Party T-shirt labelled ARM (Africa Renaissance Movement) and a fedora hat adorned with an eagle feather.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON

(sternly)

MP Tshabalala, please remove your fedora hat before taking stand in your chamber. Next time you should adhere to the rules. No party regalia was allowed for this session.

MP Tshabalala looks up at the chairperson, a hint of mischief in his eyes. He slowly begins to remove his hat, pausing for comedic effect.

MP 1

(teasingly)

Hey Msholozzi, susa lesa ukuze sibone impandla yakho yematokoloshe!

(Remove that hat so we see your so-called tokoloshe bald)

AFRIKAANS WHITE MP2

(irritated, distinct Afrikaans accent)

Hou op om ons tyd te mors en gaan aan met die besigheid.

(Stop wasting our time Tshabalala and get on with the bloody  
business!)

Madam Chair should have kicked your ass out for wearing that piece  
of regalia!

MP Tshabalala finally removes his fedora hat, revealing an unorthodox  
notorious hair cut that sends the chamber into a rout of laughter.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON

(suppressing a smile)

Alright, MP Tshabalala, please proceed.

Tshabalala takes his place at the microphone, his demeanor shifting  
to the serious business at hand.

MP TSHABALALA

(serious tone, distinct Zulu accent)

Honorable Madam Chairperson, esteemed colleagues, I rise today to  
express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of Nova  
Africa's mining operations deep in eMalahleni reseves.

He pauses, wiping his oily face with a handkerchief.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

As incumbent MP of the Nkangala district affected...this project not  
only displaced thousands of poor local communities around  
Kleinfontein...but exarcebating massive environmental degradation.

WHITE AFRIKAANS MP

(scoffing)

Dis net nie waar nie. Nova Africa het duisende werksgeleenthede geskep en ekonomiese groei gestimuleer!

(That's just not true, Tshabalala. Nova Africa has created thousands of jobs and stimulated economic growth in the entire region.)

MP TSHABALALA

(firmly, tersely)

Jobs and economic growth at what cost VAN DER MERWE? Have you ever visited this place? The environmental impact of this project is devastating! We're talking about a region that's already vulnerable to perennial droughts and climate change.

MP3

(skeptically, in VENDLA)

Phedzi hu pfi mini ngathodea dzafufufulu dza Shango lashu?

(What about the energy needs of our country, Tshabalala? We can't just rely on renewable energy.)

Ari na vhukoni ha masheleni ha u tikedza mvusuludzo ya fulufulu lidala nga tshithinga tshino.

(We do not have the fiscal capability to sustain a green energy revolution at the moment.)

MP TSHABALALA

(firmly)

Why not? We have the natural resources, the best economy on the continent...and the expertise. What we lack is the political will to make a change!

The debate rages on, with many MPs in the Committee raising their hands to present their arguments. The tension builds as the MPs' passions rise.

Finally, the chairperson calls for a vote.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON

(judiciously)

The motion on the table is to approve Nova Africa Energies Supernova Power Plant in eMalahleni, Mpumalanga. All in favour, please raise your hands.

The room falls silent, as the MPs cast their votes by hand, their faces set with resolve.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON (CONT'D)

(serious)

The motion is carried 15 to 9 votes. We have 6 abstentions. Nova Africa's Supernova power plant in Mpumalanga is duly approved!

She smashes down her gavel emphatically. Tshabalala's face falls, his eyes flashing with anger and disappointment.

The room erupts in a mixture of applause and jeers as the MPs and media personnel react to the outcome.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Viliami Nyoni sits behind his desk, his eyes fixed intently on Tinashe who sits across the desk, crossing her legs. Behind Viliami, the windows offer a stunning view of Cape Town's skyline. The walls are adorned with framed photos of Viliami's business accomplishments and family milestones.

Viliami wears a tailored dark suit and patterned tie. A gold Rolex watch glints on his wrist. Tinashe wears a stunning designer blazer and short skirt that accentuates her curves. She wears stilettos.

VILIAMI

(low, persuasive voice)

Bengicabanga ukuthi sinokuqonda. Kufanele ngibe phambili.

(I thought we had an understanding. I'm supposed to be the priority.)

Tinashe looks up, a hint of unease in her eyes.

TINASHE

(nervously)

Ngiyaxolisa, Viliami. Umsebenzi wami wokumodela usuqalile, futhi kuye kwadingeka ngihambe njalo.

(I'm sorry. My modelling career has been taking off...and I've had to travel frequently.)

VILIAMI

(sternly)

Kade ngibona ukuthi ubangekho emcimbini ebalulekile. Kumele ngithi  
ngiyaphika.

(I've been noticing you've been absent from several important events,  
lately. As the company's brand ambassador, your presence is crucial.  
I must say I'm disappointed.)

A moment of tense silence passes between them. Tinashe looks nervous  
as she considers saying something crucial to Viliami.

TINASHE

(nervously)

Viliami, kumento ebalulekile okumele ngikutshele. Yona...

(There's something important I have to tell you. I...)

Just then, Thandolwazi walks into the office confidently, a look of  
joy and excitement on her face. She wears a stylish outfit, paired  
with a statement piece of jewelry that catches attention.

THANDOLWAZI

(smiling)

Darling, I just heard the news. Parliament's just greenlit our  
project. It's all over the news channels.

VILIAMI

(with a curt smile)

Ah, yes, of course. That project cost us billions of rands.  
Sikunesikathi eside siyeza.

(It's been longtime coming)

Thandolwazi walks over to the desk, her high heels clicking softly  
on the floor and kisses Viliami softly on the lips.

THANDOLWAZI

(passionately)

Congratulations, indoda yami. Your resilience finally paid off.  
Tinashe makes a face and Thandolwazi turns to her inquisitively.

THANDOLWAZI

(concerned)

Tinashe, sweetheart, is everything o.k? You look...distracted.

Tinashe hesitates, unsure how to respond.

TINASHE

(with a forced smile)

I'm fine, auntie Thando. Just a bit stressed out with work and...the wedding plans.

Thandolwazi looks at her with a hint of suspicion but says nothing more. She turns to Viliami excitedly.

THANDOLWAZI

(excited)

This calls for champagne popping. I need to locate Jaysen and discuss the VIP guest details. We need to make sure everything's pitch perfect.

Viliami nods, his eyes never leaving Tinashe's sad pretty face.

As Thandolwazi turns to leave, Viliami and Tinashe exchange a weighted glance, the tension between them is palpable.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 7: SCENE 07.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri sits on her bed, a dreamy look on her face as she thinks back to her lunch date with Jaysen.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Jaysen sits at his desk, biting on a pencil and staring blankly at his computer screen. He can't concentrate on his work, his mind keeps wandering back to Zuri.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri smiles to herself as she thinks about Jaysen.

ZURI (V.O)

Kazi naye uyangicabangela...

(I wonder if he's thinking about me too...)

I've never felt this way before.

(she smiles to herself, a feeling of romance upon her face)

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Jaysen grins to himself as he thinks about Zuri.

JAYSEN (V.O)

Kumele ngiphinde ngimbone. Kunento emsulwa ngaleya ntombazane.  
(I have to see her again. There's something about that girl that's  
pure...genuine.)

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. ZURI'S BEDROOM.

Zuri reaches for her phone and dials Jaysen's number hesitantly.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Jaysen reaches for his phone and dials Zuri's number confidently.

CUT TO:

SPLIT SCREEN.

Zuri's phone shows "Calling Jaysen" while Jaysen's phone shows  
"Calling Zuri."

Suddenly, both phones display the message:

"Number busy"

Zuri and Jaysen look at their phones, both smiling affectionately.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 7 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGE BENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 8: "CRITICAL MASS"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PASTOR EVELYN'S OFFICE.

The camera makes a quick sweep of the iconic Cape Town Stadium and the V and A Waterfront before an aerial sweep of Khayelitsha Township.

Pastor Evelyn Kofi, well dressed in white collar black, sits behind her desk. Her eyes, though warm, seem to hold a hint of desperation.

Ten young women with backpacks and wearing "EDUAID FUND" T-shirts enter the office, accompanied by SEYI OKORO. Pastor Evelyn's smile breaks down, revealing internal unease.

PASTOR EVELYN

(with a forced smile)

Siyanibongela makhosikazi.

(Congratulations, ladies)

You've been selected for our scholarship program, sponsored by Edu-aid.

There's a brief round of applause and stifled cheers of excitement.

The young women exchange excited glances full of hope and anticipation. Pastor Evelyn's eyes dart around the room, her gaze scanning each young lady's face.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

You'll be attending the Al-Razi University, one of Yemen's top institutions. You'll have the opportunity to study programs such as agriculture, computer science and humanities.

As Pastor Evelyn speaks, the camera pans across the young women's faces, capturing their emotions and reactions.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

Futhi sibonga i-Eduaid fund and MP Tshabalala for making this opportunity possible. I shall now hand you over to Seyi to run you through the itinerary.

As she pauses, her eyes seem to cloud over, lost in thought.

SEYI

(clears throat with a hint of guilt)

(distinct Nigerian accent)

Thank you, Mama Kofi.

(faces the girls with a serious expression)

On your way to Yemen, you'll have a brief layover in Doha, Qatar. Bishop Gilbert Kofi, the father of this ministry, will meet you there and ensure your safe passage to AL-RAZI in Sana'a.

Pastor Evelyn casts her face down in shame. The young women nod, looking re-assured.

SEYI (CONT'D)

(firmly)

Remember ladies, this is a once-in-a lifetime opportunity. You must be discreet. Don't speak to any media people or suspicious individuals without authorization from this office.

The young women nod again, this time with a hint of concern. The camera zooms in on their faces, capturing their emotions and reactions.

PASTOR EVELYN

(forced warmth)

Siyaziqhenya ngani mantombazane. Nimele ibandla lethu, umphakathi

wakithi wase Khayelitsha kanye namagugu endlu ephephile.

(We're proud of you, girls. You're representing our church, our Khayelitsha community, and the values of Safe house center.)

As the young women troop out of the office, Pastor Evelyn's smile disappears, her expression becoming dark and stern.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

(sternly, dark tone)

Seyi, fonele uTshabalala amazise ukuthi amantombazane aselungile.

(Call Tshabalala and inform him the girls are ready.)

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 8: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. JAYSEN'S OFFICE.

Tinashe enters Jaysen's office confidently, closing the door behind her. Jaysen looks up from his work, his eyes distant, his mind thinking of Zuri.

TINASHE

(teasingly)

Hey handsome...ngezwa ukuthi leli hhovisi linombono omuhle kakhulu.

(I hear this office has the best view in the building)

Jaysen forces a smile.

JAYSEN

(distracted)

Yebo, kukhona.

(yeah, it's something.)

Tinashe walks over to Jaysen's desk, running her fingers over the papers and pens mischievously and sits on the desk suggestively. She runs her hands seductively all over Jaysen to arouse him, but it's evident his mind is elsewhere.

TINASHE

(softly, with a naughty tone)

You seem a little off, babe. What? You don't want some spontaneous desk job?

(she chuckles hoping he will vibe on, but Jaysen remains tense)

TINASHE

(concerned)

Everything okay?

JAYSEN

(distracted)

Just anxious about the launch. That's all.

(Tinashe scans his face. She knows him too well.)

TINASHE

(suspiciously)

Are you sure there's nothing else going on?

JAYSEN

(with a glimmer of guilt)

Just the launch. That's all.

TINASHE

(softly)

Ngine zindaba ezingase zisuse umqondo wakho ezintweni.

(I have some news that might take your mind off things...)

Jaysen raises his face and looks at her pointedly.

TINASHE

(excitedly)

Ngicabanga ukuthi uJaysen Junior usendle leni.

(I think Junior is on the way)

Jaysen's face remains frozen, his eyes locked on Tinashe's. He knows he's trapped between his feelings for Zuri and his obligations to Tinashe.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 8: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. DINING ROOM.

Viliami and wife Thandolwazi sit across each other at a beautifully set dinner table. The room is dimly lit, with soothing music playing in the background. Thandolwazi's eyes seem distant, her mind troubled.

THANDOLWAZI

(hesitant)

Viliami, ngicela ukukubuza okuthile?

(Can I ask you something?)

VILIAMI

(enjoying his food quietly)

Ucabangani?

(What's on your mind?)

Thandolwazi's eyes bore into Viliami's, a hint of suspicion in her voice.

THANDOLWAZI

(gently)

Ucabanga...ucabanga ukuthi ingozi yami ibe yingozi ngempela?

(Do you think; do you honestly think my accident was really an accident?)

Viliami's expression remains neutral.

VILIAMI

(uneasily)

Thando, sesidhlulile kulokho. Amaphoyisa aphenya aphetha ngokuthi kube yingozi nje.

(We've been over this. The police investigated and concluded...it was just an accident.)

You can't let this new witch-hunt distract you.

Thandolwazi shakes her head slowly, her gaze piercing into Viliami.

THANDOLWAZI

(softly)

No, it's not that. Ngikhumbula izinto, Viliami. Ezinto ezingahlangani. Ngikhumbula ngishaywa yimoto.

(I remember things. Things that don't add up. I remember being stalked by a vehicle.)

And I think...I heard gunshots.

(she sighs, unsure, confused)

Viliami's face turns pale, his eyes darting around the room anxiously.

VILIAMI

(jittery)

Thando, lokho nje umcabango wakho ukudlala amaqhinga ngawe. Uhilekele engozini embi kakhulu. Kuyaqondeka kala ukuthi izinkumbulo zakho zizoba zifiphele.

(That's just your imagination playing tricks on you. You were in a terrible accident. It's understandable that your memories would be...fuzzy.)

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

Ngifuna ukwazi iqiniso, Viliami. Ngifuna ukwazi ukuthi kwenzekeni ngempela.

(I want to know the truth. I want to know what really happened that night.)

Right now, all I have are just...fragmented images.

Thandolwazi's eyes seem to bore into Viliami's soul, searching for any signs of treachery.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 8: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA TOWNSHIP.

The camera pans over the vibrant streets of Khayelitsha. The sound of House music drifts through the air, adding to the lively atmosphere.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. SAFE HOUSE.

Jaysen's sleek black Range Rover SVA personalized "GHOST" pulls up outside Khayelitsha Safe house ministries, turning heads among the curious onlookers. Jaysen steps out, looking relaxed and charming in faded jeans, a white T-shirt and sneakers. He flashes a warm smile as he greets the locals.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. ZURI'S ROOM.

Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso are engaged in a heated discussion about their plans for the Nova Africa plant launch.

ZURI

(frustrated)

Angazi bafo. Ngizwa sengathi angikho uready. Kuthiwani uma ngimosha?

(I don't know guys. I just feel like I'm not ready for this. What if I mess up?)

AYANDA

(encouragingly)

You've got this, Zuri. You're smart, capable and passionate about your work. Just be yourself and you'll shine.

LOYISO

(jokingly)

And if everything fails, just make sure you get me a selfie with Somizi. (gesturing with her hand) I can't wait to turn up for the star-studded after-party.

There's a gentle knock at the door. Ayanda gets up to answer it, revealing Jaysen, who flashes his charming smile that mesmerises Ayanda.

JAYSEN

(smiling)

Kumele ube u - Aayanda, right?

AYANDA

(blushing)

Ufanele ulahleke noma okuthize!

(You got to be lost or something...)

She pretends to shut the door on him and Jaysen's face looks stupid as Ayanda giggles playfully welcoming him.

AYANDA

(laughing, admiring Jaysen)

Zuri...surprise surprise...guess who's here?

Zuri walks to the door bantering with Ayanda unaware of the visitor.

ZURI

(playfully)

Who? Idris Elba?

AYANDA

(laughing as she steps away)

Something even better!

ZURI

(surprised and embarrassed)

Jaysen, wenzani lapha?

(What are you doing here?)

JAYSEN

(composed)

I decided to take the day off and wind down ahead of the big day.  
Ngingume ukuthatha usuku ngiphumule ngaphambi kosuku olukhulu  
lwakusasa.

( I thought why not surprise you and take you out on a beach walk?)

ZURI

(blushing, unsure)

A beach walks? Jaysen...bengingakulungele lokhu.

(I wasn't prepared for this)

AYANDA

(encouragingly)

Woza Zuri. Hamba! Kuzoba mnandi. Udinga ikhefu kukho konke lokhu  
kucindezeleka.

(Go. It'll be fun. You need a break from all this stress.)

LOYISO

(supportively)

u-Ayanda uqinisile, chomi. Ufanelwe ukushaywa umoya.

(Ayanda's right. You deserve some fresh air.)

Zuri finally agrees reluctantly and Jaysen's face lights up with a  
smile.

JAYSEN

(grinning)

Great. I'll wait around while you freshen up.

CUT TO:

As Zuri quickly freshens up, Jaysen chats with Ayanda and Loyiso.

AYANDA

(flirtatiously)

So...Mr Jaysen, yini ekuletheki ukuthi uthobeke eKhayelitsha?

(What brings you to our humble aboard in Khayelitsha?)

JAYSEN

(relaxed)

I guess I wanted to see Radebe in her natural space. And I have to say...ngiyayithanda i-vibe lapha.

(I'm loving the vibe here.)

It's so different from my usual scene.

LOYISO

(rudely)

They say lightning doesn't strike twice. Zuri is a nice girl so different from your usual...slay queens and celebrity girlfriends.

Why the sudden interest in her? What's the catch?

JAYSEN

(sincere, composed)

There's no catch, I promise. I just want to get to know Radebe better and I figured this would be a great way to start.

Ayanda and Loyiso exchange a knowing glance, impressed by Jaysen's humility and sincerity.

CUT TO:

Zuri emerges from her room, looking stunning in a simple but elegant outfit. Jaysen's eyes light up with admiration.

JAYSEN

(impressed)

Ububeka umangalisa Radebe.

(You look absolutely amazing.)

Shall we?

As they head out to Jaysen's Range Rover, the township kids gather around, admiring the vehicle. The smaller kids crowd around the vehicle, touching the shining surface and looking up at Jaysen and Zuri with awe. The kids watch them go, still admiring the vehicle and the couple's unlikely pairing.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 8: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

**FLASHBACK.** EXT. NIGHT. N4 HIGHWAY.

The camera shows a wide shot of the N4 Highway at night, the only sound being the hum of distant engines. The black BMW XM, driven by Thandolwazi, speeds down the center lane. The white Toyota Quantam bus of the Minerals agency is visible ahead.

As Thandolwazi's BMW approaches the bus, Thandolwazi's voice can be heard, panicked and urgent as she leaves a voicemail message on Viliami's unreachable phone.

THANDOLWAZI

(panicking)

Viliami uma uthola lomlayezo call me back ASAP. I'm on the N4 highway, near Middleburg, Mpumalanga and I suspect I'm being followed...

She peers on her dashboard camera quickly.

THANDOLWAZI

(frantic)

But luckily, I've got the Minerals staff bus ahead of me now. I'll try and stay close to it and...

**\*\*\* SPECIAL EFFECTS SCENE \*\*\***

Suddenly the Toyota Hilux behind her resurfaces flashing its lights persistently. Thandolwazi panicks and presses the brake pedal. The brake lights fail to illuminate and the BMW speeds up heading for

a collision with the staff bus.

Thandolwazi screams frantically as the BMW crashes into the rear of the staff bus, sending shattered glass flying everywhere. The sound of impact and breaking glass fills the air.

The camera lingers on the wreckage for a moment, before panning out to show the dark, deserted N4 highway. The distant sound of wailing sirens and firefighters can be heard.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 8: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. CLIFTON BEACH.

Jaysen and Zuri stroll through the Clifton beaches, enjoying the serene atmosphere. They stop at the edge of the sea, watching as the curling waters lap in the gentle breeze.

ZURI

(reflectively)

Ngangivame ukuza olwande njalo ngibalekela isiphithiphithi  
sobuntwana bami.

(I used to come to the Sea oftenly to escape the chaos of my  
childhood.)

She tosses some pebbles gently into the waters.

ZURI (CONT'D)

(nostalgically)

Ugogo wayevame ukungixwayisa ukuthi nginga sondeli kakhulu emanzini.

(My granny used to warn me not to be too close to the water.)

She thought I'd be taken by the mermaid spirits. I'm told I'm from  
the Inkoleni (fish) tribe.

JAYSEN

(musing with humour)

And I'm from the fish eagle clan. Akukwethusi ukuthi kufanele ube  
ukudla kwami kwansuku zonke?

(Doesn't it scare you that you're supposed to be my daily meal?)

ZURI

(humouring back)

Bese ngithemba ukuthi nginephutha!

(Then I hope I'm wrong)

The two of them laugh out the joke, their connection cementing.

JAYSEN

(probing gently)

What was it like...growing up in Khayelitsha? So many stories are  
told about that place.

Zuri walks quietly in contemplation before answering.

ZURI

(opening up slowly)

It was...hard. Ngashonelwa umama ngisemcane. Angikaze ngimazi ubaba  
wami.

(I lost my mum at a tender age. I never knew my father.)

And then boom...the only parent I ever knew, ugogo Ngcobo', suddenly  
passed on.

She looks at the Sea, her mind far away.

ZURI (CONT'D)

My uncle took care of me but...he had an alcohol problem and was very  
abusive. Umfazi owangikhulisa ugogo Ng'cobo wangifundisa ukuqina.

(But the woman who raised me taught me to be strong.)

And then...I found my purpose in books and nature.

Jaysen's gently takes her hand, his touch warm and reassuring.

JAYSEN

(supportively)

Uyamangalisa, Zuri. Indaba yakho iyangikhuthaza.

(You're amazing. Your story inspires.)

Zuri's expression softens and she smiles sweetly, their eyes connecting.

ZURI

Ngiyabonga, Jaysen. And thank you for inviting me to your big launch. I feel really honoured to be part of such a big event.

JAYSEN

(warmly)

Ukufanele.

They go silent briefly.

(You deserve it.)

ZURI

(hesitant)

Kazi angathini uTinashe uma esibona sindawonye?

(I wonder what Tinashe would say if she saw us together?)

Jaysen's expression turns cautious, his eyes avoiding hers.

ZURI (CONT'D)

Upheleke kangaka angithi? Muhle kakhulu, uhlakaniphile, udumile futhi uvela emndenini afanele. Konke engiyikho.

(She's so perfect, isn't she? Very pretty, intelligent, famous, and from the right family. Everything I'm not?)

JAYSEN

Zuri, ungazifanisi nanoma ubani.

(Don't compare yourself to anyone else.)

You're unique, and that's what makes you special.

Zuri smiles back at Jaysen, their eyes inviting each other. For a moment they just stare at each other saying nothing. Jaysen's face inches closer to Zuri's, his eyes full of intensity.

ZURI

(breathlessly)

Jaysen...

Jaysen's lips brush against Zuri's, sending shivers down her spine. The kiss deepens, their passion igniting like wildfire against the beach's sunset backdrop.

The scene fades to black as they lose themselves in the kiss...the world around them melting away.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 8 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 9: "SHADES OF TRUTH"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. GOLF COURSE.

Viliami Nyoni and Pravin Pather walk slowly along the lush green fairway, their golf equipment and attire a testament to their affluent lifestyles.

VILIAMI

(swinging his club)

The polls are not looking good. I think it's high time I hit back at Tshabalala.

PRAVIN

(polishing his club)

Why don't you? The Party's People's congress is around the corner and the clock is ticking.

Viliami hits the ball with precision, watching as it soars through the air.

VILIAMI

(as they walk to the next hole)

My campaign manager says the old village guard trusts him. He has this grassroots "ubuntu" image which I need to work on.

PRAVIN

What about going after him on his scandalous bitcoin wallet scheme...while the poor mine workers go hang? Isn't that where he's really vulnerable?

The two businessmen walk in silence, the only sound being the soft rustling of leaves and the distant chirping of birds.

PRAVIN (CONT'D)

(somber tone)

Viliami, I've been doing a lot of soul searching. I'm stepping down from the board...soon after the launch.

VILIAMI

(shocked, stammering)

What? Are you quitting because things are rough right now? If you think the Hawks will sink our ship, it's not happening. Not on my watch.

Pravin's expression remains resolute, his voice firm.

PRAVIN

No, there's more to it, Viliami. I've stood up for you on many fronts; the Inkabi mob activities... subornation, coercion...you name it.

(pauses reflectively, with a somber tone)

But I won't cover up the blood trail. The grass is singing in Mpumalanga, Viliami!

VILIAMI

(face contorts, a mixture of guilt and fear)

How did you find out?

Pravin steady stare meets with Viliami's eyes, his tone filled with a deep sadness.

PRAVIN

(firmly)

I've worked with you for over three decades, Viliami. That story about Dhlamini's accident is getting pretty thin. Homicide Unit's new investigations indicate he was brutally murdered.

The air is thick with tension as Viliami's eyes bore into Pravin's, a mixture of anger and desperation showing.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. CONFERENCE ROOM. NOVA AFRICA HEADQUARTERS.

Jaysen, dressed in a suave business suit, stands confidently in front of a large white board holding a marker. The board is scribbled with important launch points as he gives final points to the company's top executives who are seated around a sleek, modern conference table.

JAYSEN

(confidently)

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we've covered almost everything. The biggest thermal power plant in Africa will be launched successfully in twenty-four hours' time.

(he pauses briefly with a confident smirk)

Only Egypt and Zimbabwe have similar plants but dare I say... there are nowhere near our level!

The executives jeer excitedly and clap their hands briefly. Jaysen smiles assuredly, proud of the company's milestone. His beautiful P.A, seated close to him, makes some quick notes in her pad.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

And let me remind you that this multi-billion investment will be happening in my hometown, in Nkangala district, Mpumalanga...where this company was found thirty years ago by one poor nonentity called Viliami Cornelius Nyoni!

The executives roar and give a warm round of applause.

Tinashe sits at the far end of the table, visibly distracted. Jaysen's gaze strays to Tinashe, his concentration faltering for a second before he regains it.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

Now, let's finalize the speaking slots. Our Director of Ceremonies...

DISSOLVE TO:

The camera pans back to Tinashe over Jaysen's indistinct voice, her body language tense, vindictive and full of disdain.

As Jaysen speaks, Tinashe's eyes narrow, her gaze fixed on him with an unnerving intensity. Her lips purse forward and her fingers drum a staccato beat on the table.

The executives, sensing the tension, exchange uneasy glances.

CUT TO:

JAYSEN

(ignoring Tinashe's behaviour)

Alright, ladies and gentlemen, I think that's all for now. Let's make this launch a gem for Mzansi. All hands on deck!

The executives rise from their seats, nodding and smiling happily as they file out of the boardroom.

As the door closes behind them, the tension between Jaysen and Tinashe resurfaces.

JAYSEN

(probing)

Kwenzakalani? Awuzange ukhulume kimi ekuseni yonke...

(You haven't spoken to me the whole morning)

Please say something.

Tinashe's gaze snaps to Jaysen's, her eyes flashing with anger.

TINASHE

(menacingly)

Iwazi kahle ukuthi kwenzekani, Jaysen.

( You know exactly what's going on, Jaysen.)

The scene fades to black as the tension between them hangs precariously in the balance. FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. VILLAGE COMMUNITY GROUND. KLEINFONTEIN.

The sun beats down on the dusty village football pitch where hundreds of villagers from Kleinfontein Community have gathered to protest Nova Africa's mining activities. MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA, dressed in full traditional Zulu gear presides over the gathering, alongside the traditional chiefs of the district and village eldership.

MP TSHABALALA

(steps forward with his ornate cane and makes a Zulu war cry)

Phansi nabazindezeli!

(Down with oppressors!)

Phansi nabacekeli... Phansi nama- neo-Imperialists! iSouth Africa kubantu base South Africa!

(Down with economic saboteurs! South Africa for black South Africans!)

The village crowd respond to the slogans with chants and whistles.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

Bakwethu, siyagwaza lapha namuhla njengomphakathi owodwa. Sibumbene ukulwa nokucekelwa phansi okwadwala amaxusa e - neo- apartheid - Nova Africa Energies!

(My fellow countrymen, we stand here today as one community, united against the destruction caused by neo-apartheid agents)

TRADITIONAL CHIEF

(his voice filled with authority)

Thina badala sizibonele mathupa umonakalo.

(We...the elders, have witnessed the devastation firsthand)

Amadlelo ethu ayacekelwa phansi...imithombo yethu yamanzi  
ingcolile futhi abantu bakithi bayahlupheka!

(Our grazing lands are being ravaged, our water bodies polluted...and  
our people are suffering!)

OLD VILLAGE ELDER

(stepping forward)

Viliami Nyoni unegazi ezandleni. Ngilahlekelwe yindodana yami,  
umondli wami, engozini yezimayini. Eyathatha izimpilo zabantu  
abancane abayishumi nambili.

(I lost my son, my only breadwinner, to the mining accident that took  
twelve lives.)

He pauses, his eyes welling up with emotion.

OLD VILLAGE ELDER (CONT'D)

I-Nova Africa yathembisa ukuthi izobambisana ekuhlanzeni umhlaba.  
Basithembisa isinxephezelo. Umngwcwabo ohloniphekile wamadodana  
ethu abulawa ngu Viliami's thug Masego nendodana yakhe.

(Nova Africa promised they'd cooperate with the eldership to cleanse  
the land. They promised us compensation, a decent burial for our sons  
who were murdered by Viliami's thug, Mashego and his own son.)

Kodwa abakulethe kulo mphakathi ukufa nokubhujiswa okwengeziwe.

(But all they've brought to this community is more death and  
destruction.)

MP TSHABALALA

(comforts the village elder and raises his Zulu knobkerrie)

Ngeke sithule! Ngeke sishaywe indiva! Sifuna ukuthi i-Nova Africa  
iphendule ngezenzo zayo.

(We will not be silenced! We will not be ignored! We demand that Nova Africa be held accountable for their actions)

The crowd erupts into a frenzy of cheers and traditional chants and whistles.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

(waves his hand for attention)

Ukwengeza inhlamba, umsunguli we - Nova Africa, Viliami Nyoni, uyaqele isikhundla somphakathi okwethweni oluzayo kulesi sifundazwe!

(To add insult to injury, the founder of Nova Africa, Viliami Nyoni, is running for public office in this province in the upcoming elections)

The crowd boos and jeers.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

Ungakhathi Viliami Nyoni! Akanazo izithakazelo zakho enhliziyweni. Ufuna ukubeka amaphaklethe ake akhuluphele kuyilapho wena umpofu.

(Do not elect Nyoni! He does not have your interests at heart. He seeks only to line his pockets with his white sponsors while you suffer and fart in poverty!)

The crowd erupts in cheers and applause.

MP TSHABALALA (CONT'D)

(passionately)

Ungathengiseli indodana yomhlabathi ngobuzibulo bakho ngesitsha sesobho.

(Do not sell your birth-right for a bowl of soup to a questionable son of the soil)

The crowd erupts into liberation songs demanding that Nova Africa Energies be stopped and that Viliami Nyoni be defeated in the election.

CUT TO:

A CLOSE-UP SHOT of MP Tshabalala's determined face with the village leadership as he gazes at the sea of angry villagers.

MP TSHABALALA

(whispering to himself with bloodshot eyes)

Isiphetho sakho siseduze nokhozi olumnyama!

(Your end is near...black eagle.) FADE OUT.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PASTOR EVELYN'S OFFICE.

Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso dressed to impress for the launch, sits across Pastor Evelyn Kofi, who offers words of encouragement.

PASTOR EVELYN

(pastorally)

Asikhulekhele uZuri isiqondiso nokuhlakanipha njengoba elungiselela ukwethula inkulumo yakhe namuhla.

(Let's pray for guidance and wisdom for Zuri as she prepares to deliver her speech today.)

The group joins hands, and Pastor Evelyn begins to pray.

PASTOR EVELYN

(praying)

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you today to seek your guidance and wisdom for Zuri. Give her the right words to speak, the courage to stand firm, and the wisdom to execute her assignment today with your grace. In Jesus' Mighty name.

The group says "Amen" in unison.

PASTOR EVELYN

(warmly)

Zuri, khumbula ukugcina isithembiso sakho.

(Remember to keep your promise)

Be passionate but not extreme. There will be many powerful people watching and listening, including the VP standing in for the Republic's President himself.)

ZURI

(nods faintly)

Ngizozama, Ma.

(I'll try, Ma)

PASTOR EVELYN

(firmly)

Aah ah. Ungazami, yenza.

(Do not try. Do it.)

Unomlayezo okhethekile futhi ungafaki umsebenzi wakho engozinii ngenxa yobudedengu.

(You have a crucial message to share with the nation and don't jeopardize your career because of recklessness.)

Zuri nods, determination registered in her eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES GATE.

Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso stand outside Pastor Evelyn's Volkswagen T-cross vehicle, which proudly displays the logo of Khayelitsha Safe House Ministries.

As they prepare to leave, Zuri's gaze drifts off.

AYANDA

(deeply concerned)

Zuri, ingabe ulungile?

(Are you ok?)

ZURI

(distracted)

Ngiyaphila, Ayanda...izinkumbulo nje.

(I'm fine...just memories.)

CUT TO:

A flashback montage of the late Dr Caleb Dhlamini handing Zuri a leather-bound folder in a dream resurfaces.

**(\*\*\* EPISODE 3: SCENE 05 \*\*\*)**

DR DHLAMINI

(urgently)

Landela imali. Veza iqiniso.

(Follow the money, Zuri. Expose the truth.)

Zuri's eyes cloud as the memory of the dream comes back. Ayanda and Loyiso exchange worried glances.

LOYISO

(shaking her shoulder)

Radebe? Get yourself together neh!

Zuri shakes it off, regaining her composure.

ZURI

(firmly)

Ngiyaphila. Sihambe.

(I'm fine. Let's go.)

Zuri's friends shares a concerned glance before getting into the vehicle.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. NYONI MANSION.

The camera pans over the opulent Nyonis' mansion in Bantry Bay, its grandeur and beauty awe-inspiring. A sleek black limousine waits outside, the engine purring softly.

Viliami Nyoni and wife Thandolwazi emerge from the mansion, dressed to kill. Thandolwazi looks ravishing in an elegant outfit, while Viliami exudes confidence in his tuxedo.

They exchange a brief, tense glance before entering the limousine.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. LIMOUSINE.

As the limousine glides smoothly away from the mansion, Thandolwazi's gaze drifts out the window, her eyes clouding over as memories begin to resurface. She recalls the sound of screeching tires, crunching metal, and the eerie silence that followed.

DISSOLVE TO:

**\*\*\* SPECIAL EFFECTS SCENE \*\*\***

The Minerals and Energy staff bus driver's POINT OF VIEW.

**FLASHBACK.** EXT. NIGHT. N4 HIGHWAY.

The eerie darkness is shattered by the humming tyres of the quantam bus as it sweeps the deserted highway. The driver's eyes pips on the rear view mirror, his face furrowed in concern as he notices the flashing lights of a black BMW XM speeding behind them.

Suddenly, a white Toyota Hilux GD6 materializes out of the blind shadow, its tyres squealing as it cuts into the passenger side of the bus...forcing itself against the guardrails.

A masked man leans out of the Toyota driver's window, his gun glinting in the faint moonlight.

The staff bus driver's face contorts in horror as the masked man points the gun directly at Dr Caleb Dhlamini shouting the driver to stop the bus as Dhlamini freezes in terror. The sound of gunshots coincides with that of shattering glass and crunching metal as Thandolwazi's BMW rams into the bus from behind.

The staff bus careens out of control, its tyres screeching in protest as the driver struggles to control it. Dr Dhlamini's world goes dark as more gunshots rip through his head in a bloody mess. The window screen is splattered with blood and human flesh before it bursts into a red flame of smoke and fire.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. LIMOUSINE.

Thandolwazi's eyes snap back into life, her gaze settling onto a sinister-faced Viliami with fear in her eyes.

VILIAMI

(stone-faced)

Kwenzenjani?

(What's wrong?)

Thandolwazi's response hangs in the air, leaving the audience wondering what secrets she might reveal.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. FIVE-STAR CONVENTION CENTER\*(CTICC)- GRAND CONFERENCE ROOM.

The Convention room is abuzz with dignitaries, media personnel, and esteemed guests. The front row is occupied by Viliami Nyoni flanked to the right by the Republic's Vice President and to the left by wife Thandolwazi, Jaysen and Tinashe. Pravin Pather, the deputy chairman of Nova Africa, sits beside the Vice President on the other side with a host of captains of industry and senior government officials.

Zuri, accompanied by Pastor Evelyn, Ayanda and Loyiso, sits in the next row, her presence commanding attention from the cameras.

The director of ceremonies, a highly famous TV face \*(Guest celebrity presenter e.g BONANG MATHEBA, PEARL THUSI, BOITY THULO, MINNIE DHLAMINI, KHANYI MBAU) resplendent in a designer outfit, takes the stage.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

(guest celebrity presenter)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce our first speaker of this momentous occasion. Please welcome rising environmentalist...better known as "The Green Vixen"...ZURI RADEBE!

The audience erupts into applause as Zuri makes her way to the podium. All eyes are on her, and she exudes great confidence and poise in her formal outfit and cat eyes glasses.

As she steps up the microphone, Jaysen looks at her fondly, and she returns his gaze with a warm smile. Tinashe notices the exchange and

she smirks icily.

Viliami's face is a mask, his gaze fixed on Zuri with unreadable emotions. Thandolwazi's eyes gleam with enigma, while Pastor Evelyn's face radiates a sense of pride and fulfilment.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. CONVENTION CENTER.

Zuri steps up to the microphones, surveying the audience with confidence and poise.

ZURI

(with a composed, warm smile)

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed. I'd like to start by congratulating Nova Africa Energies on the launch of their Supernova thermal project in eMalahleni.

The room applauds softly.

ZURI (CONT'D)

I'd like to acknowledge the Nyoni family, especially Jaysen Nyoni, the new CEO, whose flexible stance on green energy shows promise.

(she takes a cautious pause)

On behalf of the environmental community we're proud to have such forward-thinking leaders in South Africa heading large corporations such as Nova Africa.

There's a brief applause. Jaysen looks up, slightly surprised by the acknowledgement.

Zuri's expression and tone immediately shifts to one of objectivity.

ZURI (CONT'D)

However, I must emphasize that as an environmentalist ...our views on environmental issues differ greatly with those running the mining industry. We need to prioritize the planet and its people over profits.

Zuri's eyes lock onto the Nova Africa's leadership and top government

officials on the front row.

ZURI (CONT'D)

(tone shifts to emotional, capturing the audience)

Ngikhumbuze umeluleki wami ongasekho, uDr Caleb Dhlamini owashona kabuhlungu engozini yomgwaqo.

(I'm reminded of my late mentor who tragically lost his life in a road accident. Dr Dhlamini died doing what he believed in.)

Viliami's expression darkens, his eyes uncomfortable.

Pastor Evelyn, seated in the audience, looks on with concern, her eyes fixed on Zuri's determined face.

ZURI (CONT'D)

Dr Caleb Dhlamini's legacy of protecting the environment and holding mining company's accountable lives on through ordinary people like myself...and many forgotten unknowns. The herdboys, the village girls at the river, the list is endless.

(She pauses reflectively and smiles sadly)

ZURI (CONT'D)

I must say, it's ironic that I'm speaking on this platform, given Nova Africa's record on environmental degradation and safety violations for their thousands of workers...

The room erupts into a mixture of isolated applause and gasps. Camera shutters click wildly, capturing the dramatic moment.

ZURI (CONT'D)

(fearlessly)

South Africa we need systemic change in our mining industry. We need to start treating all people with dignity especially those courageous men and women who toil beneath our feet... And we must start holding big corporations accountable for their actions. I thank you.

As Zuri steps away from the podium, the room falls silent. The audience is divided what to make of the speech.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 9: SCENE 07.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. CONVENTION CENTER.

GUEST CELEBRITY PRESENTER

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour to introduce our keynote speaker, the founder and executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energies...Dr Viliami "Ukhozi Olumnyama" Nyoni!

Viliami takes the stage with a standing ovation, his confident smile and charming demeanor putting the audience at ease as they take back their seats.

He whispers a light joke into the celebrity M.Cs ear and she leaves the stage laughing as camera shutters click ferociously, capturing the moment.

VILIAMI

(with commanding authority)

I'd like to start by thanking our special curtain raiser, Ms Zuri Radebe for her...(pauses for comedic effect) passionate speech. I'm sure we're all inspired by her conviction.

He looks at the audience with a smirk filled with dry sarcasm. Who needs political correctness after all when you have... "genzie passion", right?

The whole room chuckles and Zuri's eyes drop momentarily.

VILIAMI (CONT'D)

Allow me to respectfully disagree with her assessment of Nova Africa Energies' environmental record. We have made significant strides in reducing our carbon footprint and investing in renewable energy.

(pause)

It's not my quote that numbers don't lie.

The audience laughs again at his sense of humour. Viliami clicks a remote and a presentation screen behind him comes to life, displaying images of Nova Africa's sustainability initiatives.

VILIAMI (CONT'D)

We're committed to being a responsible corporate citizen and contributing to the economic development of our country and the sub-Saharan region, at large.

(smirks arrogantly)

And we have the resources and expertise to back it up.

The conference room applauds again, this time more enthusiastically. The Vice President nods in approval.

Zuri's face falls, her passion and convictions seemingly eclipsed by Viliami's solid presentation. Loyiso places a reassuring hand on her shoulder as they watch on.

VILIAMI (CONT'D)

I'd like to assure our investors, partners and stakeholders that we will continue to prioritize sustainability and environmental responsibility in our operations.

(pauses for emphasis)

And we will do it with the resources and influence that only a blue-chip company of our stature can provide.

The room erupts into applause once more, drowning out any potential dissent. The launch of Nova Africa's "Supernova power plant" conducted virtually in eMalahleni is officially successful and it's clear that power and big money people have won the day.

As the audience files out of the Convention center, Zuri's eyes

collide with Viliami's. An unspoken battleline is drawn between them.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 9 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 10: "CORE VALUES"**

SCENE 01

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. GRAND BALL ROOM. CONVENTION CENTER.

The Vice President of the Republic of South Africa, an elderly imposing figure, with strong facial features and a bald shave, is surrounded by Viliami, Thandolwazi, Jaysen, Tinashe, Pravin and an unidentified pot-bellied businessman as he raises his glass in a toast.

VICE PRESIDENT

(warmly)

To Nova Africa Energies and Viliami Nyoni, a true visionary and icon in our country's mining and energy sector.

The group echoes the toast, clinking their glasses together.

VICE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Thando, kuyajabulisa ukukubona umuhle kanyaka.

(It's wonderful to see you looking so well.)

I hope you're taking good care of yourself...since the accident.

THANDOLWAZI

(smiling warmly, respectfully)

Ngiyabonga, Mr Vice President. Ngenza kangcono kakhulu manje.

(Thank you, Mr Vice President. I'm doing much better now.)

VICE PRESIDENT

(warmly)

Ngiyajabula ukuzwa lokho. Unamandla njengokhozi olumnyama  
njengonyeni wakho.

(I'm glad to hear that. You are as resilient as...the black eagle,  
living true to your husband's name)

The group chuckles appropriately and the Vice President turns to  
Viliami.

VICE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

And I must say...the young woman's speech earlier on was quite  
impressive. Bengithemba lokuthi ngizohlangana naye mathupa  
namhlanje ebusuku.

(I was hoping to meet her in person tonight)

VILIAMI

(smirks with irritation)

I'm afraid that's no longer possible, Mr Vice President. The guest  
list for this after-party was...carefully curated for security  
reasons.

The Vice President raises an eyebrow, but he gets the subtle hint  
of Viliami's classist arrogance.

VICE PRESIDENT

(concerned)

I see. Well, in any case, please extend my congrats to her on her  
good speech and... bravery.

VILIAMI

(insincerely, annoyed)

I'll be sure she gets your message, Mr Vice President.

(chuckles disdainfully)

At least she gave the hungry press something to swamp on...on such a slow news week.

The Vice President turns to Jaysen.

VICE PRESIDENT

(cheerfully, trying to ease Viliami's displeasure with Zuri's speech)

Nyoni junior, I hear you're taking the reins of the new plant? Congratulations, son!

(He winks at him playfully)

Futhi uma uthola lezo zicathulo zinkulu kakhulu ukuthi zingalingana vele ungishayele ucingo.

(And if you find those shoes too big to fill...just give me a call)

JAYSEN

(courteously)

Of course, Mr Vice President. Thank you very much, sir.

VILIAMI

(laughing)

And I'm excited to see him take on this huge challenge without my control. But let's not forget who's still the big boss around here.

The group erupts into warm, hearty laughter, and the previous tension is broken.

As the pep talk continues in the background of very low, gentle orchestra music, the Vice President leans in on Viliami, a hint of curiosity in his voice.

VICE PRESIDENT

(whispering)

Ngitshela Viliami, iyona le ntombazane eya sinda yodwa engozini ye - Dhlamini's?

(Is this the same girl who was sole survivor in Dhlamini's crash?)

Viliami's expression shows a bit of unease and he nods.

VILIAMI

Uyitshe eliyigugu phezulu...angithi?

(She's a gem upstairs, isn't she?)

VICE PRESIDENT

(chuckles knowingly)

As a protegee of the late CD, one would expect nothing less.

VILIAMI

(dry humour)

I'm not sure I would want anyone that smart and passionate running my company. I'd never get any sleep.

The two men laugh discreetly with a hint that they know more between them.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 10: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso are on a morning jog in the neighbourhood. Sweat drips all over their bodies as they push themselves to the limit. Upbeat South African rap music plays in the background.

LOYISO

(grunting)

Wonke umuntu ucula izindumiso ngawe.

(Everyone is singing praises about you)

How many township girls from Khayelitsha gets called by SABC Morning Live for an interview...?

The girls pant as they match each others' tempo.

ZURI

(frustrated)

Lapho ngikhuluma kakhulu ngiba nomlilo.

(Seems the more I comment, the more fire I stoke.)

AYANDA

(wiping sweat from her brow)

Welcome to the world of publicity, chomi! You stood up for what you believe in. That takes a lot of guts.

As they jog, a sexy dreadlocked athlete passes them and waves, catching their attention. They exchange a look.

AYANDA

(blushing)

Yini ngedwa osanda kumbona Siya Kholisi?

(Am I the only one who just saw Siya or it's my imagination?)

LOYISO

(laughing)

Stop day dreaming Ayanda! If you want an autograph on your boob like you did on the Chris Brown show...owuthole lutho kuye.

(You are not getting one from Siya, I bet)

AYANDA

(playfully, teasing)

Lokho akuyona indaba yakho Loyiso!

(Shut up and mind your own business)

I don't kiss and tell.

The girls laugh light-heartedly as they continue with the jog. Zuri's phone rings, interrupting the banter. She stops running and looks surprised with the early call while Ayanda and Loyiso jog on.

ZURI (into phone)

(composing herself)

Director Fourie...

DIRECTOR FOURIE (V.O)

(authoritative tone)

Zuri, congratulations on your speech. You're trending all over the news. I must say, you made quite an impression.

ZURI (INTO PHONE)

(skeptical)

Thank you, mam.

DIRECTOR FOURIE (V.O)

I'm calling to offer your old job back. The Vice President himself called and requested that we rehire you, citing your passion and expertise as valuable to our agency.

Zuri is surprised, her mind racing.

ZURI

(speechless)

The...Vice President? I'm...flattered. But I'm not sure I'm ready to come back to the agency, mam.

DIRECTOR FOURIE (V.O)

(with dignified embarrassment)

I understand your...reservations, Zuri. I know how the agency treated you after the accident. (soft pause)

It wasn't fair. But I assure you, this is a genuine opportunity. We value your contributions and believe you can make a real difference at the department.

The scene fades to black as Zuri holds the phone with undecided emotions.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPIDODE 10: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Viliami Nyoni, dressed in a dark business suit without a tie, sits behind his massive desk, scanning the newspaper reports. One headline reads: "ACTIVIST HUMILIATES NOVA BOSS". Another publication screams: "BRAVE INSPECTOR UNMASKS NYONI". Viliami throws it off with an irritated smirk.

BUHLE, Viliami's elegant P.A, knocks on the door and enters.

BUHLE

(with professional ettiquette)

Sir, you have two visitors from the National Investigation Unit.

VILIAMI

(unfazed, with solid calm)

Send them in, Buhle.

Buhle nods and exits. Two burly detectives from SAPS Directorate for Priority Crime (HAWKS) enter, dressed in suits and carrying themselves with a mix of confidence and caution.

BRIGADIER HLONGWANE CELE

Dr Nyoni, siyakwazisa ukuthi uzinike isikathi sokukhuluma nathi.

(We appreciate you taking time to speak with us.)

VILIAMI

(waving his hand)

Yebo, ngicela ube nesihlalo.

(Of course. Please...have a seat)

The detectives sit, their eyes locked firmly on Viliami.

COLONEL GODFREY LUBAYI

Dr Nyoni, we're investigating the death of Dr Caleb Dhlamini. We understand you had a... complicated history with him?

VILIAMI

(leans back in his chair)

Complicated? That's one way to put it. Dr Dhlamini was a thorn in my side, always questioning my business practices and threatening to revoke Nova Africa's mining licenses.

BRIGADIER CELE

(with a hard expression)

And did you ever feel threatened by him?

VILIAMI

(a sly smile spreads to his face)

Threatened? No, detectives. I'm a top businessman. I'm used to dealing with...difficult people.

COLONEL LUBAYI

(with a somber face)

Dr Nyoni, we've made some initial arrests in connection with...Dr Dhlamini's death. Three men were filmed fleeing the accident scene in a Toyota Hilux by a game ranger who passed on the footage to highway patrol.

(Viliami's expression remains neutral, a poker face)

COLONEL LUBAYI (CONT'D)

The three men match the description of the same car your wife, Mrs Thandolwazi Nyoni, reported was tailing her on our emergency number.

VILIAMI

(surprised, hiding his nervousness)

That's...interesting. I wasn't aware Thandolwazi had made an emergency police report. My family does have a private security company attending these matters.

(pauses reflectively)

She did leave a voicemail message in my phone about being followed...but I didn't think much of it after the accident.

The two detectives exchange an uneasy glance.

BRIGADIER CELE

(grimly)

The thing is, Dr Nyoni, these men are saying they belong to a mob...the Inkabi group...hired by you to "take care" of Dr Dhlamini whom we presume was...your foremost corporate enemy?

Viliami's expression darkens, a hint of indignation hovering across his face.

VILIAMI

(with irritation)

Lokho kuyakholisa. Angazi ukuthi bakhuluma ngani or who they are...

(That's preposterous! I have no idea what they are talking about)

COLONEL LUBAYI

(firmly)

At this point you're not necessarily a suspect...yet, but we'll need to look into your alibi and speak with your wife separately as well.

Viliami nods curtly, cold calculation registering in his eyes.

BRIGADIER CELE

Okwamanje singabonga uma ungagcina le ngxoxo ihlakaniphile.

(In the meantime, we'd appreciate if you could keep this conversation discreet.)

Viliami nods, a faint wry smile creeping on his face.

VILIAMI

I think we can all agree...discretion is the best policy in such...sensitive matters.

He flashes his charismatic smile.

VILIAMI (CONT'D)

And of course, I'm always ready to offer a...very generous reward of appreciation for your...courtesy, detectives.

The detectives exchange a knowing glance, and Viliami's smile grows wider.

BRIGADIER CELE

(clears throat objectively)

Dr Nyoni, sithokozela isenzo sakho esihle. Kodwa makube sobala asibheki umnikelo sifuna iqiniso.

(We appreciate your...kind gesture. But let's be clear; we're not looking for a handout. We're looking for the truth.

Viliami's smile falls and he tries to salvage his dignity.

VILIAMI

(smirking)

Kunjalo bafethu. Bengingeke ngibe nayo ngenye indlela.

(Of course, detectives. I wouldn't have it any other way.)

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 10: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. MINERALS AND ENERGY AGENCY.

Zuri walks into the Agency's offices, greeted by familiar faces and warm smiles. Her old colleagues gather around, congratulating her on her return.

THABANG

(teasingly)

Our return soldier! Sikukhumbule lapha.

(We've missed you)

ZURI

(teasing him back)

Ungikhumbule Thabang noma uphuthelwe ukuntshontsha ukudla kwami kwasemini okuzenzela?

(You missed me Thabang or you missed poaching my homemade lunch?)

The group shares warm chuckles.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE

(whispering)

The Iron lady is waiting for you...Ulungele ukushaywa ngamaprojkethi anzima. Wonke umuntu uthembele kuwe ukuthi uzosimela.

(Be ready to be overloaded with daunting tasks. Everyone is counting on you to stand for us.)

ZURI

(with a mischievous smile)

Inyangazi bafo. Ngihlaba ngilungele ukugoqa ibhodwe.

(You know me, guys. I'm always ready to stir the hot pot!)

The group shares another excited conspiratorial laugh as Zuri makes her way to Director Fourie's office.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. DIRECTOR KARIN FOURIE'S OFFICE.

Director Karin Fourie sits behind her massive desk with her usual austere expression. The President's portrait can be seen behind her back as well as the national flag. Impressive credentials and the agency's mission statement appear subtly on the walls.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(serious)

Zuri, I'm glad you're back. Your reinstatement came from the second office. The VP was impressed with your inspiring...audacity at the Supernova launch.

ZURI

(with humility)

Thank you, mam. I had no idea the speech made that...impact.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(gravely)

Yes, well, you made quite a... national stir. People are talking.

(she flashes a wry smile)

And now I have a new assignment for you. The Kleinfontein villagers have filed a petition against Nova Africa's eMalahleni expansion. I want you to lead the investigation.

Zuri nods faintly. She's fully aware what this assignment means between her and Jaysen.

ZURI

(with professional demeanor)

What's the scope of the investigation, mam?

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(sternly)

I want you to dig deep, Radebe. Nova Africa concealed a case of twelve miners who died mysteriously under their shafts. The official version was "mining accident" but rumour has it something spooky was going on.

(she leans forward on her desk, her voice assuming a stark tone)

Dhlamini suggested the use of hydrogen cyanide after the hidden discovery of colbaltite, a rare and valuable mineral used in the production of lithium-ion batteries and other high-tech applications...but who knows? The case was hard to prove...Nova claimed that the HCN was a natural occurrence.

(she looks at Zuri with a sharp, piercing look that seems personal)

Find out what really went on at that plant, all the EIA violations and current safety conditions.

She opens a drawer, fetches a pack of cigarettes and walks to the window. Zuri is visibly shocked that she smokes.)

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(lights up a cigarette with a lighter facing the window)

Hope you don't mind? My husband doesn't know I take this!

(she exhales the smoke with a look of relaxation)

DIRECTOR FOURIE (CONT'D)

(passionately)

They say Viliami Nyoni is untouchable in this country...but if you find any evidence of wrong doing I want us to take them all the way

to court... all the bloody way to the last court of the land!

(Zuri nods faintly, her eyes firmly fixed on Mrs Fourie. She stubs her cigarette quickly and settles back on her big chair with some sense of relief)

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(with a softer stance)

And if you succeed in getting Viliami and his pretty boy Jaysen, nailed...I'm considering appraising you to supervisory level. I want you to work with me on finalizing Project 2030 Masterplan.

Zuri's eyes light up with excitement at the mention of the project.

ZURI

(beaming)

Project 2030? That was...Dr Dhlamini's brainchild.

DIRECTOR FOURIE

(nodding icily with caution in her tone.)

Yes, it was. It's a very sensitive national policy document. And I believe you're the right person to help me see it through legislation.

Zuri nods faintly, her mind conflicted with the implications of the assignment.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 10: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. PLUSH BEDROOM.

Jaysen and Tinashe are lounging intimately on a plush bed, dressed in silky bed attire and surrounded by opulent decor. Tinashe snuggles up close to Jaysen, who seemed distant.

TINASHE

(concerned)

Hey babe. What's wrong? You've been preoccupied lately. I thought the launch went very well...

JAYSEN

(his expression distracted)

Just work stuff, baby. Don't worry about it.

Tinashe looks unconvinced, but lets it slide. She gently places Jaysen's hand on her belly as she rests on his chest.

TINASHE

(probing gently)

Baby, ubukade ukude selokhu ngakutshela ukuthi uJunior usendleleni?  
(You've been distant from me since I told you Jaysen Junior is on the way.)

JAYSEN

(reassuring but his face suggesting otherwise)

It's nothing of that sort, babe. I'm just stressed with work pressure.  
Yilokho kuphela.

(That's all)

Tinashe searches his face, unsure if she believes him. Suddenly, Jaysen's phone buzzes with an incoming call. It is Zuri calling. He hesitates before picking it up. He bumbles out of bed quickly that even Tinashe is astonished.

JAYSEN

(awkwardly)

Sorry babe, I need to take this call.

Tinashe raises an eyebrow as Jaysen steps away wrapping his night robe to take the call. Tinashe's eyes narrow sensing that Jaysen is hiding something from her.

JAYSEN (over the phone)

(uncomfortable)

Hie...oh, really? Siyakuhlalalisela! No.. no..ngiyajabula ngawe.

(Congratulations...I'm happy for you)

Tinashe's expression darkens. She seems to have an idea who Jaysen is speaking to.

JAYSEN (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

(eyes darting back and forth with discomfort)

No, no I'm fine. I'm fine. I'm just...tied up with some stuff.

Tinashe is in rage, but she remains silent, waiting for Jaysen to end the call.

TINASHE

(menacing tone)

Bekungabani lowo, Jaysen? Futhi ungangiqambela amanga Jaysen...

(Who was that? And don't lie to me...)

Jaysen hesitates, unsure how much to reveal.

JAYSEN

(cautiously)

Uthando nje uzakwethu. Ungakhathazeki ngakho.

(Just a colleague, love. Don't worry about it.)

TINASHE

(venomously)

I shouldn't worry about it? You're my fiance, Jaysen. Nginelungelo lokwazi ukuthi okufonelayo ngalesi sikhathi sasebusuku.

(I have every right to know who calls you at this time of the evening)

Jaysen sighs, realizing he's trapped.

JAYSEN

(with a hint of frustration)

Tinashe, please. Let's not do this now.

TINASHE

(furious)

No, Jaysen. We're going to do this now. Uzongitshela iqiniso ukuthi kwenzakalani.

(You're going to tell me the truth on what's going on with you lately.)

The atmosphere becomes charged, with Tinashe's anger and Jaysen's unease hanging in the air.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 10: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. VILIAMI'S OFFICE.

Viliami Nyoni sits in his high-backed chair, swivelling lowly as he ponders upon the various issues surrounding him. His face reflects deep anxiety. His P.A, BUHLE, strides confidently into the office whilst holding a bunch of files.

BUHLE

(dutifully)

A gentleman is here to see you, sir. He says you don't know him but that it is extremely important.

VILIAMI

(strictly)

Who is he?

BUHLE

(eloquently)

A Mr...SEYII OKORO. He works in Khayelitsha, Safe house ministries.

VILIAMI

(firmly)

If you have vetted him, show him in, Buhle.

BUHLE

(swinging back confidently as Viliami admires her casually)

O.k ,sir.

Seyi Okoro, dressed in a traditional Nigerian Kaftan and a Fulani Cap and sandals, is ushered into the plush office by Buhle and the door is closed. Seyi carries a folder bag in one hand.

SEYI

(extends his hand which Viliami refuses to shake)

(distinct Nigerian accent)

Dr Nyoni...it's good of you to see me. I'm very sorry to disturb your peace.

VILIAMI

(suspiciously)

I rarely see people without notice. Ngabe sabonana ngaphambili, Mr Okoro?

(Have we met before?)

SEYI

(with humiliation)

No...we have not, sir. At least not officially. I work at Khayelitsha Advocacy for female empowerment. We ah...do not exactly move in the same circles.

VILIAMI

(curtly)

Ngingakusiza kanjani?

(How may I help you?)

SEYI

(hesitantly)

I ah...I have something that might be of interest to you, Dr Nyoni.

VILIAMI

(curious)

Hlobo luni lwento esikhuluma ngayo?

(What sort of thing are we talking about?)

SEYI

(mysteriously)

I have come upon hard times of late, Dr Nyoni. I have some huge debts.

VILIAMI

(rudely)

Izikweletu? Ngakho -ke ufisa ukubalekela abakweletwayo  
ngokungithengisela izinto ezithile?

(And so...you wish to elude your creditors by peddling some stuff  
to me?)

SEYI

(elaborately)

I approached a very prominent politician for money. I should have  
been smarter, but I was desperate. And now I have material belonging  
to that politician which might be of some value to you.

VILIAMI

(warming up)

UShaka wemalimboleko?

(A loan shark?)

You are saying you owe a famous politician money? And now you want  
to sell me something that belongs to the shark?

Seyi nods emphatically.

SEYI

(reverentially)

Yes, sir. That's correct.

VILIAMI

(urgently)

Kuyini emhlabeni? Ngicela uhlale.

(What on earth is it? Please take a seat.)

Seyi sits down and withdraws from his file case a large envelope and takes out some photographs. The photographs contain MP Tshabalala's nudes in compromising positions with underage girls some members from

Safe house ministries. Viliami looks at the pictures, his face changing from quizzical to understanding as he looks back at Seyi with quiet pleasure.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 10 \*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 11: "DOUBLE-CROSS"**

SCENE 01.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. COUNSELLING ROOM. UPSCALE MEDICAL CENTER.

Thandolwazi Nyoni sits alongside Zuri Radebe in a plush medical facility in Cape Town Metropolitan. DR MERYLN FOSTER, a renowned psychologist with a kind face and piercing green eyes, leans forward, her voice gentle and professional.

DR FOSTER

Thandolwazi, Zuri, thank you for coming. I want to explore the events surrounding the accident on the N4 highway. Can you both tell me what you remember?

Thandolwazi's voice is measured, but her words are laced with a hint of desperation.

THANDOLWAZI

(reflectively)

I was driving my car...following the Minerals staff bus from behind because I thought...I knew I was being followed by a white Toyota Hilux since my turn into Joburg. I thought it was a hijack attempt or something.

(she twists her face reliving the horror)

When I tried to overtake the Minerals bus, the Hilux swerved and

overtook me from the blind left side. I remember...I remember feeling a sense of dread, like something was terribly wrong and I thought I was going to die.

(Thandolwazi's eyes mist with tears)

Everything happened so fast, I thought I was being targeted and then boom...I crashed onto the bus ahead.

Zuri's eyes also cloud, the pain of the memory unbearable.

ZURI

(emotionally)

I was on the staff bus...sitting in the back with Mrs Mokoena...another late colleague who perished in that accident. I remember hearing a very strange sound as two vehicles scrambled behind us. I remember hearing a loud crash and turning to see Mrs Nyoni's BMW overturning.

(her face becomes fearful, intense)

And then...strangely enough everything I remember was in a haze...like in a dream...as if time had been suspended...

DR FOSTER

(with gentle intensity)

Tell me what you think you saw in the haze?

ZURI

(confused, straining her memory)

I saw...Dr Dhlamini, my late boss, I saw him slumped over in the front passenger seat in a pool of blood. I heard him speak something...like he was crying for help...I heard some people laughing...and then I collapsed only to wake up in the ICU.

Dr Meryln Foster's expression is somber, her eyes locked on Thandolwazi

DR FOSTER

(gently)

Thandolwazi, let's revisit moments AFTER your crash. Do you remember anything?

Thandolwazi's voice cracks, a stream of tears rolling down her cheeks. Dr Foster passes her a pad of kleenex.

THANDOLWAZI

(emotionally charged, fighting to compose herself)

I...I don't remember seeing much. I just remember hearing what sounded like gunshots and tyres screeching, and then...everything went black again.

DR FOSTER

(with professional demeanor)

It's clear that both of you experienced a very traumatic event. I'm here to help you process your emotions and gain clarity on what really happened.

The two ladies nod understandably, united in their quest to find the truth of that tragic event.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 11: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. UPSCALE OUTDOOR RESTAURANT.

Tinashe, looking smashing in smart casual and trendy fashion shades, sits across Thabang, the IT guru from the Minerals and Energy department. Soft urban pop plays in the background.

THABANG

(star-struck)

Tinashe, I'm a huge fan. Ngikubone kukhava yeGQ recently.

TINASHE

(flattered but focused)

Thank you, Thabang. I can see you're a real follower.

(she clears her throat quickly revealing she's not interested in adulations from a broke chap like Thabang)

TINASHE (CONT'D)

Kodwa ake sikhulume ngenye into ebaluleke kakhulu. Ngidinga umusa.

(But let's talk about something else very important. I need a favour.)

Thabang's demeanor changes. His eyes shift from flirty to quizzical.

THABANG

Oh ok. What's up?

TINASHE

(smiling pleasantly)

Ngithungwe kini ngu Dr Viliami Nyoni.

(I have been sent to you by Dr Nyoni.)

Thabang's eyes widen, his expression a mix of surprise and curiosity.

THABANG

(awed)

Dr Viliami Nyoni? As in the big boss of Nova Africa?

TINASHE

(nodding, her expression serious)

The one and only. Well...he's interested in monitoring Zuri's work at the agency, which, as you would know, is aimed at bringing Nova Africa down.

THABANG

(face darkens, thoughtfully)

I see. And what exactly do you need me to do?

TINASHE

(her voice low, urgent)

I...well...WE need you to hack into Zuri's files and clone her projects directly to Dr Nyoni's email DM, like cyber stalking. Can you do that for me?

Thabang's face registers discomfort, contemplating deep.

THABANG

(reluctantly)

That's a tough one. You know our department is sensitive. We have advanced firewalls, intrusion detection systems...but...

(he smiles mischievously)

You know what they say, if the price is right I'm on the fight.

TINASHE

(laughing flirtatiously)

Oh, Thabang, you drive a hard bargain.

(she pulls out a wad of cash from her designer handbag)

Here's a little down payment to seal the deal. I'm reliably told you're the best in this game, don't disappoint my source.

Thabang's face lights up as he accepts the cash discreetly, a happy smile washing all over him.

TINASHE

(whispering teasingly as if warning him in a joke)

And don't forget this is Viliami Nyoni you're dealing with...no room for FUs! No man crosses him and walks away scott free.

THABANG

(smiling knowingly)

We all know the man's reputation. Ngizoqala manje.

(I'll get started right away)

Thabang looks at Tinashe hesitantly as if he's forgotten something important.

THABANG

(with honest eyes)

Kodwa enye into.

(One more thing.)

TINASHE

(with slight irritation.)

Yes, Thabang?

THABANG

(nervously)

I'll need Dr Nyoni's password to his private email account.

Tinashe shakes her head slowly, her glance piercing into Thabang, searching for any sign of treachery.

THABANG (CONT'D)

(emphatically)

That's the only way I can transfer Zuri's files directly to his DM without having to contact him.

The screen fades to black as Tinashe smiles, confident that Thabang is ready to do business with them.

EPISODE 11: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PRAVIN PATHER'S PENTHOUSE - CAMPS BAY, CAPE TOWN.

Thandolwazi stands at the wall of glass, gazing at the breathtaking view of Cape Town and the sight of tourists on the beaches. Pravin Pather enters the room, carrying a tray with two steaming cups of coffee.

PRAVIN

(approaching Thandolwazi)

I see you're admiring the Twelve Apostles view. It never gets old, does it? They say Cecil John Rhodes built this place as his private cottage in the twentieth century before a luxury investment magnate from Monaco refurbished it.

THANDOLWAZI

(turning to face him)

No, it doesn't. You surely made a good investment choice breaking the bank to outbid the big boys Johann Rupert and Koos Bekker for this gem of property.

(she accepts the cup of coffee and sits down on the modern plush couches)

THANDOLWAZI (CONT'D)

Let's get it quick, Pravin. Viliami doesn't want me here. Let's start with your sudden resignation from the board after all these years?

Pravin sets his cup down and looks at Thandolwazi with a hint of caution.

PRAVIN

(cautiously)

I'm in the twilight, Thandolwazi. I don't think it's unusual. Doctor's orders.

THANDOLWAZI

(shaking her head, unconvinced)

Nah... do I have dump written on my forehead, Pravin? Give me another one.

(she sips her cup looking at him warily)

PRAVIN

(genuinely concerned)

What's really troubling you, Thandolwazi?

THANDOLWAZI

(looking vulnerable, her eyes falling)

A lot. Dr Dhlamini's death for a start. I now know it wasn't just an accident.

PRAVIN

(measuring his words)

What makes you say that?

THANDOLWAZI

(firm)

I know my husband's business dealings. I know who he's involved with.  
And I know that Dhlamini's programs threatened their interests.

Pravin puts his cup away, his eyes troubled before settling them on  
Thandolwazi with caution.

PRAVIN

(cautious)

You're playing with fire, Thandolwazi. Those people...they'll stop  
at nothing.

THANDOLWAZI

(with determined eyes)

I'm not afraid of them, Pravin. I want to know the exact truth. Six  
people perished and this...mob is washing my name in innocent blood!

(she shakes her head firmly in distress)

No, I can't be a part of this murder cover up!

(Pravin's expression softens and he nods slowly.)

PRAVIN

(resolute)

Very well. I'll tell you what I know. But you must promise me one  
thing...

The scene fades to black with Thandolwazi staring openly at Pravin,  
eager to hear the story.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 11: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION.

Golden light flickers from the crackling fireplace, casting a  
brilliant glow over the cosy lounge. Zuri, radiant in a red and sexy

dress, sits besides Jaysen, their bodies touching. Jaysen pours her a glass of rich, red wine as soft music plays in the background, setting the tone for a beautiful romantic date.

JAYSEN

(with a warm, charming smile)

Ngiyajabula ukhuthi uphumele kulobusuku.

(I'm glad you could make it tonight)

ZURI

(with a sweet smile)

Thanks for inviting me, Jaysen. Kumele ngithi ikhaya lakho liyamangalisa.

(I must say this home is amazing)

She sips her wine and giggles.

ZURI (CONT'D)

Kazi zingaki izintombi oze nazo lapha wabanika izethembiso ongakaze uzifeze.

(I wonder how many girls you've brought here and gave them promises you never fulfilled?)

JAYSEN

(his eyes boring into Zuri's in an intimate way)

What if I tell you I've come to my last bus stop? That I'm now ready to settle down, raise a beautiful family with someone special?

ZURI

(teasingly, poking his nose playfully with a smile)

I'd say get the hell out of that Oscar winning character! Don't forget you still hold the title of being Cape Town's most notorious heartbreaker!

JAYSEN

(humouring back)

And whose number two from me?

ZURI

(laughing as she pokes his nose again)

Jaysen Nyoni!

JAYSEN

(enjoying the banter)

And the bronze medalist?

ZURI

(cracking with infectious laughter)

It's you, you, you all the way! All the girls I hear say you give them some butterflies in their tummies your hopeless piece of ego!

(she hits him affectionately with a pillow cushion on the couch both enjoying the vibe. They sip more wine, their chemistry effortless.

Jaysen's demeanor changes into gentle serious.

JAYSEN

(probing gently)

So, tell me Zuri, now that you're back at the agency, will they send you to inspect my company as well?

(he looks at her with genuine concern)

I hear the agency wants to revisit the 2023 mine collapse?

Zuri's demeanor shifts as well, the question unsettling her.

ZURI

(guardedly)

Maybe. My boss raised it up but I'm not sure it will be taken up. The agency is divided over whom to blame...your company or the illegal miners. Minister Gumede is blocking the resolution.

Jaysen's expression darkens as he sips his wine contemplatively. Zuri notices the change but keeps quiet.

JAYSEN

Zuri, kade ngicabanga ukuthi akusamele uhlale eKhayelitsha.  
(I've been thinking; you shouldn't stay in Khayelitsha anymore.)

ZURI

(defensively)

What's wrong with Khayelitsha, Jaysen?

I'm fine. Ngidinga ukusondelana nomphakathi wakithi.

( I need to be close to my community)

JAYSEN

(firmly)

Akuphephile. Okungenani ake ngikuthlele indawo ephephile.

(It's not safe. At least let me find you a safer place.)

ZURI

(softening)

Jaysen, that's sweet of you. But I can take care of myself.  
Bengikwenza lokho kusukela ngineminyaka eyishumi.

(I've been doing that since I was ten.)

Their conversation takes a more intimate tone.

JAYSEN

(stroking Zuri's hair, his voice low and intense.)

Zuri, kusukela ngesikathi ngihlangana nawe, ngangazi ukuthi nguwe.

(From the moment I met you, I knew you were the one.)

ZURI

(mesmerised as her eyes bore into Jaysen's)

Jaysen...ngokweqiniso ngizizwa ngendlela efanayo.

(she looks at him with confusion, concern)

Kodwa une...ukhona Tinashe.

(I feel the same way. But you've got...there's Tinashe in the picture?)

JAYSEN

(his eyes intense)

I know. And I'm sorry if this sounds selfish. Ngizimisele ukusilwela. Ngalomazwa esiwabelana ngakho.

(I'm willing to fight for us. For this feeling we share.)

The air is thick with tension as Jaysen's hand finds Zuri's, their fingers intertwining.

Their lips meet in a passionate kiss, the fireplace crackling in the background. The scene fades to black as they deepen their kiss, the night promising more.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 11: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. PLUSH HOTEL ROOM.

Tinashe lies in bed cosily beside Viliami.

VILIAMI

(stroking her bosom as she lies in his arms)

Sithandwa sami uyakhazimulu. Ukukhulelwa kukufanele.

(My dear, you're glowing. The pregnancy suits you.)

TINASHE

(smiling faintly)

Ingiyajabula ukuthi ujabule.

(I'm glad you are pleased)

VILIAMI

(mischievously)

Ujabule? Ngijabulile. You know Thandolwazi has been failing to bear any children because of her...ovary condition. Lengane izovikela ifa lethu.

(Pleased? I'm ecstatic. This child will secure our legacy.)

he chuckles diabolically.

VILIAMI (CONT'D)

Futhi no Jaysen ezitshela ukuthi uyena ubaba...it's almost...poetic.

(And with Jaysen thinking he is the father...)

TINASHE

(persuasively)

And what about my career, Viliami? Wangithembisa okuhle.

(You promised me big favours.)

VILIAMI

(proudly)

Patience, my dear. You'll receive a lucrative modelling contract, and I'll ensure your career skyrockets. You'll be the face of Nova Africa's new campaign.

TINASHE

(beaming, caressing Viliami seductively on the face)

I like the sound of that. And I've more great news, too...

VILIAMI

(curious)

Oh, tshela.

(Do tell.)

TINASHE

(sits upright wrapping a sheet about her)

The agency is now in our pockets. Had a meeting with Thabang, their IT whiz kid, in the afternoon.

VILIAMI

(impressed)

Ouch! Umsebenzi omuhle. Manje kukhona isidalwa esingavamile esinobuhle obumangalisayo nobuchopho ebubukhali.

(Good job. Now there is an unusual creature with awesome beauty and sharp brains.)

TINASHE

(smiles and then smirks with hesitancy)

But there's one ask, Viliami. Thabang needs your personal email password to DM you Zuri's files without you having to DIY.

Viliami's expression turns cautious.

VILIAMI

(firmly)

Akunakwenzeka lokho. Thola enye indlela yokumgcina eseduze kwethu.

(That's not possible. Find another way of keeping him on our side)

TINASHE

(pleading)

But Viliami...

He cuts her off rudely, sending shivers down her.

VILIAMI

(firmly, voice rising)

Lokho akuxoxishana nokugcina kwayo!

(That's not negotiable. And it's final.)

The scene fades to black as Tinashe nods faintly in submission. Her face registers displeasure with Viliami's disrespect of women.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 11: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. PRAVIN PATHER'S PENTHOUSE. CAMPS BAY.

Pravin takes a deep breath, collecting his thoughts before speaking.

PRAVIN (CONT'D)

(serious tone)

Your husband...or "the black eagle"...is a ruthless man,  
Thandolwazi. He's a symptom of a larger disease.

THANDOLWAZI

(inrighed)

What do you mean, Pravin?

PRAVIN

(nervously)

The mining sector in this country...it's a web of treachery and  
corruption. And Viliami's just a thread in that web.

THANDOLWAZI

I still don't understand, Pravin...

Tell me more.

Pravin glances at his watch, a hint of unease creeping onto his face.

PRAVIN

(cautiously)

I wish I had the liberty.

(he sighs, his face weighted)

Look, this is the one sector where all the nation's cogs are forged by the ruling class... politicians, top business people, the international black market cartels and foreign policy depend on this sector. Forget google, South Africa is the world's natural resources center. It's all about the precious minerals.

(he consults his watch again as if he's expecting someone important)

PRAVIN (CONT'D)

I will give you a name. Someone who can help you with all the answers you want.

Thandolwazi's eyes lock onto Pravin's, anticipation building.

THANDOLWAZI

(softly)

Please?

Pravin's lips part but before he can speak, his phone buzzes on the coffee table.

PRAVIN

(urgently)

This call is very important. Excuse me.

Thandolwazi's stare never leaves Pravin's face as he answers the phone. His expression darkens, and he listens intently.

PRAVIN (into phone)

Thank you, Mr Morales. I appreciate. Yes, let me confirm the exact figures with the CFO first. I'll get back to you.

PRAVIN (CONT'D)

Thandolwazi, you need to leave. Now.

Thandolwazi shakes her head, a look of defiance on her face.

THANDOLWAZI

(firmly)

I'm not going anywhere, Pravin. I'm on your side, now.

(Pravin's face sets a determined expression and he nods curtly.)

PRAVIN

(serious tone)

Then let's get to work, Thandolwazi.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 11\*\*\***

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

**EPISODE 12: "FALSE BOTTOM"**

SCENE 01

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NYONI MANSION.

Zuri Radebe slowly opens her eyes, disoriented by the opulent surroundings. She's in Jaysen's bed, wearing his "LA LAKERS" basketball jersey over her naked body. The morning light streaming through the panoramic windows highlights the lavish decor, a stark contrast to her humble dwellings in Khayelitsha.

Zuri walks to the window, admiring the stunning views of the mansion, and the sounds of birds chirping create a serene atmosphere. For a moment, she forgets about reality and indulges in the fantasy of a majestic life.

The sound of the shower running in the ensuite bathroom brings Zuri back to reality. Suddenly, the sound of high heels clicking on the marble floor outside the bedroom door sends a shiver down her spine. Tinashe, Jaysen's fiancée, calls out his name, her voice full of sweetness and energy.

Zuri scrambles for her clothes scattered around the room and quickly gathers them, including her shoes. She rushes to the bathroom hoping

to find a way to escape unnoticed.

As she enters the bathroom, she's met with the sight of Jaysen, his chiselled masculine body glistening with water droplets. Their eyes connect, and for a moment they share a charged connection, reminiscent of last night's magical events.

JAYSEN

(whispering as he notices Zuri's panick and the clothes)

Kwenzenjani?

(What's wrong?)

Zuri's eyes dart towards the door, and Jaysen follows her gaze. His expression darkens with guilt and panick. FADE OUT.

EPISODE 12: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES.

Pastor Evelyn Kofi stands at the front of the crowded community room at Safe House ministries, her voice sounding incantatory as she addresses a group of community women and young girls. Behind her, posters written: NO TO GENDER VIOLENCE, STOP THE RAPES, SAY NO TO KILLING OF OUR WOMEN AND GIRLS...can be seen in the background.

PASTOR EVELYN

(passionately)

Unamandla, unesibindi, futhi ufanele ukuthandwa nokuhlonishwa!

(You are strong, you are brave, and you are worthy of love and respect!)

The women and girls applaud. Some wear T-shirts emblazoned "SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES", some wave pictures of a slain gang rape victim written JUSTICE FOR SITHEMBISO MBEKI (RIP 2008-2025)

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

Noma yimuphi owesilisa onesibindi sikuphakamisela owesifazane isandla uyigwala. Akafanele ukubizwa ngendoda. Mubi kunenja

enthenwe!

(Any man who dares raise a hand against a woman is a coward. He's not worthy to be called a man at all. He is worse off than a castrated dog!)

The room erupts into chuckles and laughs although their faces show sadness and a somber mood.

PASTOR EVELYN (CONT'D)

(charged)

As the women of Khayelitsha, daughters, mothers, aunties and children of South Africa, Madiba's beloved Rainbow nation...we say no, no, no to gender based violence, rape and sexual abuse of our women and girls! May Sithembiso Mbeki's soul rest in power and may the perpetrators be brought to justice!

The young women applaud, their faces filled with sad inspiration. Suddenly, the doors burst open and a team of SAPS officers, armed and some in tactical gear, storm in.

POLICE OFFICER

(shouting)

Wonke umuntu wehle!

(Everyone get down!)

Sinencwadi egunyaza ukuboshwa kukamfundisi u - Evelyn Kofi.

(We have a warrant for the arrest of Pastor Evelyn Kofi for human trafficking, sex exploitation and child labour!)

The room erupts into chaos as the women and children scramble to comprehend the ironic situation. Pastor Evelyn's eyes flash with defiance as she's taken in. The officers move swiftly, surrounding Pastor Evelyn while some in the crowd take pictures and videos with their cell phones.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES.

Seyi Okoro stands outside, watching the unfolding chaos with quiet

pleasure and satisfaction. Pastor Evelyn is led away in handcuffs, the members of community and some of her followers watching in shock and disbelief. The camera pans out, capturing Ayanda and Loyiso's devastated faces in the crowd. Betrayal is visibly etched on their faces.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 12: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NYONI MANSION. PLUSH BEDROOM.

Jaysen swiftly ushers Zuri inside the ensuite shower room, his eyes locked on hers with a silent plea for secrecy.

JAYSEN

(whispering)

Hlala lapha.

(Wait here)

Zuri nods, her expression full of humiliation as she steps into the shower room. Jaysen closes the door behind her, enveloping her into opaque semi-darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. PLUSH BEDROOM.

Jaysen takes a deep breath, composing himself before turning to face Tinashe. She stands in the doorway, her eyes suspicious as she takes in Jaysen's disheveled appearance.

TINASHE

(suspiciously)

Ubukhuluma nobani nje?

(Who were you just talking to?)

JAYSEN

(smoothly)

Ekekho neyodwa. Ngivele ngihube ngedwa.

(No one. Just humming to myself.)

Tinashe raises an eyebrow, her gaze sweeping the room. Her eyes settle on the ruffled bed, and her expression darkens.

TINASHE

(unsettled)

Since when do you hum in the shower? Ngiyazi kukhona ongifihlela khona.

( I know you're hiding something from me.)

Jaysen forces a laugh, trying to deflect her suspicion. He walks over to Tinashe, his eyes settled on her face.

JAYSEN

(teasingly)

Ingane baby, sithandwa sami? Uyahlanya.

(Is it the baby, babe? You're being paranoid.)

Tinashe's expression softens, and she takes a step closer to Jaysen with an intimate gesture of vulnerability.

TINASHE

(sweetly, re-composed)

Babe, we need to finalize the wedding plans. Ngifuna kwenzeka ngokushesha.

(I want it to happen quickly.)

JAYSEN

(jittery)

Kungani kuphuthuma?

(Why the rush?)

Tinashe's eyes reveal a mixture of excitement and desperation.

TINASHE

(her pitch high, urgently)

Why? Because I'm pregnant, Jaysen. And I don't want my condition to show before the wedding. Please baby, please...I don't mind cutting down some of our initial ideas...can we do this sooner...please daddy...

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. ENSUITE SHOWER ROOM.

Zuri stands in the shower cubicle, her ears straining to listen to the conversation. Her eyes widen in shock as she hears Tinashe's pregnancy revelations. She shows dejection, humiliation and betrayal with the realization that she's fallen for a man who's already committed to someone else.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 12: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE.

Viliami sits behind his massive desk, his eyes fixed on his chief lawyer, Christian Cloete, who sits opposite him, flipping through a stack of documents.

CHRIS CLOETE

(serious tone)

We have been given seven days by the agency to reach a settlement or...face revocation. We need to act quickly.

VILIAMI

Apart from the ridiculous figure they're asking, what options do we have to delay the process, Chris?

CHRIS CLOETE

(consulting his documents)

We can appeal to the (SCA) Supreme Court of Appeal but its a long shot. Alternatively, we can try to re-negotiate with the community trust leadership directly...but again, that may require further

concessions.

Viliami nods thoughtfully and he rises to look out the window, the city skyline glinting in the sunlight.

VILIAMI

(glancing away absent-mindedly)

Do whatever it takes, Chris. We can't afford to lose our foothold in eMalahleni. The Chinese are smacking their fingers ready for a hostile take-over.

Chris nods subtly, making some notes on his pad.

CHRIS CLOETE

(serious and professional demeanor)

There's another matter, boss. The Human Rights Watchdog has launched a separate lawsuit on the twelve illegal miners found dead on our Plant 3.

(he looks at Viliami honestly)

We need to be prepared for the worst. If they manage to prove toxic gases were used on the miners ... another mind-boggling financial settlement is beckoning.

VILIAMI

(smirks with sarcasm)

Welcome to post-apartheid South Africa, Egoli yegazi, a country of litigations, counter-litigations and commissions of enquiry!

(he sighs, agitated.)

Whoever said the law is an ass was onto something.

Suddenly, the TV screen in the office flashes with breaking news.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

BREAKING NEWS: SAPS RAIDS KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE...

Renowned philanthropist and community leader Pastor Evelyn Kofi has been arrested on Human trafficking...and sex exploitation charges...

Viliami and Cloete follow the story with interest.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Reports coming in say respected nationalist and Mpumalanga District 4 MP, Sibusiso Tshabalala is implicated in the scandal which involves a Nigerian cartel with a clergy background ...police investigations are ongoing...

(the sound fades out)

Viliami's face momentarily lights up with satisfaction, a sly smile spreading across his face as he leans back in his chair.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 12: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. NIGHT. MINERALS AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT.

Zuri and Thabang huddle together, surrounded by computer screens, the fluorescent lights humming above them. The office is deserted, except for the occasional janitorial staff member walking by.

THABANG

(typing furiously)

Let's see here...

Zuri leans closer, her eyes fixed on the screen as the lines of code blur together.

ZURI

(anxiously)

Are you sure you can crack this, Thabang? Leli ithemba lami elihle ngaphakathi kwe - Nova Africa imisebenzi engekwo emthethweni.

(This is my best hope inside Nova Africa's illegal activities.)

THABANG

(with a focused, intense face)

The supermodel didn't make it easy, but I'm trying another method. Most super rich tycoons like Viliami Nyoni don't use complex passwords. The clue revolves around the black eagle...

Zuri raises an eyebrow, intrigued.

ZURI

(teasingly)

Unesibindi, Thabang. Angiqiniseki ukuthi using a ghost account into baiting Tinashe to bribe you was a good idea... Bengingazi ukuthi ubuhle bakho budlulele ngale kwemishini

(I didn't know your charm extended beyond the machines.)

So now you are what? A double agent?

Thabang chuckles, his eyes full of amusement at Zuri's comment.

THABANG

(laughing as he types off)

Let's just say I have my ways with all types of women. Jack of many talents and master of...(he punches the ENTER button emphatically)...THIS!

Immediately, the computer screen becomes alive and Viliami Nyoni's private emails and files pour in: "TWELVE MINERS BURIED ALIVE AT NOVA AFRICA'S GRAVEYARD SHAFT: MINING MAFIA BOSS MASHEGO FINGERS TYCOON'S SON, another file reads PROJECT 2030 MASTERPLAN TO BE UNVEILED: WHO WILL TAKE THE FALL? THE LAWSUIT THAT WILL SEND NYONI TO BANKRUPTCY: MINERALS AGENCY SUE NOVA AFRICA FOR 2 BILLION RANDS...

ZURI

(gasping)

Holy Grail...lokhu kakhulu!

(This is massive)

THABANG

(beaming with satisfaction)

There's your key to unlocking Robben Island!

The two scroll through the emails, their eyes in shock as they discover evidence of Viliami's massive corruption and scandals.

ZURI

(triumphantly)

Sikwenzile, Thabang!

(We did it)

she lowers her tone with a hint of emotion.

ZURI (CONT'D)

This one is for Dr Dhlamini...may his soul rest in eternal power.

Thabang nods sadly.

THABANG

(emotionally)

Wayendoda elungile. Sonke siyamkhumbula kulesi sikhungo.

(He was such a good man, chomi. We all miss him in this agency.)

Zuri's face glows with fulfilment, her eyes full of admiration for Thabang. As they high-five to seal their celebration, they share a subtle spark of chemistry.

The camera lingers on their faces as they glare at each other with budding attraction.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 12: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

**FLASHBACK.** INT. DAY. VILIAMI'S OFFICE.

Viliami sits with Seyi Okoro as he analyses the pictures and evidence of Pastor Evelyn and MP Tshabalala's criminal activities and shenanigans.

VILIAMI

(firmly)

Kungani ucabanga ukuthi ngifuna le nto? You are in administration there; you know how much my wife's foundation invested in that ministry?

(Why do you think I want this material?)

SEYI

Primarily for two reasons. MP Tshabalala is your arch political rival. Hitting him back with this scandal exposes the hypocrisy in government officials against the anti-corruption mantra.

Viliami nods with a faint smile of affirmation.

SEYI (CONT'D)

Secondly, I have watched my aunt's popularity grow in this Cape province as a champion of women empowerment and rights.

(he smirks with irritation)

What bothers me is she has successfully led the incarceration of many men...using the gender card. Only powerful men like yourself, Dr Nyoni, must stop this rising feminist madness!

VILIAMI

(with a hard look)

You know what this scandal would do to these people's careers and reputations if it leaks?

SEYI

(with a dark tone and face)

It would definitely destroy Tshabalala's political career and legacy and bring down Pastor Evelyn's ministry, no doubt.

VILIAMI

(playing Devil's advocate)

Yilokho ofisa kwenzeke?

(Is that what you wish to happen?)

SEYI

(with a diabolical smile)

If you can see to it, I'd be a very proud and happy whistleblower, sir.

Viliami looks at Seyi with a wry smile of approval.

CUT TO:

PRESENT DAY. INT. DAY. VILIAMI'S OFFICE.

Seyi is escorted into the office by Buhle. Viliami Nyoni stands on the window, facing the city skyline.

VILIAMI

(without facing Seyi)

The full investigations have just started and they have been denied

bail.

SEYI

(beaming)

I'm fully aware of the developments, sir.

VILIAMI

(turning from the window to his chair)

If this material were to be used as court exhibit, you would have to be fully involved. Some of the girls might be asked to testify as well.

SEYI

(grimly)

Yes, I know. By that time, I hope I'll be in Lagos.

Viliami opens a drawer and takes an envelope with plenty of cash. Both men rise on the opposite sides of Viliami's desk.

VILIAMI

(extending his hand)

Bekuyinjalo ukwenza ibhizinisi nawe, Mr Okoro.

(It was a pleasure doing business with you)

SEYI

(with satisfaction as he shakes Nyoni's hand firmly)

Likewise, Dr Nyoni.

FADE TO BLACK.

**\*\*\* END OF EPISODE 12 \*\*\*.**

**TREACHERY: UBUGE BENGU. SEASON FINALE. S1.**

**EPISODE 13: "FRANTIC FAREWELLS"**

SCENE 01

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. CAPE TOWN BEACH.

Zuri and Jaysen stand on the beach with tense faces, the wind whipping Zuri's hair as they face off. The sound of the waves crashing against the shore fills the air.

ZURI

(upset, voice trembling)

Wawazi u Tinashe ukuthi ukhulelwe. Ubuwazi ngomshado. Nokho namanje ningixosha.

(You knew Tinashe was pregnant. You knew about the wedding. Yet you still pursued me.)

JAYSEN

(desperate)

Zuri, ngiyakuthanda. Hhayi Tinashe. Ngangivalekele ebudlelwaneni engingabufuni.

( I love you. Not Tinashe. I am trapped in a relationship I don't want.)

ZURI

(bitterly)

Trapped? You're trapped in your selfishness, Jaysen.

JAYSEN

(passionately, his eyes sincere and honest)

Ngizohamba nawe eKapa. Asiqale kabusha eThekwini. Thi na nje.

(I'll leave Cape Town with you. We'll start anew in Durban. Just us.)

Zuri looks at him intensely in the eyes, considering his offer. For a moment, Jaysen sees a glimmer of hope. But it's short-lived.

ZURI

(firmly, with a hint of vulnerability)

I'm going through hell, Jaysen. Pastor Evelyn's arrest, the Safe house closure... I don't need your drama!

JAYSEN

(desperately)

Ngizoba laphe kuwe, Zuri. Ngiyakwethembisa.

(I'll be there for you, Zuri. I promise.)

Zuri's eyes well up with tears as she looks at Jaysen with honest eyes.

ZURI

(emotionally)

Bengikuthanda, Jaysen. Angifuni imali yakho. Cabanga ukuthi ngifanelwe okungcono kunomuntu ongangisebenzisa kanje.

(I truly loved you, Jaysen. Not because of your money. Guess I deserve better than someone who would use me like this and make me act like a cheap whore!)

Jaysen's face shatters as Zuri's words hit their mark and she turns and walks away. He's left standing alone on the beach, the sound of the waves engulfing him.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 02.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. HAWKS HEADQUARTERS. CONFERENCE ROOM.

The room is filled with senior members of the SAPS HAWKS, all seated around a large conference table. Brigadier Cele stands at the head of the table, addressing the room.

BRIGADIER CELE

(serious tone)

We have a critical decision to take. We've received new evidence in the murder case of Dr Caleb Dhlamini, and it points squarely at Viliami Nyoni.

He switches on the TV screen behind him, and it displays a graphical presentation of the accident.

TV PRESENTATION (V.O)

On the night of November 15th, Dr Caleb Dhlamini was among the seven people travelling on the N4 highway when the Minerals department bus was involved in a fatal collision.

The presentation shows Thandolwazi's BMW XM colliding with the staff bus from behind.

TV PRESENTATION (V.O)

Initial investigations suggested the accident was caused by Thandolwazi's reckless driving and a technical brake failure on her mobile.

The presentation reveals a white Toyota Hilux GD6 with armed men deliberately side-swerving Thandolwazi's BMW from the left side.

TV PRESENTATION (V.O)

Further forensic investigations revealed that three armed men in the Toyota Hilux were responsible for the murder and they were hired by Viliami Nyoni.

The presentation shows an animation gunman shooting Dr Dhlamini thrice whilst the vehicles were in motion.

The room erupts into a mixture of gasps and outraged whispers at the brutal manner the killers executed their assignment.

TV PRESENTATION (V.O)

Dr Dhlamini was drawn out of the bus, half-dead, his cell phone taken and finished off before being dumped on the wreckage. Five other people lost their lives on the spot as a result of the overturning bus and only one person survived.

The room falls silent, the weight of the evidence overwhelming.

COLONEL LUBAYI

(grimly)

This changes everything. And we are investigating more allegations forwarded to us by an anonymous whistleblower linked to Viliami's private emails.

BRIGADIER CELE

(firmly)

We have enough evidence to warrant an arrest. Let's bring Viliami Nyoni to justice.

CAPTAIN MTHEMBU

(skeptical)

But we all know Nyoni's pedigree. He's got connections all the way to the top. And his legal team is one of the best in the country.

COLONEL LUBAYI

(affirming)

You're right Captain Mthembu. We should be prepared to face an onslaught of top lawyers and media spin. Nyoni's got a P.R machine that'll make this look like it's a political witch-hunt.

BRIGADIER CELE

(determined)

I know it wont be easy...but we can't let Nyoni's influence intimidate us. We have to execute our mandate.

The Hawks nod in agreement, their faces set with determination.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 03.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. BUSY AIRPORT TERMINAL. \*Capetown International Airport.  
Viliami Nyoni, dressed in a disguise as a frail old man with a walking stick, stands in a crowded airport terminal, his eyes scanning the scene cautiously. He spots Jaysen and waves subtly.

VILIAMI

(urgently, voice low)

Kumele sisheshe.

(We must be quick)

JAYSEN

(nervously, voice hushed)

Kwenzakalani baba? Igama lakho ligcwele izindaba namakhasi  
aphambili?

(What's going on, exactly, Father? Your name is all over the news  
and front pages...

VILIAMI

(firmly, with a hint of anger)

Ngilalele ndodana. Bayangilandela.

(Listen to me, son. They are after me.)

The Hawks are closing in. I'm fleeing to Canada for a while on political exile.

JAYSEN

(emotional)

Uthini ngobaba webhizinisi? Wonke amacala amaningi esibhekene nawo?

(What about the business, Father? All the lawsuits we're up against?)

VILIAMI

(coughs roughly before holding Jaysen's shoulder for support)

Avale u Thandolwazi no Pravin. Bangamambuka esebenza namaphoyisa. Futhi bahambe ngokushesha ngaphambi kokuba babone ukuthi kwenzekani.

(Shut Thandolwazi and Pravin away. They're traitors working with the cops. And move quickly before they realize what's happening.)

Jaysen nods reluctantly, deeply concerned, as Viliami hands him a large khaki envelope.

VILIAMI

(coldly)

Konke okudingayo kulapho.

(Everything you need is in there)

I have instructed Cloete to guide you along.

(he hugs Jaysen with intensity)

Ndodana, kukhona okumele ngikutshele khona)

(I need to tell you something)

JAYSEN

Kwenzenjani, Ukhozi?

VILIAMI

Yekani ukujaha amantombazane. Bazokwelisa.

(Stop chasing after girls. They'll bring you down.)

And stay away from that girl, Radebe. She's a threat to everything we've built. Lalela?

Viliami Nyoni turns to leave, disappearing into the crowd. The air is thick with tension as Jaysen weighs his position. He knows that his life hangs precariously in the balance at this moment.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 04.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. CLOETE AND SMITH LAW FIRM. CONFERENCE ROOM.

Thandolwazi, Viliami's disillusioned wife, sits across from Advocate Christian Coete and his assistant, Advocate Dineo. On her side is her lawyer, Advocate JOHN MBALULA, a stocky, elderly gentleman dressed in a dark suit.

ADVOCATE MBALULA

(confidently)

Notwithstanding the fugitive status of your client, Advocate Cloete, we're still expecting a substantial settlement.

(he consults a stack of papers in his file)

ADVOCATE MBALULA (CONT'D)

Of notable mention...we have the Bantry Bay mansion dubbed "Eagle's nest" here in Cape Town. We have a multi-million dollar Manhattan Penthouse in Central Park Avenue in the US, two villas in the Dubai Marina and another listed property in Kensington, London.

Chris Cloete and Advocate Dineo exchange a knowing glance, with brief chuckles.

ADVOCATE MBALULA (CONT'D)

(ignoring their disrespect)

We are also aware of the multiple luxury cars...and of course, Dr Nyoni's substantial interest in Nova Africa Mining and Energy which by today's Bloomberg index...runs into billions of rands.

CHRIS CLOETE

(smirking irritably)

Yes Mbalula, it's not a public secret that my client is one of the richest men in this country...but I'm afraid that all won't be necessary.

THANDOLWAZI

(agitated, firmly)

What do you mean, Chris? I know for sure Viliami is worth more...and the listed assets by Advocate Mbalula are understated in what's really under his portfolio.

CHRIS CLOETE

(smoothly, with ruthless advocacy)

Dr Viliami Nyoni transferred all his assets...including his shares in Nova Africa into a trust benefitting his only son, Jaysen Nyoni.

ADVOCATE MBALULA

(skeptical)

That's very convenient, Cloete. When did this happen?

CHRIS CLOETE

(checking documents passed to him by Advocate Dineo. He whispers something in her ear and she nods before he speaks)

The transactions were finalised over the last two months. I have the paperwork here.

(Advocate Mbalula puts on his specks, scrutinizing the documents carefully whilst Thandolwazi looks at Cloete and Dineo with disgust.)

(Mbalula passes the document over to Thandolwazi whilst shaking his head furiously. Thandolwazi scans the papers and throws them on the table.)

THANDOLWAZI

(stunned, angry)

So you're telling me after twelve years in lawful marriage with Viliami I'll get nothing?

CHRIS CLOETE

I'm afraid that's correct.

(he chuckles with sarcasm)

This is not a will testament hearing, Thandolwazi...but a battle to control a large empire belonging to a man betrayed by his loved ones.

ADVOCATE MBALULA

(fiestly)

Is this what it is, Cloete?

CHRIS CLOETE

(revealing his ruthless prosecutorial capabilities)

Precisely. Dr Nyoni effectively shielded his fortune and assets from creditors...and his soon-to-be ex-wife. You see Mbalula, Viliami is not stupid...and it's no coincidence he's considered the richest black man in this country.

Advocate Mbalula's face darkens, his eyes blazing with signs of angry defeat.

ADVOCATE MBALULA

(firmly, packing his papers, eager to leave)

We'll challenge this in court. This is a clear case of fraudulent conveyance, Cloete.

CHRIS CLOETE

(confidently)

I assure you, Mbalula, as a representative of Dr Nyoni's very competitive legal team...we've done our due dilligence.

Thandolwazi picks her designer handbag quietly and storms out of the meeting as Advocate Mbalula scrambles to catch up with her.

FADE OUT.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 05.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. NYONI MANSION. LIVING ROOM.

Tinashe paces back and forth in the room. Jaysen stands calmly by the window, a frustrated expression on his face.

TINASHE

(angrily)

Oh...so now you're using the chaos in your family as an excuse to dump me?

JAYSEN

(with solid calm)

Akubona izaba, Tinashe! ubaba ubaleka, isehlukaniso sakhe no Thandolwazi siyisiphitiphiti. Ngeke sikwazi ukuqhubeka nomshado hhayi manje.

(It's not an excuse, Tinashe. My dad's on the run, his divorce settlement from Thandolwazi is a mess. We can't go through with the wedding. Not now.)

TINASHE

(scoffs)

You're just using it as a cover. I know you're still in love with that low life tramp, Zuri. Ucabanga ukuthi ungavale ungilahle nge Jaysen yakhe cabanga futhi.

(You think you can just dump me for her? Think again, Jaysen.)

She moves towards Jaysen and face him with menacing eyes.

TINASHE

(with a blackmailing tone)

You see, Jaysen, I know all about your little secrets with Mashego. The twelve miners who died. It wasn't just a mine accident, was it?

She smiles icily.

TINASHE (CONT'D)

I've evidence and a witness, Buthelezi, one of your mob's hitmen claim that the miners stumbled upon a significant deposit of cobaltite, Jaysen. And I have evidence about how you and Mashego orchestrated the killings to maintain Viliami's control over the mineral deposit against Chinese prospectors!

JAYSEN

(nervous)

Ukhuluma ngani? Ulutholepi lolo lwazi?

What are you talking about? Where the hell did you get that information?

TINASHE

Toxic gases, Jaysen. The miners were killed by a deliberate release of hydrogen cyanide into the mine shaft. Buthelezi says you chose that because it's a colorless, odorless gas, which is hard to detect without proper equipment. And I have proof!

Jaysen's eyes widen in horror at the revelations.

TINASHE

Ngaphandle kokuthi ungishade ngizokwenza isiqiniseko sokuthi

iziphathimandla zazi konke ngempilo yakho emnyama no Mashego.

(Unless you marry me, Jaysen, I'll make sure the authorities know  
all about your dark past with Mashego.)

JAYSEN

(smirks with disbelief)

So uyangibophela wena Tinashe?

(So... you're blackmailing me, Tinashe?)

TINASHE

(coldly)

You have one week to make up your mind, Jaysen. Emva kwalokho  
ngizoqinisekisa ukuthi impilo yakho iyonakala.

(After that, I'll make sure your life is ruined)

The scene fades to black as Tinashe turns and walks away.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 06.

FADE IN

INT. DAY. HUMBLE APARTMENT. KHAYELITSHA.

Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso sit on the bed, sharing memories of their time together. The atmosphere is charged with emotion as Zuri bids farewell to them as she's relocating to Pretoria on work assignment.

ZURI

(sadly)

Ngizonikhumbula bafo.

(I'll miss you guys)

The girls share a heartfelt hug, reflecting on recent events.

ZURI

(firmly, cheerfully)

Sizohlala sithintana futhi ngizokuvakashela maduze, ngikuhlole.

(We'll stay in touch, and I'll come back to visit.)

Just then, there's a soft knock at the door. Zuri gets up to answer,

revealing an elegant Thandolwazi, escorted by a bodyguard. A big black car waits in the background.

THANDOLWAZI

(smiling warmly)

Ngiyajabula ukuthi ngikubambe ngaphambi kokuthi uhambe.

(I'm so glad I caught you before you left)

Zuri and Thandolwazi share an emotional moment with a heartfelt hug reflecting on the challenges they've faced.

THANDOLWAZI

(warmly)

Lapha, thatha lokhu.

(Here, take this.)

She hands Zuri a cheque which Zuri is shocked to see is for a very substantial amount.

ZURI

(reluctant)

Mrs Nyoni...

THANDOLWAZI

(interrupting)

It's Thandolwazi now. Call me Thandolwazi, please.

ZURI

(nodding understandably)

Angazi ukuthini ngithini...

(I don't know what to say)

THANDOLWAZI

(insistent, gently)

Thatha, Zuri. Uzoyidinga.

(Take it. You'll need it.)

CUT TO:

**FLASHBACK.** INT. DAY. PRAVIN'S PENTHOUSE. CAMPS BAY.

Pravin and Thandolwazi sit in the cosy living room. Pravin has his laptop open making some transactions as Thandolwazi watches intently.

PRAVIN (ON THE PHONE)

(serious expression)

Mr Morales, can you confirm the transfer details?

MR ALEJANDRO MORALES is the Chief Banking Executive of Panama's Banco Internacional.

MR MORALES (V.O)

Si, Mr Pather. We're re-transferring thirty-six point seven million dollars from Banco Internacional to Nova Africa Mining Group's FNB account in Cape Town. I'm sorry...I couldn't block the three point four million dollars to Royal Bank of Canada made by Dr Viliami Nyoni...prior to your alert.

PRAVIN

(tense)

We understand. And the transaction is secure? You're sure he won't intercept the...other transfers?

MR MORALES (V.O)

(re-assuringly)

Absolutely not, Mr Pather. Our encryption is state-of-the-art. Dr Nyoni has no chance at all of reversing the transactions.

Pravin and Thandolwazi smile as they watch the progress bar of the transfer which had been siphoned by Viliami without Nova Africa's board approval.

CUT TO:

**FLASHBACK.** INT. NIGHT. NYONI MANSION. PLUSH BEDROOM.

Thandolwazi slips out of bed, her eyes fixed on Viliami's sleeping face. She quietly makes her way to his side of the bed and gently lifts his hand.

With a calculated movement, she uses his finger-print to unlock his phone. Viliami stirs slightly, but Thandolwazi freezes, holding her breath until he settles back into a deep sleep.

Once the phone is unlocked, Thandolwazi quickly navigates to the banking app. Her eyes scan the screen, her mind racing with the numbers and transactions.

With a few swift taps, she initiates a massive transfer from Viliami's Standard Chartered account to her own ABSA account. The screen turns green with a tick, confirming the transaction.

Thandolwazi's expression remains calm, but a hint of satisfaction shows in her eyes. She carefully replaces the phone and slips back into bed, her movement silent and deliberate.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY. KHAYELITSHA APARTMENT.

Zuri looks at the cheque again, still in shock.

ZURI

(with gratitude)

Thandolwazi, ngiyabonga...kodwa kungani?

(Thank you...but why?)

THANDOLWAZI

(warmly, sadly)

Ngitholakale nginomdlavuza wesibe letho obulalayo futhi angiyidingi yonke le mali. Kodwa okubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi

ngitshala imali ekusaseni lakho.

(I have been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer and I don't need all this money. But most importantly i'm investing in your future.)

FADE TO BLACK.

SEASON FINALE.

EPISODE 13: SCENE 07.

FADE IN

EXT. DAY. CAPE TOWN.

SPLIT SCREEN.

One side of the screen shows Jaysen Nyoni driving his sleek black Range Rover SV emblazoned "GHOST" along the scenic Chapman's Peak highway in Cape Town. The ocean stretches out to the horizon, and the mountains rise up on the other side of the road. Jaysen's expression is contemplative, his eyes fixed on the road ahead.

On the other side of the screen, Zuri boards a bus headed to Pretoria. She finds a seat by the window and a mysterious man wearing a jockey cap and dark glasses follows her into the bus and sits behind her. She looks out as the bus pulls away from the station. The city gives way to rolling hills and countryside.

As both vehicles move along, the camera pans out to show the stunning scenery on both sides. A soft, melodic song plays in the background, weaving the scenes together.

Jaysen's thoughts are reflected on his face: concern, regret and longing. He thinks about Zuri, about Tinashe, about Nova Africa...and

the choices he's made.

Zuri's expression is wistful, her eyes clouded with mixed hope and uncertainty. She thinks about Jaysen, \*\*\* a brief exclusive flash of him making love to her... about her friends in Khayelitsha and their time together and her work and the future ahead.

The split screen fades to black as the background song reaches its crescendo, leaving the audience with a sense of foreboding and possibility.

**\*\*\*\*\* THE END OF SEASON 1\*\*\*\*\***

TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.

## SERIES BIBLE

TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU TV DRAMA. S.1.

POWER DEMANDS LOYALTY. BETRAYAL DEMANDS SURVIVAL.

CREATED & WRITTEN BY KENNETH. N. MANGUNDHLA.

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### CONTENTS

1. SERIES CONCEPT: The title, the concept of "Ubugebengu." A brief summary of the show's premise, genre, and the themes, symbols and visual motifs.
2. CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS: Detailed profiles of main characters, including their backstories, motivations and relationships.

3. **WORLD-BUILDING:** Information about the show's setting, including its history, culture, and rules.
4. **TONE & STYLE:** Guidance on the show's tone, pace and visual style.
5. **STORY ARCS:** Overviews of the main storylines and character arcs throughout the scenes.
6. **RULES & MYTHOLOGY:** The rules and mythology of the show's universe.
7. **VISUALS & DESIGN:** Guidance on the show's visual elements, such as costumes, sets and special effects.

### **SERIES CONCEPT**

**SERIES TITLE:** TREACHERY

**SUB-TITLE:** UBUGEBENGU

**DEFINITION:** TREACHERY refers to the act of betraying someone's trust or loyalty, often by deceitful or treacherous means.

**TITLE SIGNIFICANCE:**

In the context of the series, "TREACHERY" has multiple layers of meaning:

1. **POWER PLAY:** The series explores the cutthroat world of business and politics, where treachery is a means to an end, and alliances are forged and broken with ease.
2. **FAMILY BETRAYAL:** The Nyoni family's dark secrets and lies are slowly exposed, revealing a web of treachery within their own ranks.
3. **MORAL AMBIGUITY:** The title "TREACHERY" also hints at the moral complexity of the characters, who often walk a fine line between right and wrong.

**Emotional Resonance:**

The title "TREACHERY" evokes feelings of:

1. **Betrayal:** The audience is drawn into the world of the Nyoni family, where trust is broken, and alliances are tested.

2. **Suspense:** The title suggests that nothing is as it seems, and that treachery can lurk around every corner.

3. **Intrigue:** The audience is intrigued by the complex web of relationships and alliances, and the consequences of treachery.

Overall, the title "TREACHERY" effectively captures the essence of the series, hinting at the complex themes, moral ambiguity, and suspenseful plot twists that await the audience.

**THE SUB-TITLE: "UBUGEBENGU".**

"Ubugebengu" is a Zulu word that roughly translates to "treachery" or "betrayal." In the context of the series, it refers to the web of deceit and corruption that the Nyoni family has spun to maintain their power and influence. Ubugebengu is a metaphor for the destructive nature of treachery and the devastating consequences it can have on individuals, families, and communities.

**SHOW'S PREMISE:**

Treachery: Ubugebengu is a gripping and thought-provoking drama series that plunges into the dark treacherous world of South Africa's corporate mining elite. Amidst a complex web of corruption, ruthless power struggles and exploitation, a diverse cast of characters must navigate the blurred lines between organised crime, legitimate business, and state institutions. As they confront the devastating consequences of their choices, allegiances are tested, and the true cost of ambition is revealed. Will they succumb to the corrupt system or risk everything to expose the truth? In this original, brand new series, Treachery: Ubugebengu serves up a gritty, globally relevant corporate drama, blending authentic South African voices with a cosmopolitan perspective, in the fight against crime, corruption and social injustice.

**PRIMARY GENRE:**

. **Drama:** The show delves into the complex relationships and emotional struggles of the characters, making it a character-driven drama.

**SECONDARY GENRES:**

. **Corporate Thriller:** The series touches on the cutthroat world of business and the ruthless tactics used to achieve success.

. **Family drama:** The show explores the intricate web of relationships within the Nyoni family and the consequences of their actions.

#### **Sub-Genres:**

. **Crime:** The series revolves around a murder investigation and explores the darker aspects of human nature.

. **Thriller:** The series has a suspenseful and thrilling narrative, with unexpected twists and turns that keep the audience engaged.

#### **Tone:**

. **Dark and Gritty:** The series has a realistic and intense tone, reflecting the harsh realities of the characters' world.

. **Sophisticated and Elegant:** The show also has a refined and polished tone, reflecting the wealth and status of the Nyoni family.

#### **"UNCOVER THE HIDDEN TRUTHS OF POWER, CORRUPTION AND SURVIVAL IN THE DARK HEART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MINING INDUSTRY"**

**USP: Unique Selling Proposition:** *Treachery: Ubugebengu* is a high-stakes, morally complex corporate drama that plunges viewers into the dark heart of South Africa's mining industry. With its diverse cast, intricate plotting, and unflinching exploration of corporate greed and corruption, this drama series will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

#### **KEY SELLING POINTS:**

1. **Unique South African perspective.** Viewers will experience the rich and diverse cultural heritage, exposing the melting pot of complex social issues of South Africa through a fresh and authentic lens.

2. **Complex, nuanced and relatable characters with moral ambiguity:** The show engages viewers and audiences with inclusive, multi-dimensional and memorable characters who challenge assumptions and blur the lines between right and wrong.

3. **Gripping storylines and unexpected twists:** *Treachery: Ubugebengu* hooks audiences from the very first episode with a narrative that's full of dramatic surprises, keeping them guessing until the very end.

4. **Timely and thought-provoking themes** that confronts the harsh realities of corruption, exploitation, and power struggles in the mining industry, sparking important conversations and reflections.

#### **MAJOR THEMES:**

1. **Power dynamics and corruption:** The series explores the corrupting influence of power and the lengths to which people will go to maintain their grip on it.

2. **Justice and accountability:** The struggle for truth and justice, as embodied by Zuri Radebe's character, and the importance of holding those in power accountable.

3. **Social stratification: identity and belonging:** Exploring the complexities of identity, culture, and belonging, particularly in the context of South Africa's history and diverse cultures.

4. **Morality and redemption:** The tension between personal morality and the consequences of one's actions, as seen in Jaysen Nyoni's character, and the possibility of redemption and forgiveness.

5. **Family dynamics and Loyalty:** The Nyoni family's complex web of relationships and alliances is tested as they navigate the treacherous landscape of their own making.

6. **Forbidden love and betrayal:** The series touches on themes of romance and betrayal, highlighting the tensions and consequences brought by infidelity, lust and deception.

#### **SOCIAL COMMENTARY:**

\* Environmental awareness and biodiversity conservatism

\* Human trafficking and sex exploitation

\* Corporate ethics and responsible entrepreneurship

\* Gender based violence

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE:**

1. Fans of complex, thought-provoking drama. Viewers who enjoy shows like "LEGACY", "UZALO", "BLOOD & WATER" or "KINGS OF JOBURG" will

appreciate the moral complexity and gripping storylines in TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU.

2. Audiences interested in South African cultural diversity and storytelling: Those fascinated by South African historical and contemporary social issues will find TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU to be a compelling and authentic representation.

3. African audiences seeking authentic stories reflecting their realities and social commentary.

4. International audiences craving diverse content: Global audiences looking for a thrilling, suspenseful ride with ordinary, relatable characters. With its unexpected twists and turns, this series will keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eager to find out what happens next.

#### **KEY METRICS:**

1. **PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCE:** 16-49 years old, urban, educated, and interested in complex drama and diverse South African culture.

2. **SECONDARY TARGET AUDIENCE:** 25-55 years old, professionals and individuals interested in corporate thrillers and social inequality.

**PROJECTED VIEWERSHIP:** 1 MILLION+ viewers per episode in 1st season, with a growth of above 20% per season.

#### **MARKETING STRATEGY**

1. Vigorous social media campaigns: leverage Instagram, X, Facebook, Tik Tok, and You Tube to create buzz around the show.

2. **INFLUENCER PARTNERSHIPS:** Collaborate with top South African influencers, bloggers, thought leaders, and content creators to promote the show.

3. **CASTING CONSIDERATIONS:** Incorporate top South African talent and guest celebrity appearances in the show to create exciting buzz and compelling water cooler moments.

3. **PRESS & TV PUBLICITY:** Secure press coverage in top-tier publications, including mainstream TV channels and platforms such as SABC, Dstv, eTV, BET, and digital streaming platforms such as Netflix, Showmax, Hulu, Amazon Prime etc.

## **SYMBOLISM:**

1. **MINING & EXTRACTION:** Symbolizes the exploitation of resources and the displacement of communities, reflecting the historical and ongoing struggles of South Africa.
2. **THE NYONI FAMILY'S IMMENSE WEALTH:** Represents the corrupting influence of wealth and power, as well as the moral compromises that come with it.
3. **ZURI'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM:** Embodies the struggles for justice and accountability, as well as the importance of protecting the land and its resources.
4. **TRADITIONAL CLOTHING AND ADORNMENTS:** Represents cultural heritage and identity, highlighting the importance of preserving traditional practices and customs.

## **VISUAL MOTIFS:**

1. **OCEAN:** The ocean is a recurring visual motif, symbolizing:
  - . **Depth and Complexity:** The ocean's depths and unpredictability mirror the complexity and turmoil of the character's lives.
  - . **Emotional turmoil:** The ocean's waves and tides represent the emotional ups and downs of the characters, particularly Zuri's inner struggles.
  - . **Freedom and Escape:** The ocean also symbolizes the desire for freedom and escape, as characters like Zuri seek to break free from the constraints of their lives.
2. **CAPE TOWN SKYLINE:** The iconic skyline of Cape Town serves as a symbol of:
  - . **Power and Wealth:** The city's sleek, modern architecture represents the wealth and influence of the Nyoni family.
  - . **Contrast:** The skyline's juxtaposition with the gritty, crime-ridden streets of the city highlights the contrast between the haves and have-nots.

## **COLOR PALETTE:**

- . **Blues and Greens:** The ocean's hues dominate the color palette,

evoking feelings of calmness and serenity, but also hinting at the turmoil beneath the surface.

. **Neutrals and Earth Tones:** The cityscape's neutral tones and earthy colors ground the narrative, emphasizing the gritty reality of the characters' world.

### 3. THE BLACK EAGLE:

#### **Symbolism:**

. **Power and Strength:** The Black Eagle is a powerful and majestic bird, symbolizing Nyoni's strength, courage and authority.

. **Freedom and Liberation:** As a bird that soars through the skies, the Black Eagle represents freedom, liberation, and the desire to transcend constraints.

. **Vision and Insight:** Eagles are known for their sharp vision, symbolizing Nyoni's keen insight, perception, and ability to see through deception.

#### **Cultural Significance:**

**Totemism:** The Black Eagle as Nyoni's totem emphasizes his connection to his heritage and cultural roots. The "Ukhozi" title symbolizes clan and family identity.

. **Ancestral Guidance:** In some cultures, eagles are believed to carry the spirits of ancestors, guiding and protecting their descendants. The Black Eagle may symbolize Nyoni's connection to his ancestors and their wisdom.

#### **Storytelling Significance:**

. **Character Development:** The Black Eagle as Nyoni's totem reveals aspects of his personality, values, and backstory, adding depth to his character.

. **Plot Symbolism:** The eagle may be used as a symbol throughout the story, representing subtle themes such as freedom, power, and insight, and foreshadowing key events or plot twists.

#### **SYMBOLIC MOTIFS:**

1. **DECEPTION & BETRAYAL:** characters' secrets and lies drive the plot, exploring the consequences of deception and betrayal.
2. **FAMILY & LEGACY:** The complex relationships between family members and the weight of legacy shape characters' motivations and actions.
3. **MORALITY & GRAY AREAS:** Characters navigate complex moral dilemmas, highlighting the gray areas between right and wrong.

#### **MUSIC:**

1. **Contemporary South African music:** featuring popular genres like Mapiano, Afro-pop and hip-hop to reflect the city's vibrant cultural scene.
2. **traditional African music:** incorporating local instruments and melodies to add depth and authenticity.
3. **contemporary western pop.**
4. **ominous and suspenseful scores:** creating tension and foreboding through the use of eerie soundscapes and haunting melodies to create tension and suspense.

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU.S1.**

## **DETAILED CHARACTER PROFILES.**

#### **Contents**

i) **LEAD ACTORS** (Top-billed): significant screen time, play main characters driving the storyline.

. **VILIAMI NYONI**

. **ZURI RADEBE**

ii) **SUPPORTING ACTORS** (Mid-billed): play important secondary characters. May have significant screen time, but less than lead actors.

- . **JAYSEN NYONI**
- . **THANDOLWAZI NYONI**
- . **TINASHE SITHOLE**
- . **PASTOR EVELYN KOFI**
- . **CALEB DHLAMINI**
- . **PRAVIN PATHER**
- . **MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA**
- . **ADVOCATE CHRISTIAN CLOETE**

iii) **RECURRING ACTORS** (Lower-billed): appear in multiple episodes but not necessarily every episode)

- . **AYANDA**
- . **LOYISO**
- . **KARIN FOURIE**
- . **ADVOCATE DINEO**
- . **MASHEGO**
- . **THABANG**
- . **SEYI OKORO**
- . **BISHOP GILBERT KOFI**
- . **BUHLE**
- . **BRIGADIER HLONGWANE CELE**
- . **COLONEL GODFREY LUBAYI**
- . **MRS VILAKAZI**

iv) **GUEST ACTORS** (Episode specific): appear in one or a few episodes.

- . \*GUEST CELEBRITY PRESENTER
  - . \*GUEST NEWS ANCHOR
  - . THE VICE PRESIDENT
  - . ADVOCATE MBALULA (Thandolwazi's lawyer)
  - . JABU (Jaysen's close friend)
  - . MRS MOKENA (Dhlamini's secretary)
- v) BACKGROUND ACTORS: (Extras)

**CHARACTER PROFILE: VILIAMI "UKHOZI WOMNYAMA" NYONI ("THE BLACK EAGLE")**

**LEADING ROLE: TOP-BILLED.**

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

**Age:** 50s-60s

**Height:** "6'1"

**Build:** muscular, imposing

**Eyes:** brown

**Hair:** gray/bald shave

**Style:** impeccable, designer suits, luxurious accessories.

**Background:**

- . Born in Nkangala district, Mpumalanga, South Africa.
- . Raised in a poor family, but showed exceptional intelligence and

ambition from a young age.

. Earned a scholarship to study mining engineering at the University of Witswatersrand.

. Built his business empire from scratch, starting with illegal small scale mining operations and eventually expanding into energy and other sectors

. Founded Nova Africa Mining and Energy, which has become one of the largest and most influential mining companies in Africa.

. Currently lives in a plush ocean front mansion in Bantry Bay, Cape Town.

. **Estimated net worth: Forbes: \$3.1 billion USD.**

### **Personality:**

. Charismatic and confident, with a commanding presence.

. Ruthless and cunning in business, willing to do whatever it takes to succeed.

. Controversial and polarising with a reputation for being merciless in his pursuit of power and wealth.

. Womaniser, with a history of extramarital affairs and scandals

. Killer, with rumours of involvement in violent crimes and assassinations. founder of the "Inkabi" mob responsible for mining terrorism in Mpumalanga.

. popularly called and synonymized with his ancestral totem "Ukhozi womunyama" meaning "the black eagle"

### **Relationships**

. married to Thandolwazi Nyoni, a former model and socialite.

. son, Jaysen, from his first marriage to Ntombizodwa, who died under 'mysterious short illness'

. Jaysen's mother, Ntombi, was a powerful woman in her own right, and her death had a profound impact on Viliami's life and career.

### **Goals and motivations:**

- . desire for power and control, both in business and politics
- . ambition to become a Member of Parliament (MP) in Nkangala District, Mpumalanga province, and potentially even President of South Africa one day.
- . need to protect his business empire and legacy at all costs.
- . lust for women and wealth, which often clouds his judgement and leads him to make reckless decisions.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil.**

- . **inner-conflict:** Viliami's ruthless ambition and desire for power often conflict with his personal relationships and moral code.
- . **external conflict:** Viliami's many enemies and rivals both in business and politics are constantly seeking to undermine him and destroy his empire.
- . conflict with his son, Jaysen, and his wife, Thandolwazi and business partner, Pravin, who are increasingly disillusioned with his actions and legacy.

#### **Character's Voice Guidance:**

Tone: Confident, assertive, authoritative and commanding

Pitch: low to mid range, with a sense of depth and gravity.

Pace: measured, deliberate, with a sense of control.

Language: formal, polished, direct, occasionally poetic, with a touch of isiZulu.

Accent: South African/ Zulu accent

Dialect: formal, polished

Colloquialisms: uses metaphors and proverbs to convey authority.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: ZURI RADEBE.**

**LEADING ROLE: TOP-BILLED.**

#### **Physical description:**

- . **Age:** mid- late 20s

- . height: "5.6"
- . build: petite, athletic.
- . eyes: expressive brown
- . hair: natural black hair, locks, synthetic weaves
- . face: pretty, well toned.
- . style: understated elegance, favouring trendy and urban wear and minimal make-up

### **Background**

- . grew up in Khayelitsha Township, Cape Town
- . raised by her maternal grandmother, gogo Ncgobo and uncle Vusi, after her parents' death when she was only ten.
- . survived sexual abuse by her uncle, Malume Vusi, at age 12.
- . lives at Khayelitsha Safe house ministries, under Pastor Evelyn Kofi's guardianship.
- . Final year student at the University of Stellenbosch, junior mining intern with the Minerals and Energy agency.

### **Personality:**

- . vulnerable, yet resilient and determined
- . clever, resourceful, well-spoken
- . passionate about environmental justice and mining accountability
- . loyal to friends and family, particularly Ayanda and Loyiso
- . guarded due to past trauma, but slowly opening up
- . very brilliant, intelligent and outspoken

### **Relationships**

- . **romantic interest:** Jaysen Nyoni, son of billionaire mogul Viliami Nyoni.
- . **close friends:** Ayanda and Loyiso, housemates at Safe House ministries

- . **spiritual mentor:** Pastor Evelyn Kofi, who provides guidance and support
- . **career mentor:** Dr Caleb Dhlamini - assassinated by Viliami.
- . Thandolwazi Nyoni - offers moral and financial support
- . workmate and close ally: Thabang, "the IT whiz" at the minerals agency.
- . family: raised by maternal granny (deceased) and estranged uncle, Vusimusi.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

- . exposing environmental injustices and holding mining corporations accountable
- . protecting her community and the people she cares about
- . overcoming past trauma and finding healing and peace
- . navigating her feelings for Jaysen, despite their different backgrounds and social status.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil**

- . **inner conflict:** Zuri's past trauma and vulnerability often clash with her desire for justice and accountability.
- . **external conflict:** Zuri's work as a junior mining inspector puts her at odds with powerful corporations and individuals, including the formidable Viliami Nyoni.
- . **romantic conflict:** Zuri's relationship with Jaysen is complicated by their different backgrounds, conflicting vocations and his fiancée, Tinashe.

#### **Character's Voice Guidance:**

- . **Tone:** confident, determined, strong-willed, compassionate
- . **Inflection:** subtle, with a hint of African cadence
- . **Pitch:** mid-range, with a sense of warmth and approachability.
- . **Language:** speaks with conviction, using simple yet powerful language. Conversational, occasionally technical, polished and some

bit of urban lingo with a touch of isiZulu.

**Accent:** Urban South African

emotional triggers: justice, fairness, protection of the vulnerable, with a deep sense of responsibility to her community.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: JAYSEN NYONI.**

**MAIN CHARACTER: MID-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . Age: late 20s to early 30s
- . height: "6.1"
- . build: well-built, gymn and athletic body
- . eyes: brown
- . hair: bald, skin shave, well groomed
- . face: handsome features, well toned, light complexion, well groomed beard
- . style: impeccable, designer clothing and accessories

**Background**

- . only son and child of billionaire mining magnate Dr Viliami Nyoni and his first wife, Ntombizodwa.
- . highly educated with a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, US.
- . CEO of Nova Africa's Emalahleni Coal Mine, a subsidiary of his father's energy conglomerate.
- . former inmate at Pollsmoor Prison for culpable homicide after a mine collapse incident that killed twelve men.
- . struggled with alcohol and drug addiction in the past.
- . once ran a private fitness center in Cape Town that went bankrupt.

**Personality**

- . shrewd and ambitious, with a strong desire for power and success

. charismatic and confident, with a heavy natural charm that draws people, especially women and girls, to him.

. loyal to his family and loved ones, particularly his father and fiancée.

. vulnerable and sensitive, with a deep emotional scar from his past experiences, especially his mother's mysterious death.

### **Relationships**

. fiancée: Tinashe Sithole, a stunning Zimbabwean supermodel and social media influencer in South Africa.

. father: Dr Viliami Nyoni, billionaire mogul and executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy.

. step-mother: Thandolwazi Nyoni, a former model and socialite

. love interest: Zuri Radebe, a junior mining inspector and environmental activist.

### **Goals and motivations:**

. to prove himself as a capable and successful businessman in his own right

. to overcome his past mistakes and demons, and to make amends for his wrong doings, especially his affiliations with the notorious "Inkabi" mob.

. to protect his family's interests and legacy, particularly his father's business empire.

. to navigate his complicated feelings for Zuri Radebe, and to decide between his loyalty to his fiancée and his growing love for Zuri.

### **Conflicts and inner turmoil.**

. **inner conflict:** Jaysen's past experiences and personal demons often clash with his desire for redemption and fresh start.

. **external conflict:** Jaysen's position as CEO of Nova Africa eMalahleni Coal Mine puts him at odds with environmental activists like Zuri Radebe.

. **romantic conflict:** Jaysen's engagement to Tinashe Sithole is

complicated by his growing feelings for Zuri Radebe, leading to a love triangle that threatens to destroy his relationships and reputation.

### **Character's Voice Guidance.**

- . **Tone:** charismatic, confident, slightly reckless
- . **Language:** conversational, technical at times, with a touch of slang and colloquialisms.
- . **word choice:** conversational, with a focus on conveying confidence and charm
- . **accent:** urban with a hint of South African influence
- . **dialect:** informal, conversational
- . **voice resonance:** bright, energetic, with a sense of charisma
- . **triggers:** past, ambition, success, with a deep sense of loyalty and responsibility to his family and business.

### **CHARACTER PROFILE: THANDOLWAZI MBALI NYONI.**

#### **MAIN CHARACTER: MID-BILLED.**

#### **Physical description:**

- . Age: mid-late 30s
- . height: "5.8"
- . build: slender, elegant
- . eyes: bright, warm brown
- . hair: long black hair, expensive Brazilian weaves and Peruvian wigs
- . face: very pretty, light complexioned, well toned
- . style: sophisticated elegance, favouring modern and trendy designs.

#### **Background:**

- . former socialite and model
- . married to tycoon, Dr Viliami Nyoni

- . no biological children, diagnosed with Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), recurring pregnancy loss and miscarriages

- . involved in a tragic accident with the minerals and energy staff bus that killed six people, including Dr Dhlamini, a senior boss but she survived unscathed.

### **Personality**

- . sensible and empathetic, with a strong sense of compassion.

- . philanthropic, with a passion for giving back to the community

- . warm and nurturing, with a natural ability to connect with others.

- . guarded, due to her past experiences and her marriage to a powerful man.

- . eloquent and well-exposed to grand platforms and etiquette.

### **Goals and motivations:**

- . to make a positive impact on her community through charity work and philanthropy. Co-chair of the Nyoni Foundation.

- . to support and empower women, especially young girls and children in need.

- . to find true happiness to her complicated marriage to Viliami Nyoni and find personal fulfilment.

- . to help Zuri Radebe heal from the traumatic accident and find justice.

### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

- . **inner conflict:** Thandolwazi's past experiences and her marriage to a powerful man often clash with her desire for personal fulfilment and autonomy.

- . her failure to bear children is a source of inner turmoil because of the spate of miscarriages and social stigma.

- . **external conflict:** Thandolwazi's involvement in charity work and her support for Khayelitsha's Safe house ministries puts her at odds

with her husband's business interests and reputation.

. **relational conflict:** Thandolwazi's growing friendship with Zuri Radebe create tension in her marriage and complicate her relationships with those around her, especially Tinashe, her step-son's fiancée.

### **Backstory:**

. born in Gherbha, Port Elizabeth. Grew up in a modest but loving family with parents who valued education and encouraged her to pursue her dreams.

. education and career: Thando excelled in school, particularly interior design. Pursued modelling and fashion designing as a career.

. became MS CAPE TOWN in the late 2000s and met Viliami Nyoni. They started dating and Thandolwazi became pregnant but had a miscarriage.

. marriage and family life: Thandolwazi married Viliami in a colorful ceremony in Sandton following the death of his first wife, Ntombi. She became a stay-at-home wife.

. as Viliami's business grew, so did his infidelity and abuse. Thandolwazi suffered in silence, feeling trapped and powerless.

. she became increasingly dependent on Viliami financially and emotionally and struggled to get pregnant again. She was later diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).

### **Character's Voice guidance:**

. **Tone:** warm, nurturing, elegant

. **pace:** smooth, flowing, with a sense of ease.

. **language:** polished, sophisticated, with a touch of isiXhosa.

. **accent:** African, with a hint of Xhosa influence

. **dialect:** polished, refined.

. **voice resonance:** warm, rich, with a sense of nurturing

**CHARACTER PROFILE: TINASHE SITHOLE.**

**MAIN CHARACTER: MID-BILLED**

### **Physical description**

- . age: mid-late 20s
- . height: "5.10"
- . build: slender, athletic
- . eyes: bright, brown
- . hair: long black hair, expensive weaves and wigs
- . face: very pretty, well toned
- . style: glamorous, high-fashion and trendy

### **Background:**

- . from a rich and influential Zimbabwean family, connected to the country's political dynasty
- . highly educated, with two degrees in marketing and communications
- . successful supermodel and influencer, with a celebrity status, growing followship and numerous brand endorsements.
- . brand ambassador for Nova Africa, with close ties to the company's leadership.

### **Personality:**

- . confident, assertive, outspoken, with a strong sense of self-worth
- . calculating and manipulative, using her charm and beauty to get her way
- . vulnerable to the powerful men she associates with, often finding herself in compromising situations.
- . disloyal to those she is close to, only interested in what benefits her.

### **Relationships**

- . fiancée to Jaysen Nyoni, son of billionaire mining mogul, Viliami Nyoni.
- . close friend and confidant to Thandolwazi Nyoni, both sharing a

common passion for the fashion and beauty industry.

- . romantic affair with Viliami Nyoni, Jaysen's father and Thandolwazi's husband.

- . rival and adversary to Zuri Radebe, who challenges her relationship with Jaysen and threatens her status.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

- . to maintain her celebrity status and influential position in society.

- . to secure her financial future through her relationships with wealthy, powerful men and her brand endorsements.

- . to protect her reputation and image, particularly in the face of challenges from Zuri Radebe.

- . to balance out her relationships and alliances within the Nyoni family and their business empire.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

- . **inner conflict:** Tinashe's vulnerability to the powerful men and celebrity boyfriends she associates with often clashes with her desire for independence and autonomy.

- . **external conflict:** Tinashe's rivalry with Zuri Radebe and her complicated relationships with the Nyoni family create tension and conflict.

- . **relational conflict:** Tinashe's affair with Viliami Nyoni and her engagement to Jaysen Nyoni create a complicated and potentially explosive dynamic.

#### **Character's voice guidance:**

- . **Tone:** confident, charming, slightly flirtatious

- . **language:** informal, conversational, with a touch of urban slang.

- . **accent:** polished english. urban and trendy.

- . **word choice:** conversational, charming, with occasional hints of vulnerability.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: PASTOR EVELYN KOFI.**

**MAIN CHARACTER: MID-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

age: mid-late 40s

height: "5.6"

build: stocky

eyes: warm, brown

hair: short, stylishly cut, loves West African inspired headbands

face: gentle features

style: elegant, natural fabrics, smart outfits

**Background:**

- . leader and founder of Khayelitsha Safe House Ministries
- . married to controversial Nigerian self-proclaimed bishop Gilbert Kofi, based in Doha, Qatar.
- . involved in human trafficking through her ministry
- . well-connected and respected with influential figures, including politicians and business leaders.

**Personality:**

- . charismatic and confident, with a strong stage presence
- . well-spoken and articulate, able to inspire and motivate others.
- . good mentor and role model, particularly for young women like Zuri, Ayanda and Loyiso.
- . manipulative and calculating, using her charm and influence for personal gain.

**Relationships:**

- . husband: Bishop Gilbert Kofi, controversial Nigerian pastor and

fraudster based in Qatar.

. friends: Thandolwazi Nyoni, wife of mogul Viliami Nyoni, MP Sibusiso Tshabalala, involved in human trafficking ring.

. protegee: Zuri Radebe, junior mining inspector and environmental activist.

. associates: Ayanda and Loyiso, young women living at Khayelitsha Safe house ministries.

. Seyi Okoro: Safe house administrator and husband's nephew.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. personal gain and empowerment through her involvement in human trafficking and money laundering.

. protection of her reputation and influence as a respected community leader.

. manipulation of others to achieve her goals and maintain control.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. **inner conflict:** Pastor Evelyn's outward appearance of compassion and empathy clashes with her involvement in human trafficking and money laundering. She is morally torn between her calling and an opportunity to make money.

. **external conflict:** her relationships with others, particularly Zuri and Thandolwazi, are complicated by her secrets and lies.

. **relational conflict:** her marriage to Bishop Gilbert Kofi is strained due to his controversies and criminal activities.

#### **Backstory:**

. born in Johannesburg, with a strong background in ministry and community development.

. married to bishop Gilbert Kofi, with whom she has a complicated relationship.

. founded Khayelitsha Safe house ministries in Cape Town to support and empower women.

. involved in human trafficking and money laundering with her husband and associates.

. becomes a mentor and guardian to Zuri Radebe and other young adults, but hides her true intentions.

**Character's voice guidance.**

. **tone:** warm, compassionate, slightly stern and authoritative

. **language:** formal, polished, with a touch of biblical or Christian language

. **accent:** South African

. **triggers:** faith issues, spirituality, with a deep sense of responsibility and burden on her shoulders.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: DR. CALEB DHLAMINI.**

**MAIN CHARACTER: MID-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

. age: 50s-60s

. height: "5.6"

. build: burly, slightly overweight, bulky

. eyes: warm, brown

. hair: gray, receding, bald

. face: jovial, experienced

. style: impeccable, formal attire

**Background:**

. Chief Inspector of the Minerals and Energy agency (a fictional agency representing the DMRE)

- . highly educated, with a PhD in Mining or Environmental related field
- . author and mastermind of the controversial "Project 2030 Energy Masterplan"
- . poised to become the next minister of mining and energy.

**Personality:**

- . vocal, bombastic, and confident.
- . friendly, jovial, and approachable among colleagues and subordinates
- . passionate about responsible mining practices and green energy.
- . unafraid to speak his mind and challenge the status quo.
- . strategic thinker, a problem solver, effective communicator
- . committed to public service and dedicated to making a positive impact.

**Relationships:**

- . Adversary: Viliami Nyoni, billionaire magnate and chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy.
- . colleagues: respected and admired by his peers and subordinates in the minerals agency.
- . friends: close relationships with those who share his vision for a sustainable energy future.
- . notable proteges: Zuri Radebe and Thabang.

**Goals and Motivations:**

- . to promote responsible mining practices and reduce the environmental impact of the mining sector.
- . to transition South Africa to green energy by 2030.
- . to challenge the powerful interests that prioritize profits over people and the environment

. to groom the young people, especially his interns, Zuri and Thabang into a culture of standing up to social justice and accountability.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. **external conflict:** fierce clashes with Viliami Nyoni and other powerful interests that oppose his vision for a green energy future.

. **internal conflict:** faces challenges and criticism from his own department and the government.

. **personal conflict:** his assassination, orchestrated by Viliami Nyoni, has a profound impact on those who knew him and the future of the mining sector.

#### **Backstory Profile:**

. born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa, with a strong background in mining and energy.

. became Chief Inspector of the Minerals and Energy agency.

. developed the "project 2030 Energy Master plan" to promote responsible mining practices and green energy revolution.

. clashed with Viliami Nyoni over their differing views on fossil mining and energy.

. assassinated by Viliami Nyoni, disguised as a road accident.

#### **Character voice guidance:**

. **tone:** conveys authority, confidence and professionalism as a high-ranking government official

. **language:** formal, polished language. Speaks with conviction, drawing from his experience and expertise.

. **accent:** South African, with a touch of isiZulu.

. **mannerisms:** professional demeanor, exhibits subtle emotional cues such as a sense of determination or passion for his work.

**PART B: SUPPORTING ACTORS.**

**CHARACTER PROFILE: PRAVIN PATHER**

**SUPPORTING ROLE: MID-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . age: 50s - 60s
- . height: "5.6"
- . build: stocky, chubby
- . eyes: warm, brown
- . hair: gray white, receding
- . face: gentle features, elderly handsome, polished Indian tone
- . style: impeccable, formal attire, cardigans, with a touch of Indian elegance

**Background:**

- . Indian descent, born in Mumbai and raised in South Africa
- . business partner and close friend of Viliami Nyoni
- . deputy executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy
- . multi-millionaire with significant investments and assets in South Africa and abroad.

#### Personality

- . highly intelligent, analytical and strategic thinker
- . voice of reason and calm in times of crisis
- . loyal and dedicated to Viliami Nyoni, but not blindly so.
- . corrupt, complicit and willing to bend the law to achieve business goals.
- . Indian accent and cultural influences evident in his mannerisms and speech.

#### **Relationships:**

- . business partner and friend: Viliami Nyoni, billionaire mogul and founding chairman of Nova Africa.
- . associates: other influential business leaders, including Jaysen Nyoni, Viliami's son and top politicians in South Africa.
- . later becomes disillusioned with Nyoni's actions and resigns from the board of Nova Africa.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

- . protect and grow his business interests and wealth
- . maintain his influence and reputation in the business community
- . support Viliami Nyoni's ambitions, while also keeping him in check.
- . later, to distance himself from Nyoni's mafia activities and find redemption with Thandolwazi, Viliami's wife.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. **inner conflict:** Pravin's loyalty to Viliami Nyoni clashes with his own moral code and Hindu values.

. **external conflict:** Pravin's resignation from Nova Africa creates tension and conflict with Viliami Nyoni.

. **relational conflict:** Pravin's relationships with other business leaders and politicians are complicated by his close association with Viliami Nyoni and his later betrayal.

#### **Backstory profile:**

. born in Mumbai, India and raised to wealthy parents in South Africa, with strong Indian heritage.

. became a successful businessman and investor, partnering with Viliami and building the empire of Nova Africa Mining.

. deputy executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy

. later resigns from Nova Africa after discovering Viliami's role in Dr Dhlamini's assassination.

. worked with Thandolwazi, Viliami's disillusioned wife, in recouping offshore funds from Panama siphoned by Viliami before he skips the country as a fugitive in Canada.

#### **Character voice guidance:**

. **tone:** measured, thoughtful, and introspective

. **language:** speaks with caution, weighing his words carefully. formal, polished and intellectual.

. **accent:** Indian

. **word choice:** precise, with a focus on conveying expertise and authority.

. **triggers:** success, recognition, power, with a deep sense of loyalty to his associates and loved ones.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA "MSHOLOZI"**

**SUPPORTING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description**

- . age: late 60s-70s
- . height: "5.10"
- . build: stocky, with a noticeable limp
- . eyes: piercing, expressive brown
- . hair: bald, receding gray, "the skopo" hairstyle
- . face: strong, traditional Zulu features
- . style: old school, cultural and traditional

### **Background:**

- . cult figure in South Africa's liberation and apartheid history
- . vocal, controversial, and outspoken, particularly on issues related to indigenous black people's rights.
- . ironically corrupt and scandalous, involved in human trafficking, money laundering and sexual exploitation of underage girls with his Nigerian associates.
- . political nemesis and rival to Viliami Nyoni for representation in Nkangala district, Mpumalanga constituency.
- . former deputy chairperson of the National Council of provinces (NCop)

### **Personality:**

- . charismatic, confident and unapologetic.
- . strong sense of tradition and cultural heritage
- . passionate, yet divisive and polarizing figure.
- . corrupt and willing to exploit his position for personal gain.

### **Relationships**

- . associates: Bishop Gilbert Kofi, Pastor Evelyn Kofi, Seyi Okoro, involved in human trafficking and money laundering.
- . rival: Viliami Nyoni, the billionaire chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy.

. admires: traditional Zulu leaders and figures from South Africa's liberation history such as Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, and Jacob Zuma.

#### **Goals and Motivations:**

- . maintain his influence and power in South African politics.
- . protect his reputation as a champion of indigenous black people's rights.
- . expand his business interests and accumulate wealth through corrupt means.
- . undermine Viliami Nyoni's political ambitions and rival claims to representation in Mpumalanga's Province questioning Nyoni's true citizenry status and loyalty to South Africa.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

- . **inner conflict:** "Msholozi's" corrupt activities clash with his public image as a champion of justice, freedom and equality.
- . **external conflict:** Tshabalala's rivalry with "Ukhozi" Viliami Nyoni creates tension and conflict, particularly in their competition for political representation.
- . **relational conflict:** MP Tshabalala's relationships with his associates and allies are complicated by his corrupt activities and willingness to exploit others for personal gain.

#### **Backstory profile.**

- . born and raised in Soweto and later moved to Mpumalanga, South Africa, with a strong background in anti-apartheid activism.
- . became a respected and controversial figure in South African politics.
- . vocal advocate for indigenous black people's rights, but ironically corrupt and involved in human trafficking, money laundering and the pimp sex industry.
- . rival to Viliami Nyoni for representation in Mpumalanga Province
- . walks with a limp after being shot during demonstrations in

apartheid South Africa and uses a traditional Zulu cane, symbolizing his cultural heritage and connection to his roots.

**Character's voice guidance.**

- . **tone:** boisterous, confident and bombastic.
- . **language:** poetic, conversational and occasionally formal and technical with a touch of isiZulu.
- . **accent:** Zulu/ South African
- . **word choice:** precise, with a focus on conveying power and authority.
- . **triggers:** power, authority, recognition, loyalty.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: ADVOCATE CHRISTIAN CLOETE.**

**SUPPORTING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . age: late 30s
- . **ethnicity:** white male caucasian
- . **occupation:** senior partner, Cloete & Smith Law Firm, chief lawyer for Viliami Nyoni.
- . **personality:** charismatic, confident, persuasive, strategic
- . **language skills:** fluent in English, Afrikaans, and Zulu.
- . **reputation:** regarded as one of the best corporate lawyers in South Africa.

**Backstory:**

. Christian Cloete was born in Cape Town, South Africa, to a wealthy and influential family with links to the wine industry in the Constantia region.

. he quickly made a name for himself as a brilliant and ruthless corporate lawyer, taking on high-profile cases and winning them with ease.

. his firm quickly became one of the most prestigious in Cape Town, attracting high-profile clients like Viliami Nyoni and his Nova Africa Mining and Energy among other big corporates.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Christian's primary goal is to maintain his position as one of the top lawyers in South Africa. He is motivated by a desire for power, wealth, and prestige.

. Christian is also deeply committed to protecting Viliami Nyoni's interests and ensuring the success of Nova Africa Mining and Energy. He is willing to do whatever it takes to achieve these goals, even if it means bending the law.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. despite his polished exterior, Christian Cloete struggles with internal conflict. He is haunted by the moral implications of his actions and the consequences of his ruthless ambition.

. Christian's relationships with his family and friends are also strained due to his intense focus on his career. He is divorced and has limited contact with his two young daughters, who are estranged from him due to his neglect and absence.

#### **Potential Character Arc:**

. throughout the story, Christian could undergo significant growth and development.

. he could be forced to confront the consequences of his actions and the harm he has caused to others.

. Christian's relationships with other characters, particularly Viliami Nyoni and Pravin Pather, could challenge his world-view and force him to re-examine his priorities. He may begin to question his loyalty to Viliami Nyoni and the morality of his actions.

#### **Character's voice guidance:**

. **tone:** confident, assertive, and occasionally condescending.

. **language:** formal, polished, and occasionally technical

. **accent:** British-urban accent with a hint of Afrikaans influence

. **colloquialisms:** uses formal, legalistic language with occasional Afrikaans idioms and expressions.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: "AYANDA"**

**RECURRING CHARACTER: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . age: mid 20s
- . build: petite, athletic
- . eyes: brown
- . hair: black
- . **style:** moderate elegance, trendy "genzie" wear,
- . **personality:** assertive, naughty, upfront, talkative, loyal, energetic.

**Backstory:**

- . Ayanda was born and raised in Khayelitsha, Cape Town.
- . her early life was marked by hardship and abandonment. Her mother, struggling with addiction and poverty, left Ayanda at a church home when she was just 11 years old.
- . Ayanda spent several years in foster care, bouncing between different homes and families.
- . at 19 years, Ayanda found herself at the Khayelitsha Safe House, a shelter for vulnerable young women facing GBV, rape and neglect. Under the mentorship of Pastor Evelyn Kofi, Ayanda began to rebuild her life.
- . Ayanda has found solace in her friendship with Zuri Radebe and Loyiso whom she's fiercely loyal to.

**Goals and motivations:**

- . Ayanda's primary goal is to build a stable, loving life for herself. She wants to find a sense of belonging and connection with others.

. Ayanda is motivated by a desire to prove herself and earn the love and respect of those around her.

. she is driven by a need to overcome her past and create a bright future.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. Ayanda's past experiences have left her with emotional scars.

. she struggles to trust people and form deep connections, fearing abandonment and rejection.

#### **Potential character arc:**

. throughout the show, Ayanda has immense potential for growth and development.

. her close relationship with Zuri and Loyiso could deepen, providing her with a sense of stability and love.

. as she goes on with the challenges and experiences of her life, she could emerge stronger, wiser, and more confident.

. her story could serve as a powerful testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience and growth.

#### **Character's voice guidance:**

. **tone:** feisty, confident, assertive, with a hint of vulnerability.

. **language:** informal, conversational, and occasionally profane

. **accent:** Khayelitsha township accent

. **mannerisms:** "genzie" urban lingo, township buzz, energetic.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: "LOYISO"**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

#### **Physical description:**

. **Gender: Transgender** (identifies as female, but retains some

masculine characteristics.)

. **Physical description:** Loyiso has a unique blend of masculine and feminine features, which can sometimes make it difficult for others to categorise her.

. She has a strong, athletic build, with a short, edgy haircut. Her voice is deep and husky, often surprising those who don't know her.

. **personality:** Loyiso is a good-spirited, loving, and protective individual. She has a strong sense of humour, loyalty and will go to great lengths to defend and care for those she loves, especially Zuri.

. **mannerisms:** Loyiso often exhibits "LGBTQ" and lesbian-like mannerisms, such as using certain slang terms or displaying affection openly with her partners.

#### **Background and history:**

Loyiso is a resident of the Khayelitsha Safe house, where she lives with her close friends and housemates, Zuri and Ayanda.

. Loyiso grew up in a challenging environment, facing discrimination and marginalization due to her gender identity.

. despite these obstacles, she remained strong and resilient, finding solace in her relationship with others.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Loyiso's primary goal is to create a safe and loving community for herself and those around her. She is motivated by a desire to protect and care for her loved ones, especially Zuri, and to live a life that is authentic and true to herself.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. Loyiso struggles with internalized transphobia and homophobia, which can sometimes lead to self-doubt and insecurity. She also faces external challenges, such as discrimination and harassment, which can be emotionally draining.

#### **Potential character arc:**

. Loyiso's potential story development revolves around her fight in

overcoming internalised transphobia and embracing her identity and living a life that is authentic and true to herself.

. Loyiso's relationships with Zuri and Ayanda could deepen, providing her with a sense of belonging and connection.

**Character voice guidance:**

- . **tone:** warm, loving, and protective, with a hint of toughness.
- . **language:** informal, conversational, occasionally profane.
- . **accent:** Zulu accent.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: KARIN FOURIE "THE IRON LADY"**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . age: late 40s -50s
- . **ethnicity:** white Afrikaans (Afrikaans father and Dutch mother)
- . **occupation:** Director-General, Minerals and Energy agency
- . **personality:** stern, authoritative, no-nonsense.
- . **reputation:** feared and revered by colleagues and juniors.
- . **bias:** racist tendencies

**Backstory Profile:**

. Director-General Karin Fourie was born and raised in a strict Afrikaans family in Pretoria.

. her upbringing instilled in her a strong sense of discipline, duty, and loyalty to her community.

. before taking over the helm as the boss of the Minerals agency, Karin held various leadership positions in government ministries, including a senior post in the ministry of Home Affairs.

. her reputation as a formidable and ruthless administrator preceded her, earning her both admiration and fear from her colleagues and

subordinates.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Karin's primary goal is to maintain control and order within the Minerals agency. She is motivated by a desire for power, respect, and efficiency.

. Karin's racist tendencies also influence her decision making, often leading her to favour white and Afrikaans-owned businesses and individuals over other ethnic races, especially blacks.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil.**

. despite her tough exterior, Karin struggles with inner turmoil. Her racist views and authoritarian personality have have alienated her from many of her colleagues, leaving her feeling isolated and unappreciated.

#### **Potential Character Arc:**

. Karin could be forced to confront the harm caused by her racist views and authoritarian personality as her character develops.

. Karin's relationships with other characters, particularly Zuri Radebe, could challenge her world-view and force her to re-examine her priorities.

. as the show progresses, she may begin to question her unwavering loyalty to the white community and the morality of her actions.

. Karin Fourie is one-character set to develop immensely in the show, particularly in season 2 when her new policies set her up on a collision course with the Nyonis and other powerful elites in the mining sector.

#### **Character voice guidance:**

. **tone:** stern, authoritative, occasionally dismissive

. **language:** formal, direct, blunt, sharp

. **accent:** Afrikaans accent, with a hint of British influence.

**colloquialisms:** uses formal, bureaucratic language.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: "MASHEGO"**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . age: mid-40s
- . **ethnicity:** Zulu, black African.
- . **occupation:** inmate and gang leader of "Inkabi" mob.
- . physical description: gigantic, tall, scar-faced, tatoored.
- . **personality:** highly dangerous, feared, ruthless.
- . **reputation:** known nationally as a dangerous thug and killer.

**Backstory:**

- . Mashego was born in KwaZulu-Natal.
- . Growing up in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood, he quickly learned to rely on his physical strength and intimidation to survive.
- . Mashego's involvement in organised crime began at a tender age, starting with petty theft, house breaking and gradually escalating to more serious offenses.
- . after multiple stints in various prisons across the country, Mashego emerged as a notorious gang leader, earning the nickname "The Slasher".
- . he became known for his brutal tactics and ruthless leadership, striking fear into the hearts of his enemies and earning the respect of his cult-followers.

**Goals and motivations:**

- . Mashego's primary goal is to maintain his power and influence within the prison gang hierarchy and the eMalahleni mining mafia.
- . he is motivated by a desire for wealth, respect and control.
- . Mashego's close relationship with Jaysen Nyoni serves as a proxy of his connections with the wealthy elites, particularly Viliami

Nyoni, who sponsors the "Inkabi" mob to deal with rival business people or competitors.

**Conflict and turmoil:**

. despite his tough exterior, Mashego struggles deeply with inner turmoil. His multiple stints in prison have taken a toll on his mental and physical health, and he is haunted by the ghosts of his past victims.

. Mashego's relationship with other gang leaders and cartels are precarious, and he has multiple enemies seeking to take him down. His position of power is constantly under threat, and he must remain vigilant to maintain his status.

**Character's voice guidance:**

- . **tone:** menacing, intimidating, brutal, coarse
- . **language:** informal, conversational, profane, occasionally poetic.
- . **accent:** strong Zulu accent
- . **colloquialisms:** uses deep local slang and idioms.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: "THABANG"**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

**Physical description:**

- . **age:** mid-late 20s
- . **occupation:** IT specialist, Minerals and Energy agency
- . **physical traits:** handsome features, modern and stylish.
- . **personality:** technical, savvy, charming, witty, uptown
- . **relationships:** work colleague and close friend of Zuri Radebe

**Backstory:**

- . Thabang was born and raised in Johannesburg.
- . Thabang developed a passion for computer systems and programming at a young age.

. he pursued a degree in Computer Science at the University of Stellenbosch where he met Zuri, and the two both landed an internship at the Minerals agency.

. his exceptional technical skills and charming personality quickly made him a valuable asset to the agency.

. Thabang and Zuri became close friends, bonding over their shared passion for football, justice and the desire to challenge the status quo.

. Thabang often provides technical support for Zuri's investigative and inspection work, using his expertise to help her uncover crucial evidence.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Thabang's primary goal is to use his technical expertise to support Zuri's work and help bring law breakers to justice.

. he is motivated by a desire to make a positive impact and protect the innocent.

. Thabang is also driven by a sense of loyalty to Zuri, whom she considers a close friend and confidant.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. Thabang's biggest conflict is balancing his technical expertise with the often-dangerous world of mining inspections and investigations.

. he must navigate the risks of being a tech support specialist for Zuri's cases while avoiding becoming a target himself.

. Thabang also struggles with feelings of inadequacy, often wondering if his technical skills are enough to make a real difference in the world.

. He looks up to Zuri as a role model and secretly admires her beyond friendship level. He hopes to emulate her courage and conviction in the mining and environmental space.

#### **Potential character arc:**

. As the show develops, Thabang could be forced to confront the risks

and consequences of his work, leading him to re-evaluate his priorities and motivations.

- . Thabang's relationships, particularly with Zuri could deepen, providing him with a sense of purpose and belonging.

- . he may discover new strengths and abilities, emerging as a more confident and self-assured individual.

**Character's voice guidance:**

- . **tone:** charming, witty and occasionally sarcastic.

- . **language:** informal, conversational, occasionally technical.

- . **accent:** urban, cosmopolitan accent.

- . **colloquialisms:** uses contemporary slang and technical idioms.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: SEYI OKORO.**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

- . age: 30s

- . **ethnicity:** Nigerian

- . **occupation:** administrator, Khayelitsha Safe House Ministries

- . **physical description:** well-muscled, handsome features.

- . **personality:** greedy, ambitious, manipulative, disloyal, charismatic.

- . **reputation:** respected and feared within the ministry, with a dark reputation among the girls in the ministry.

**Backstory:**

- . Seyi Okoro was born in Lagos, Nigeria, to a family with strong ties to the church.

- . his uncle, Bishop Gilbert Kofi, is a wealthy and influential pastor with multiple investments.

- . Seyi grew up in a culture of corruption and exploitation, where

the powerful preyed on the vulnerable.

. after moving to South Africa, courtesy of his uncle, bishop Kofi, Seyi became involved with Khayelitsha Safe house ministries, led by Pastor Evelyn Kofi. He quickly rose to the level of administrator and a trusted confidant of the pastor.

. however, Seyi's true role in the ministry is far more sinister. He is a key player in the human trafficking and sex pimp trade with MP Tshabalala, using his position to facilitate, recruit and exploit vulnerable girls especially illegal immigrants in South Africa.

. Seyi has a history of sexual misconduct with the ministry girls, using his power and influence to co-erce and manipulate them.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Seyi's primary goal is to maintain his power and influence within the ministry, while continuing to exploit and profit from the vulnerable girls in his care.

Conflict and inner turmoil.

. Seyi's biggest conflict is maintaining his facade of respectability while hiding his true nature and activities from the rest of the world.

. he is constantly looking over his shoulder, having swindled MP Tshabalala a lumpsome amount taken as a loan which he's failed to pay back. He is always worried that someone will discover his secrets and expose him.

. Seyi's inner turmoil is driven by his own guilt and shame, which he keeps hidden behind a mask of charm and charisma.

#### **Potential character arc:**

. Seyi's character has great potential for character growth and development as his dark secrets and relationships with other characters could be explored in more depth, revealing the complexity and nuance of his character.

. as the story unfolds, Seyi maybe forced to confront the consequences of his actions, leading to a dramatic downfall or a desperate attempt to seize power and control of from bishop Kofi and Pastor Evelyn since

he's the one who orchestrates Pastor Evelyn's arrest in the first place using Viliami Nyoni.

**Character's voice guidance:**

- . **tone:** charismatic, persuasive, occasionally menacing
- . **language:** formal, polished, poetic.
- . **accent:** Nigerian accent.
- . **colloquialisms:** uses formal, biblical language, with occasional Nigerian expressions.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: BISHOP GILBERT KOFI.**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

- . age: 50-60s.
- . **ethnicity:** black Nigerian.
- . **occupation:** Pastor, businessman.
- . **physical description:** charismatic, imposing figure with a commanding presence.
- . **personality:** ruthless, cunning, manipulative and charismatic
- . **reputation:** controversial figure with a history of fraudulent activities and cult-like behaviour.

**Backstory:**

. Bishop Gilbert Kofi was born in Kano, Nigeria, in a polygamous family with a wealthy father. From a young age, he demonstrated a talent for manipulation and deception, often using charm and charisma to get what he wanted.

. Gilbert's early career as a pastor was marked by controversy, as he was accused of using his position to exploit and manipulate his followers.

. he was forced to flee Nigeria after being accused of ripping off high-profile government officials and business leaders through his cult-like behaviour and a dubious ponzi scam dubbed "Spiritual Corporate Seeding"

. Gilbert eventually settled in Doha, Qatar, where he established himself as a successful businessman and theological lecturer.

. he is the mastermind behind a human trafficking scam working closely with MP Sibusiso Tshabalala and his wife, Evelyn.

. Gilbert's relationship with his wife, Pastor Evelyn, is a strained and estranged one. He is an absentee husband, preferring to focus on his illicit business activities and money laundering rather than his family. He also claims to have "married" Zuri through a controversial arrangement with her abusive uncle whom he paid off a large amount of money.

#### **Goals and motivations:**

. Gilbert's primary goal is to maintain his power, influence, and wealth, no matter the cost. He is driven by greed, ambition and a desire for control and domination.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. Gilbert's biggest conflict is maintaining his facade of respectability and piety, while hiding his true nature and activities from the rest of the world.

. Gilbert's inner turmoil is driven by his own guilt and shame, which he keeps hidden behind a mask of philanthropy and entrepreneurship.

#### **Potential character arc:**

. Gilbert's relationships with other characters, particularly his wife Evelyn, Sibusiso Tshabalala and his nephew, Seyi, could be explored in more depth as the story progresses.

. he may be forced to confront the consequences of his actions, leading to a dramatic downfall or desperate attempt to cling to power in his falling ministry.

#### **Character's voice guidance:**

. **tone:** authoritative, charismatic, occasionally bombastic

- . **language:** formal, polished, poetic, biblical
- . **accent:** distinct Nigerian accent
- . **colloquialisms:** uses Nigerian expressions, idioms and jokes

**CHARACTER PROFILE: "BUHLE"**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

- . age: mid/late 20s
- . **occupation:** personal assistant to Viliami/receptionist at Nova Africa Mining and Energy.
- . **physical description:** pretty, elegant, curvy
- . **personality:** intelligent, discreet, charming

**Background:**

- . Buhle was born and raised in Nyanga Township, South Africa.
- . she pursued a degree in Business Administration and later earned a certification in Executive secretarial studies. She landed a job as a personal secretary to Viliami, one of the most powerful and wealthy black man in South Africa.
- . Buhle's role as Viliami's secretary is multi-faceted. She is not only responsible for managing his schedule and correspondence but also serves as a confidant and advisor.
- . Buhle is privy to Viliami's business dealings and personal life, and he trusts her implicitly with rumors of her being his on/off secret girlfriend.

**Conflict and inner turmoil**

- . Buhle's biggest conflict is navigating the challenges of her role as Viliami's secretary. She must balance her professional duties with her personal feelings and loyalties.
- . she's also aware of Viliami's questionable business dealings and personal relationships.
- . she struggles with her own moral compass, wondering if she is

complicit in Viliami's wrong doing by virtue of her close association with him.

**Potential character arc:**

. Buhle may be forced to confront the consequences of her association with Viliami and the rest of the Nyoni family, revealing the complexity and nuance of her character.

**Character's voice guidance:**

- . **tone:** professional, eloquent, courteous
- . **language:** formal, polished, occasionally technical
- . **accent:** urban, cosmopolitan accent
- . **colloquialisms:** uses formal, businesslike language, with occasional contemporary slang.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: BRIGADIER HLONGWANE CELE.**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

- . age: 50s
- . **rank:** Brigadier
- . **unit:** South African National Investigation Unit: Murder and Robbery Unit.
- . **personality:** No-nonsense, sharp-witted, fiercely independent, deeply compassionate
- . **physical description:** Tall, imposing figure with a bulky presence, distinctive scar above his left eye.

**Backstory:**

- . Early life: Born and raised in Umlazi township, Durban, KZN.

. **Family:** lost his younger sister to gang violence when he was a teenager, his mother passed away shortly after, his father, a former police officer, raised him alone.

. **education:** completed high school in KwaMashu, earned a degree in criminology from the University of Kwazulu-Natal.

. **career:** joined the South African Police Service (SAPS) as a constable, quickly rose through the ranks due to his exceptional investigative skills and leadership abilities, transferred to Murder and Robbery Unit, where he earned the rank of Brigadier.

. **Notable cases:** solved several high-profile murder cases, including the infamous "Durban CLUB 07 shootout" case which earned him national recognition and acclaim.

. **Personal motivations:** driven by a strong sense of justice and a desire to protect his community. Haunted by the memory of his sister's death and the feeling of helplessness that followed.

#### **Conflict and inner turmoil:**

. **internal conflict:** struggles with the emotional toll of his job, particularly when dealing with cases involving violence against women and children, grapples with the moral implications of his work and the blurred lines between justice and vengeance.

. **external conflict:** faces resistance and skepticism from his colleagues and superiors, who question his unconventional methods and suspect him of being "too soft" on crime; must navigate the web of corruption and politics within SAPS.

**Character Arc:** as the series progresses, Brigadier Cele's character evolves from a tough, no-nonsense detective to a more nuanced and empathetic leader, he learns to balance his desire for justice with his need to protect himself and those around him from the emotional toll of his work.

#### **Character's voice guidance.**

. **tone:** assertive, confident, authoritative.

. **language:** formal, professional English with a hint of South African accent.

. **emotional cues:** firm but calm during emergencies, serious and stern when addressing misconduct, slightly warmer when interacting with colleagues.

**CHARACTER PROFILE: COLONEL GODFREY LUBAYI.**

**RECURRING ROLE: LOW-BILLED.**

. **age:** 50s

. **rank:** Colonel

. **unit:** SAPS Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) also known as the Hawks.

. **personality:** charismatic, confident, strategic and calculating, has a dry sense of humour.

. **physical description:** tall, athletic build, shaved head, well-groomed beard.

**Backstory:**

. **Early life:** born and raised in Soweto, Johannesburg.

. **family:** married to a former police officer, three adult children.

. **education:** completed matric and high school in Soweto, earned a degree in Law from the Witwatersrand.

. **career:** joined the SAPS as a constable, quickly rose through the ranks due to his exceptional investigative skills and leadership abilities; transferred to the DPCI, where he earned the rank of Colonel.

. **notable cases:** led several high-profile investigations, including the " Joburg Checkers" heist case, which resulted in the conviction of several high-ranking government officials.

**Conflict and character arc:**

. **internal conflict:** struggles with the moral implications of his work, particularly when dealing with cases involving corruption and abuse of power; grapples with the pressure to deliver results in high-profile cases.

. **external conflict:** faces resistance and scepticism from his colleagues and superiors, who question his methods and suspect him of being too close to the politicians he investigates.

**Character arc:** as the series progresses, Colonel Lubayi's character evolves from a confident and charismatic leader to a more nuanced and introspective one, he learns to balance his desire for justice with his need to protect himself from the corrupt systems he navigates.

**Character's voice guidance:**

. **tone:** investigative, analytical and slightly reserved.

. **language:** formal, technical English, with a hint of South African accent.

. **emotional cues:** introspective and thoughtful during analysis, slightly skeptical when presented with new information, neutral and objective when discussing case details.

**CHARACTER STYLE:**

. **FASHION** - A mix of high-end, designer clothing and trendy, street-style fashion to reflect the character's diverse backgrounds and personalities.

. **ACCESSORIES:** Bold, statement pieces like jewelry, hats, sunglasses and scarves will add a touch of glamour and sophistication to the characters' looks.

**TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU. S1.**

### **SECTION 3: WORLD-BUILDING.**

**PRIMARY STORY'S SETTING: MODERN-DAY CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, SHOWCASING ITS VIBRANT COSMOPOLITAN CULTURE, HISTORICAL LANDMARKS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTRASTS.**

#### **Geography and Climate:**

. Cape Town is a coastal city, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Table Mountain.

. The city has a Mediterranean climate, with warm summers and mild winters.

. The main townships like Khayelitsha, are often located on the outskirts of the city, with poorer living conditions.

#### **History:**

. Cape Town was founded by the Dutch in 1652, and it has a complex history of colonization, slavery and apartheid.

. The city is home to many different cultures, including the Khoikhoi, the San, and various African and European communities.

. The legacy of apartheid still affects the city, with many townships struggling with poverty and lack of resources.

#### **Culture:**

. Cape Town is known for its vibrant cultural scene, with a mix of traditional and modern music, art and food.

. The city celebrates many different festivals and holidays including the Cape Town International Jazz Festival and the Kaapse Klopse.

. Traditional African culture plays an important role in the lives of many characters, with a focus on respect for ancestors and community.

#### **Economy:**

. Cape Town is a major economic hub, with a strong focus on tourism, finance, and technology.

. The city is home to many wealthy business people and entrepreneurs, but poverty and inequality remain significant challenges.

. The townships are often plagued by unemployment, crime, and lack of access to basic services.

### **CHARACTERS' LIVES:**

. The NYONI family are wealthy and powerful business people with dark secrets: they made their astronomical fortune through coal mining and corrupt dealings and exploitation of the poor.

. ZURI RADEBE, AYANDA and LOYISO are underprivileged "genzie" girls who reside in the crowded township of Khayelitsha, at a church-funded home. They struggle to maintain their cultural heritage in the face of modernization and urbanization.

### **SECONDARY SETTING:**

#### ii) **EMALAHLENI:**

brief history and background: Emalahleni, formerly known as Witbank, is a city located in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. The city's name, Emalahleni, means "place of coal" in the Swati language, reflecting its rich coal mining history.

. Emalahleni was founded in 1890 as a small farming community, but its growth accelerated with the discovery of coal in the area. The city became a major coal mining hub, with many mines operating in the surrounding areas.

Today, Emalahleni is a thriving city with a diverse economy, although coal mining remains a significant contributor. The city is also known for its natural beauty, with several game reserves and nature reserves in the surrounding areas.

### **SET DESIGN:**

i) **BANTRY BAY:** Home of the billionaire Nyoni family: upscale, modern homes and apartments with sleek lines, panoramic windows, and stunning ocean views.

ii) **KHAYELITSHA:** Vibrant, colourful township setting with a mix of informal settlements, street art, and bustling markets.

. The show's lead character, Zuri Radebe and her friends Ayanda and Loyiso reside at a non-descript church-funded home called

Khayelitsha Safe House Ministries.

iii) **CAPE TOWN METROPOLITAN:** Iconic landmarks like Table Mountain, the Cape Town Stadium, and the V and A Waterfront will make appearances throughout the show. The headquarters of Nova Africa Mining and Energy is located in the heart of the Metropolis.

**Set Design Concepts:**

a) Bantry Bay home of the Nyoni family:

- . location: Bantry Bay, Cape Town.
- . style: modern, luxurious, and sleek.
- . color schemes: crisp white, with accents of gold, silver and dark wood.

**Key features:**

- . expansive ocean views
- . high ceilings and large windows
- . marble and hardwood flooring
- . state-of-the-art security system
- . private movie theatre, gym and spa
- . lavish outdoor entertainment area with infinity pool

**NYONI FAMILY'S PERSONAL TOUCHES:**

- . African art and sculptures
- . family photos and heir looms in the living areas
- . Viliami's study with a private bar and cigar humidor

**b) KHAYELITSHA SAFE HOUSE MINISTRIES:**

- . **location:** Khayelitsha, Cape Town
- . style: simple, humble, welcoming
- . color schemes: earthy tones

**Key features:**

- . unassuming exterior with a secure entrance
- . cozy living areas with comfortable furniture
- . basic but clean and functional kitchen and dining area
- . private bedrooms for the girls with shared bathrooms
- . small garden or courtyard for outdoor activities

**Personal touches:**

- . inspirational quotes and Bible verses on the walls.
- . photos of the girls and their accomplishments
- . handmade crafts and artwork created by the girls.

**ZURI'S BEDROOM WITH AYANDA:**

Color scheme: soft, calming colors such as light blue, pale yellow, creamy white, to create a sense of safety and serenity.

**Furniture:**

- . two single beds with sturdy metal frames
- . a shared dresser or closet for storing clothes
- . a small desk or table for studying, writing, creative pursuits
- . a comfortable small sofa

**Decor:**

- . inspirational quotes, posters, or artwork to motivate and uplift
- . personal mementos, photos, or treasures to make the space feel more personal
- . a few favourite books, magazines, or games
- . a small plant or vase with fresh flowers

**Cultural touches:**

- . personal items that reflect Zuri's and Ayanda's individual

backgrounds and experiences.

. traditional African patterns, textiles, or artwork to reflect the cultural heritage of the characters.

### **c) NOVA AFRICA MINING AND ENERGY HEADQUARTERS**

. location: Metropolitan Cape Town City

. style: modern, sleek, professional

. color scheme: corporate blues and grays with accents of gold

#### **Key features:**

. impressive lobby with large reception desk

. high-tech conference rooms and meeting spaces

. state-of-the-art data center and IT infrastructure

. secure basement parking and access control systems

. leadership photos and Nova Africa's mining history displayed throughout the building

### **VILIAMI NYONI'S OFFICE:**

**Concept:** "The Power Chamber"

. **style:** luxurious, modern, and imposing

. color scheme: dark woods, rich leathers and metallic accents

#### **Key features:**

. large picture of the "Black Eagle"- "Ukhozi olumnyama"

. large, wooden desk with intricate carvings

. high back, leather executive chair

. state-of-the-art technology including a large screen display and video conferencing capabilities

. family photos and heirlooms, showcasing his private life including his proud photo with Trump and Elon Musk.

**JAYSEN'S OFFICE:**

**CONCEPT:** "The Entrepreneur's Den"

**style:** modern, sleek, and sophisticated

color schemes: neutral tones

**Personal touches:**

- . Jaysen's collection of American NBA memorabilia
- . photos and mementos from his travels across the world.

**SET DESIGN CONCEPT: NOVA AFRICA MINING AND ENERGY'S NEW THERMAL POWER PLANT (THE SUPERNOVA POWER PLANT)**

**Location:** Emalahleni, Mpumalanga.

**style:** industrial, functional, safety blues and oranges

**Key features:**

- . large, imposing cooling towers
- . modern, sleek administration building
- . massive, industrial scale turbines and generators
- . extensive network of pipes, ducts and conveyors
- . Nova Africa's logo and branding prominently displayed in machinery and buildings
- . personalized safety gear and equipment for miners and workers

**SECTION 4:**

**VISUALS AND STYLE: GUIDANCE ON THE SHOW'S TONE, PACE AND VISUAL STYLE.**

**TONE:**

- i) Dark and gritty:** Reflecting the harsh realities of life in the townships and the corrupt underbelly of Cape Town's elite.
- ii) Emotional and intense:** exploring the complex relationships and

struggles of the characters through social stratification.

iii **Suspensful and mysterious:** with unexpected twists and turns, keeping viewers on the edge of their seats.

**STYLE: Cinematic, suspensful and dramatic,** incoporporating both local and International music and art. Incorporating stunning footage of Cape Town's landscapes and cityscapes.

## SECTION 5:

### STORY ARCS FOR MAIN CHARACTERS: OVERVIEWS OF THE MAIN STORYLINES CHARACTER ARCS THROUGHOUT THE SCENES.

#### 1. STORY ARC: DR VILIAMI NYONI - LEADING ROLE.

. **INTRODUCTION:** Powerful and successful businessman and executive chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy, with a ruthless reputation.

. **RISING ACTION:** Clashes with the Minerals and Energy Agency and its Chief Inspector, Dr Caleb Dhlamini over mining regulations, and later orchestrates Dhlamini's assassination.

. His relationships with his son Jaysen and wife Thandolwazi becomes increasingly complicated.

**CLIMAX:** Faces scrutiny, exposure by Zuri Radebe for his role in Dr Dhlamini's assassination and his corrupt business dealings.

. wife Thandolwazi files for divorce having discovered his murder of Dhlamini.

**FALLING ACTION:** Tries to maintain control and power, but his empire begins to crumble.

**RESOLUTION:** Confronts the consequences of his actions by moving his wealth into a trust fund, leaving his ailing business in the hands of his son Jaysen, and flees to Canada to run away from prosecution.

#### 2. STORY ARC: ZURI RADEBE: LEADING ROLE.

**INTRODUCTION:** Survived but seriously injured junior mining inspector with the Minerals and Energy agency.

. passionate about justice and equality.

. vulnerable and underprivileged resident of Khayelitsha Safe house ministries.

**RISING ACTION:** Discovers the truth about Dr Dhlamini's assassination.

. stands up against the corrupt practices of the mining industry and big corporates like Nova Africa Energies.

. develops feelings for Jaysen Nyoni, despite their different backgrounds.

**CLIMAX:** Faces danger and intimidation from Viliami Nyoni and Tinashe, Jaysen's official fiance.

. **FALLING ACTION:** Finds allies and support in her fight for social justice and accountability, including support from Thandolwazi Nyoni, Thabang and friends Ayanda and Loyiso.

**RESOLUTION:** Sees justice 'partially' served, but not without scars and personal sacrifices.

### **3. STORY ARC: JAYSEN NYONI: MAIN CHARACTER.**

. **INTRODUCTION:** Outgoing inmate in Pollsmoor Remand Prison struggling with financial woes and his billionaire father's legacy and expectations.

. catapulted to CEO of Nova Africa Emalahleni power plant.

**RISING ACTION:** Develops feelings for Zuri Radebe, despite their different backgrounds and his engagement to supermodel girlfriend, Tinashe Sithole.

. tries to effect a culture change and sustainable strategy for Nova Africa but faces resistance.

**CLIMAX:** Faces a moral crisis when he discovers his father's role in Dr Dhlamini's murder.

**FALLING ACTION:** Tries to make amends and find redemption, but faces opposition from his father and others.

**RESOLUTION:** Finds a new path and a chance to redemption about his

shady past with Mahego. Father Viliami flees to Canada, leaving the company in his hands and a substantial fortune.

#### **4. STORY ARC: THANDOLWAZI NYONI: MAIN CHARACTER.**

**INTRODUCTION:** Submissive and loving wife of billionaire mining mogul, Viliami Nyoni.

**RISING ACTION:** Finds courage to find the truth about her accident and to defy Viliami in bringing Zuri Radebe closer to the Nyoni household.

**CLIMAX:** Discovers shocking revelations that Viliami orchestrated the assassination of Dr Caleb Dhlamini and was instrumental in the near fatal accident that involved her.

**FALLING ACTION:** Joins forces with Zuri Radebe to uncover the truth about their accident.

. joins hands with Pravin Pather, Viliami's business partner, in rescinding millions of dollars back to South Africa that had been laundered by Viliami.

**RESOLUTION:** disillusioned when Viliami's shrewd lawyer, Christian Cloete reveals Viliami's bankruptcy in a divorce settlement. Also shocked to hear Viliami has transferred all his assets to son, Jaysen effectively shielding her out of his vast wealth.

#### **5. STORY ARC: TINASHE SITHOLE: MAIN CHARACTER.**

**INTRODUCTION:** Ravishing and successful Zimbabwean supermodel and Jaysen Nyoni's fiancée, with a hidden agenda.

**RISING ACTION:** Reveals her true nature as a gold digger and manipulator, using her charm and beauty to get what she wants.

**CLIMAX:** Gets pregnant for Viliami Nyoni whilst preparing a wedding with Jaysen. Faces stiff competition for Jaysen's attention and affection from Zuri Radebe.

**FALLING ACTION:** Tries to maintain her reputation and relationships, but ultimately faces consequences for her actions.

**RESOLUTION:** Loses everything that truly mattered to her, including Jaysen Nyoni.

## **6. STORY ARC: DR CALEB DHLAMINI: SUPPORTING CHARACTER**

**INTRODUCTION:** Confident and respected Chief Inspector of the Minerals and Energy agency, passionate about responsible mining practices.

**RISING ACTION:** Clashes with Viliami Nyoni over his strict mining policies, and becomes a thorn in his side by crafting the Project 2030 Energy masterplan aimed at reforming mining and cutting fossil energy exports.

**CLIMAX:** Assassinated by Viliami Nyoni, disguised as a terrible road accident.

**FALLING ACTION:** Appears in dreams to his favourite protegee, Zuri Radebe. His legacy lives on, inspiring others, especially Zuri, to continue his work.

**RESOLUTION:** Justice is tentatively served, but not without a great cost.

## **7. STORY ARC: PASTOR EVELYN KOFI: SUPPORTING CHARACTER.**

**INTRODUCTION:** nurturing leader of Khayelitsha Safe house **ministries with a charming and nurturing personality.**

**RISING ACTION:** Reveals her true nature as a human trafficker and money launderer, using her ministry as a front.

**CLIMAX:** Faces exposure for her crimes after being back-bitten by Seyi Okoro, her husband's nephew.

**FALLING ACTION:** Tries to maintain her reputation and relationships, but ultimately faces consequences for her actions.

**RESOLUTION:** Loses everything, including her ministry and freedom after being taken in by SAPS.

## **8. STORY ARC: PRAVIN PATHER: SUPPORTING CHARACTER.**

**INTRODUCTION:** Deputy Executive Chairman of Nova Africa Mining and Energy and Viliami Nyoni's closest business partner.

**RISING ACTION:** Becomes increasingly disillusioned with Viliami

Nyoni's actions, particularly his role in Dhlamini's murder.

**CLIMAX:** Resigns from Nova Africa, citing moral differences with Viliami Nyoni.

**FALLING ACTION:** Faces consequences for his actions, including fallout with Viliami.

**RESOLUTION:** Finds redemption and a chance to start anew, free from the corrupt influences of Viliami Nyoni.

#### 9. STORY ARC: MP SIBUSISO TSHABALALA: SUPPORTING ROLE

**INTRODUCTION:** Respected and controversial figure in South African politics, with strong background in anti-apartheid activism.

**RISING ACTION:** Reveals his true nature and hypocrisy as a corrupt and cunning politician, involved in human trafficking, money laundering and sex exploitation.

**CLIMAX:** Faces exposure for his crimes, including his sexual misdeeds with underage girls.

**FALLING ACTION:** Tries to maintain his reputation and relationships but ultimately faces consequences.

#### RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS:

##### ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS.

i) JAYSEN NYONI and ZURI RADEBE: Forbidden love between a wealthy businessman's son and an underprivileged junior mining inspector. Their relationship is complicated by their different backgrounds and Jaysen's engagement to Tinashe.

ii) JAYSEN NYONI and TINASHE SITHOLE: Marriage engagement between Jaysen and the Zimbabwean supermodel. Tinashe's true intentions and infidelity threaten to destroy their relationship.

iii) VILIAMI NYONI and THANDOLWAZI MBALI NYONI: Complex marriage between the powerful businessman and his wife. Thandolwazi's string of miscarriages and failure to bear him children because of an ovarian condition, as well her relationships with other characters create tension in their marriage.

iv) VILIAMI NYONI and TINASHE SITHOLE: Illicit affair between the billionaire mogul and the pretty supermodel. Their relationship is marked by manipulation, power struggles and deceit.

**b) FRIENDSHIPS AND ALLIANCES:**

1. Zuri Radebe and Thandolwazi Nyoni: Unlikely friendship between the junior mining inspector and the wife of Viliami Nyoni. Thandolwazi becomes a de facto mentor and confidant to Zuri.

2. Viliami Nyoni and Pravin Pather: complex business partnership and friendship between the two men. Pravin's loyalty is tested when he discovers Viliami's role in the murder of Dr Caleb Dhlamini.

3. Pastor Evelyn Kofi and MP Sibusiso Tshabalala: corrupt alliance between the pastor and politician. They work together to further their own interests and exploit vulnerable individuals.

**c) RIVALRIES AND CONFLICTS:**

i) Dr Viliami Nyoni and Dr Caleb Dhlamini: bitter rivalry between the billionaire mining magnate and the Chief Inspector of the Minerals and Energy agency. Their conflicting views on mining regulations lead to a tragic confrontation.

ii) Viliami Nyoni and MP Tshabalala: bitter political rivalries fighting for the representation in Mpumalanga Province as well as relevance in the political space.

iii) Jaysen Nyoni and Viliami Nyoni: complicated father-son relationship marked by tension, loyalty and betrayal. Viliami's even involved in a romantic affair with Jaysen's fiancée, Tinashe.

iv) Zuri Radebe and Tinashe Sithole: Rivalry between the two young and beautiful women, fueled by their competing interests and values - especially their attention from Jaysen. Tinashe's manipulative nature and Zuri's determination create a volatile dynamic.

**SECTION 6: MYTHOLOGY AND RULES FOR THE SHOW.**

1. **The Power of the Land:** The show highlights the importance of the land and the ancestral spirits that inhabit it, particularly for the indigenous people of South Africa.

2. **The Mining Industry's Dark Past:** The show explores the dark history

of the mining industry in South Africa, including the exploitation of black workers and the environmental damage caused by mining activities.

### **3. The Symbolism of Dreams: Dhlamini's Visitation:**

Zuri's dream, in which Dhlamini appears to her, is a classic example of an ancestral visitation. Dhlamini's message, " Follow the money, Zuri. Expose the truth," is a cryptic instruction that sets Zuri on a path of discovery and danger.

**4. The Collective Unconscious:** The dreams in *Treachery: Ubugebengu* tap into the collective unconscious, revealing the deep-seated fears, desires, and motivations of the characters.

**5. The Power of the Ancestors:** The *Treachery: Ubugebengu* series highlights the power of the ancestors to shape the lives of the living. Through dreams and visions, the ancestors offer guidance, warnings, and prophecies that influence the characters' decisions and actions. This emphasizes the idea that the ancestors are not just passive observers, but active participants in the world of the living.

### **RULES:**

. **LOYALTY IS A LUXURY:** In the world of "Treachery: Ubugebengu," loyalty is a luxury that few can afford. Characters are often forced to choose between their loyalty to others and their own self-interest.

. **BETRAYAL IS A CONSTANT THREAT:** Betrayal is a constant threat in the world of the show. Characters are often forced to navigate complex webs of deceit and betrayal, where allegiances are constantly shifting.

. **POWER CORRUPTS:** The show explores the corrupting influence of power, as characters are tempted by the promise of wealth, status, and influence.

. **THE PAST ALWAYS CATCHES UP:** The show's characters are often haunted by their past mistakes and secrets, which threaten to catch up with them at any moment.

### **Character Rules:**

1. **Viliami Nyoni's Ruthlessness:** Viliami will stop at nothing to achieve his goals, including betraying those closest to him.
2. **Zuri Radebe's Determination:** Zuri is driven by a strong sense of justice and will not back down from a fight, even when faced with overwhelming odds.
3. **Jaysen Nyoni's Loyalty:** Jaysen is torn between his loyalty to his family and his growing sense of morality, which often puts him at odds with his father.

### **World-Building Rules:**

1. **The Mining Industry's Influence:** The mining industry is a powerful force in the world of the show, with far-reaching influence and corruption.
2. **The Importance of Family:** Family is a central theme in the show, with characters often prioritizing family loyalty over personal interests.

These mythology and rules provide a rich foundation for the world of "Treachery: Ubugebengu," and will help guide the development of the show's characters, plot and themes.

## **SECTION 7: VISUALS AND DESIGN: GUIDANCE ON THE SHOW'S VISUAL ELEMENTS, SUCH AS COSTUMES, SETS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS.**

### **COSTUMES:**

The costume design for TREACHERY: UBUGEBENGU should reflect the characters' cultural identities, personalities, and lifestyles, while also conveying the themes of power, corruption, and identity.

### **Cultural and Traditional Attire:**

1. **African prints and patterns:** Incorporate traditional African textiles, such as Ankara, Adire, and Kente cloth, to add cultural depth and authenticity.
2. **Traditional African Clothing:** Include traditional garments like kaftans, dashikis, and wrappers to showcase the characters' cultural

heritage.

#### **VISUAL EFFECTS:**

. Use subtle, realistic effects to enhance the emotional impact of key scenes.

1. **Dream sequences:** use a combination of practical and visual effects to create surreal, dreamlike sequences that blur the lines between reality and fantasy.

2. **Mine shaft collapses:** Use a combination of practical effects, such as pyrotechnics and set destruction, and visual effects to create realistic and intense mine shaft collapse sequences.

#### **PRACTICAL EFFECTS:**

1. **Blood and gore:** Use practical effects to create realistic blood and gore, emphasizing the brutality and violence of the mining industry.

2. **STUNTS:** Employ stunt performers and coordinators to create realistic and intense action sequences, such as the car chase and accident scenes.

3. **Set design:** use practical set design to create immersive and realistic environments, such as the mine shafts.

#### **CGI:**

. **Mine Machinery:** Employ CGI to create realistic mine machinery, such as drilling equipment and haul trucks, highlighting the industrial scale of the mining operations.

. **Ghostly apparitions:** Use CGI to create ghostly apparitions, such as the spirit of Caleb Dhlamini, adding a supernatural layer to the story.

#### **THE HORRIFIC ACCIDENT SCENE:**

##### **PRE-PRODUCTION:**

1. **Location scouting:** Find a suitable location on the N4 highway that can be closed off for filming.

2. **Storyboarding:** create a detailed storyboard of the accident scene,

including the positioning of the vehicles, the movement of the characters, and the desired outcome.

3. **Special effects planning:** determine what special effects will be required to create the accident scene, such as pyrotechnics, stunt driving, and CGI.

#### **SPECIAL EFFECTS:**

1. **Pyrotechnics:** use pyrotechnics to create a realistic explosion and fire effect, simulating the impact of the accident.

2. **Stunt driving:** employ stunt drivers to perform a controlled crash, using specialized vehicles and safety equipment.

3. **CGI:** Use CGI to enhance the accident scene, adding elements such as debris, smoke, and flames.

4. **Practical effects:** Use practical effects, such as makeup and prosthetics, to create realistic injuries and burns for the characters.

#### **Filming:**

1. **Camera angles:** Use a variety of camera angles, such as close-ups, wide shots, and overhead shots, to capture the intensity and chaos of the accident scene.

2. **Slow motion:** Film certain sections of the accident scene in slow motion, emphasizing the horror and impact of the crash.

3. **Sound design:** Use sound effects, such as screeching tires, crunching metal, and shattering glass, to create a realistic and immersive audio experience.

#### **POST-PRODUCTION:**

1. **Editing:** edit the footage to create a cohesive and intense accident scene, using techniques such as quick cuts and slow motion.

2. **Visual effects:** Add CGI elements, such as debris and flames, to enhance the accident scene.

3. **Sound mixing:** Mix the sound effects, music and dialogue to create a balanced and immersive audio experience.

## **Safety Considerations:**

1. **Stunt safety:** ensure that all stunt performers and drivers are properly trained and equipped with safety gear.
2. **Pyrotechnic safety:** Follow all safety protocols when using pyrotechnics, including ensuring a safe distance from the explosion and having a fire extinguisher on hand.
3. **Location safety:** ensure that the filming location is safe and secure, with proper barriers and warning signs to prevent accidents.

## **LIGHTING:**

- . use low-key lighting to create deep shadows and a sense of foreboding.
- . employ high-contrast lighting to highlight key moments and emotions.
- . experiment with color temperatures to create a distinctive mood and atmosphere.

## **CAMERA ANGLES AND MOVEMENTS:**

- . use a mix of close-ups, medium shots, and wide shots, and wide shots to create a sense of intimacy and scope.
- . employ hand-held camera work to create a sense of urgency and immediacy.
- . use slow motion and time-lapses to emphasize key moments and create a sense of unease.

## **Graphics and Titles:**

- . create a distinctive title sequence that reflects the show's themes and tone.
- . use simple, elegant graphics to convey key information such as character names and locations.
- . avoid overusing graphics, focusing instead on creating a clean, minimalist aesthetic.

By incorporating these visual elements, you'll create a rich, immersive world that draws audiences into the complex, gripping world

of Treachery: Ubugebengu.

### **Color Palettes**

. **Main Colors:** dark blues and greys to convey a sense of mystery, tension, and foreboding.

. **Ascent colors:** deep reds and oranges to symbolize passion, betrayal and danger.

### **TYPOGRAPHY:**

**Font Family:** A clean, modern sans-serif font (e.g Open Sans) to convey a sense of sophistication and urbanity.

**Title Font:** A bold, dramatic font (e.g Montserrat) to emphasize the show's themes of treachery and betrayal.

**\*\*\*\*\* THE END \*\*\*\*\***

**IN GOD WE TRUST.**