



KONTAX 1

THE BEGINNING

By Sam Wilson • Publisher Clockwork Zoo • Published 2009
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Another great Yoza cellphone story

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ABOUT THE KONTAX SERIES

They're the hottest graffiti crew in the city. They come from all over town, and they each have their own talent. Sbu has the vision, K8 has the training, Song has the technique, and Airtime has the creativity (and the big mouth). They'll paint wherever they can, and whenever they can't. They're the Kontax, and it's their voice.

STORY TEASER

Sbu hits it off with a girl at a party, but she disappears, leaving him with her cellphone. Who is she? Why doesn't anyone on her contact list know her? And why is she receiving threatening messages? Tracking the girl down leads Sbu and his friends into a world of action, mystery, and increasing danger...

CHARACTERS

These are the main characters in Kontax:

Sbu *Male, 17* Sbu is smart, streetwise and well connected. He'll go out of his way for his friends, but the thing he hates more than anything is to feel disrespected. He's still in school, but on weekends he hangs out at the soccer club, or with the graffiti crew.

Mfundo (aka Airtime) *Male, 16* Mfundo is Sbu's oldest friend. He gets his nickname 'Airtime' because he never stops talking, particularly to girls. He's witty, and wants to be a professional radio DJ when he gets out of school. He's not as athletic as Sbu, but he's smart and likable. He has a bit of a crush on Song, but won't admit it.

Kate (K8) *Female, 18* Kate is a talented graffiti artist, and paints murals on the sides of community buildings, which is where she met Sbu, Airtime and Song. She's coming out of a dodgy past, and has had more than one run-in with the law as a teenager while she was trying to escape her suburban upbringing. She has long blond hair in dreadlocks.

Songezwa (Song) *Female, 17* Songezwa is a techie. She knows more about the workings of cellphones and computers than all her friends. Songezwa feels out of place wherever she goes, and a recent family disaster has left her struggling. She's hurt and angry, but, deep down, she just wants to connect.

CHAPTER 1

Sbu belted the ball up the pitch to the striker, who kicked it into the goal. Mfundo and K8 were cheering from the sidelines, and holding up a torn white sheet spray-painted with the words: "SBU - KICK IT THRU". Sbu shot them a grin.

At the beginning of the game, the other players gave Sbu strange looks, because it was just a normal game at the club, and no one else had crazy fans cheering them on. But K8 and Mfundo's enthusiasm was infectious, and by the end of the match even the other team was grinning.

The ref declared the end of the game, and the players came off the pitch looking for their water bottles. K8 and Mfundo made themselves popular by handing out naartjies.

"Great game!" said K8, to Sbu as he walked up and picked up his sports jacket from the bench.

"For sho," Mfundo agreed. "You were shooting up and down the pitch faster than a bullet. Serious. Bullets were standing aside to get out of your way. I saw one bullet saying 'Did Sbu just run past?' And another one just said 'Duck!'"

K8 rolled her eyes. "Do you ever stop talking?" she said.

"Never!" said Mfundo. "I can talk all day. Just call me 'Airtime'."

Sbu laughed at them, and caught a naartjie thrown by K8.

"Where's Songezwa?" he asked.

Songezwa was the final member of their crew, but they hadn't seen her for a few days.

"No idea," said K8. "Why?"

"Some dodgy guy came up to me after school and told me to give her this." Sbu searched through the pockets of his jacket, and took out a thick envelope.

"What is it?" said Mfundo. Sbu shrugged.

"We can ask her at the party, if she comes," said K8. "You two are coming, right?"

One of K8's rich friends, Bulana, was having a party that evening, and it was going to be huge.

"Am I coming to the party?" said Mfundo. "I AM the party! I just need a place to happen!"

When they'd finished eating, Sbu, K8 and Mfundo made their way to K8's car.

At the top of the stands, hidden out of sight behind a pillar, Songezwa silently watched them leave.

Vote

This is the start of a 3-week-long story. What kind of stories (reading or movies) do you enjoy? Our readers responded like this: *Action: 85%*, *Drama: 1%*, *Romance: 3%*, *Comedy: 10%*, *Science Fiction: 2%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

I think kontax is a lifesaver because it has been a long time since i have read a short story or a novel because i have been mxiting for most of the time,so i think this will help me and others like me.I will definately tell my friends who are also mxit junkies about this.

Pravesh

I think this is the nxt best thng since sliced bread,cnt wait 4 the next chapter.its rly interestn,i cnt stand readn a novel bt this is diffrent coz its jst lyk facebook **Mpumi**

This girl is up 2 s0mething and da kontax team needs 2 find out whats up,the sooner the better and airtime..ay love your caractor 4sh0! **Zeze**

What do you think?

The crew's friend Songezwa is hiding from them. Any idea why? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 2

The roads around Bulana's house were clogged with cars. Most were from guests to the party. K8 had to park her car more than a block away. Even at that distance, they could hear the bass thumping from the party's sound system.

Sbu and Airtime had been to a lot of parties with K8, who was always taking them to the latest events around town. They'd first met her two years ago, at an exhibition at the community centre. Sbu's school was showing off the best work from their art class, and one of Sbu's pictures was on display. When he'd gone to see it, K8 was outside the building painting a landscape on one of the walls.

He liked her style, which was a mix of normal graffiti and stencilling, but he didn't say anything until Mfundo barged up and started chatting to her. Mfundo invited her inside to see Sbu's painting, which was a charcoal picture of his grandmother. K8 liked it so much that she invited him to help her finish the mural. At the end of the day they split the pay for the job, and K8 invited him to paint another wall with her the next weekend. He agreed.

Since then they'd been a crew, painting all over town, and Mfundo and his classmate Songezwa joined them as their graffiti skills improved. They were always going to new places and meeting new people. But they'd never been to a party like this.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Sbu didn't really know who Bulana was, but he was clearly rich. His house was two stories high. There was a wide balcony looking out over the ocean, and a pool on the ground floor. For the evening, there was a bar with free drinks and a DJ was spinning disks. All around were couches where couples were chatting, or making out.

K8 went off to say hi to Bulana, and Mfundo headed for the dance floor by the pool to dance with every girl he could find. "Call me Airtime!" he told them. Sbu was left to himself. He was going to go down to make sure Mfundo didn't cause any more trouble than usual, when he looked across the balcony at the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen.

Vote

What do you enjoy at parties? Our readers responded like this: *Meeting new people: 30%*, *Seeing friends: 7%*, *Dancing: 10%*, *Drinking: 10%*, *All of the above: 17%*, *I don't like parties: 27%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

da youth of 1976 said'education is tha key to suces thus we oath 2 beta way of doing +hings' so kontax is hlpng us to ripe +he fruit of our long lived heros by saying READING IS THE KEY TO SUCCES... **Sexyeyez**

Kontax is the most exciting thing that i've ever experianced i mean im not holding heavy book anymore its me and my phone and i have even told my friends to tell their friends and all of their friends to join kontax now the ideas that i have there should be something like pics and videos and even a skin just to freshen it up you know and kontax does educate us as far as im concerned,i like this its great thanks!! **Ace**

i dnt knw but partyz are kwl s0metimez but if it gets hectic like fighting over a guy or gal it aint kwl!! **Zeze**

What do you think?

What's the best party you've ever been to? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 3

She was standing by the railing in a dark green dress that barely covered her shoulders. Her skin was milk chocolate, and her hair was in thin braids curled up at the back. She was staring right at him, and when he saw her she looked away as if caught, then looked back and gave him a smile.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

They stayed up on the balcony, and ended up talking for hours, though it seemed like minutes to Sbu. He was surprised by her French accent. She said her name was Adelle. When he asked her where she was from, she told him to guess. He told her all the countries he could think of, but she didn't say "yes" to any of them. She just smiled.

They sat on a bench on the balcony and watched the lights on the boats far out at sea, marking out the horizon in the darkness. He told her about his paintings, and the adventures he'd had with the graffiti crew, and she listened eagerly. He asked her more about herself, but she gracefully changed the subject.

A light wind blew in, and they sat closer together. He offered her his jacket, and she accepted. He looked down at her mouth, and she kissed him.

Somewhere in the distance there were raised voices, but they meant nothing to Sbu. He was kissing a beautiful stranger, and he wanted the moment to last forever.

A glass broke downstairs. Someone was shouting. Sbu slowly drifted back to reality, and pulled away from the girl, who looked at him, surprised.

He recognised the voice.

It was Mfundo.

Shouting in pain.

Vote

Is Sbu moving too fast? Our readers responded like this: *Yes. He's only just met her: 44%, Yes. But so would I!: 24%, No, they're both going at their own pace: 32%, He shouldn't even be at that party!: 0%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

This girl, adelle, sounds so beautiful but she does not reveal herself to Sbu and to me this girl doesn't want to be known. Sbu might be getting himself into a danger zone.

Sexyeyez

Wow hey, this chapter just takes you to a world you want to get lost in. I feel there's a lot more to these characters, than just the passion but i guess thats why there's the intrigue to know more **SheenaR**

I get how sbu is feeling, its great having 2 meet someone new and get to kis them but reality is you don't know the person and don't know if that person has. . .wel in my point i think adelle is hiding something but i'll have to read more to find out **BigD**

What do you think?

Do you think your friends hook up too easily at parties? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 4

Sbu ran down the spiral staircase and out onto the patio by the pool. Mfundo was on the ground, protecting his head with his arms. An older man with hollow eyes was kicking and punching him. Bulana and his friends reached the fight before Sbu, and pulled the tall man off Mfundo. The man writhed around in their arms, yelling furiously.

“Is that all you got?” Sbu heard Mfundo saying from his ball on the ground, which meant his mouth was still in one piece.

“Where is she?” yelled the man. “I know she’s here! Where is she? Where are you keeping her?”

Bulana and the other young men got the man’s arms behind his back, and started pushing him out towards the front gate.

“Get off me!” said the guy, writhing and kicking. “Get off me right now!”

Sbu helped Mfundo to his feet.

“Are you all right?” he asked. “What happened?”

“I don’t know!” said Mfundo. “I was on the dance floor, and that guy came in off the street and started shouting, so I asked him to leave, and he hit me!”

Airtime looked like he was in shock. He was used to his mouth getting him into fights, but usually for obvious reasons. The side of his face was bruised.

“Let’s get K8,” said Sbu. “She knows first aid, ne?”

“She’s giving someone a lift home,” said Airtime, feeling his lip.

Sbu went back through the glass doors just as Adelle was coming down the stairs.

“What’s going on?” she asked.

“Some crazy guy,” said Sbu. “Can I use your phone? I left mine at home to recharge.”

As Sbu was dialling, Adelle went outside. K8 answered from her phone. She was dropping off a friend of hers. “I’ll be back in five minutes,” she said.

There was more of a racket from the gate.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

“They’re coming!” the crazy guy called out. “I called them, and they’re coming! They’re going to shut you down! You won’t take her! Here they come!”

There was a splintering sound. A girl screamed. Sbu looked outside to see policemen with dogs and bullet-proof vests pouring in through the front gate. They fanned out into the party, throwing people to the ground. One of them came into the house, aiming a handgun at Sbu.

“Get down on the floor!” said the policeman. “Get down right now!”

Vote

Is there a right time to fight? Our readers responded like this: *Yes, whenever I like: 0%, When people say things I don’t agree with: 0%, Whenever I feel threatened: 12%, To defend people I know: 36%, It is never right to fight: 52%.* To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

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This chapter reminds me of hw rude sum people could be.i mean u dnt even knw the pers0n and u start shouting and hitting them?and i get the feeling that it was a warning or death treat....BECARFUL KONTAX TEAM! **Zeze**

I believe that fighting jst doesnt solve anythng bt it jst make thngs worse.the only mature and appropriate way to solve problems is talking and trying to find a resolution to the problem.fighting results to more conflict. **Bookworm**

Fighting isn't the right, the only way to solve conflicts is through communication. If there is a misunderstanding people must talk and solve the matter without fists. Bcos if it is solved with fists there'll only be grudges held. And people who holds grudges aren't free.

Butterfly

What do you think?

When should you fight? When shouldn't you? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 5

Sbu put his hands up, and got down on his knees.

"Down!" said the policeman, and shoved him the rest of the way to the floor. He felt one of the police dogs snuffling around his body, then going away.

"This one's clear!" said a voice.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Sbu moved to get up, but felt a boot on his back.

"Didn't I tell you to stay down?" said the cop.

Sbu waited. Outside, he could hear Mfundo back-chatting the cops, and one of them telling him to shut up. He twisted his head to look out the door. Some guys from the party were being lead out the gate with their hands behind their backs.

After the cops searched everyone they filed back out, dragging their dogs with them. Sbu got up and rubbed his arms. Then he ran out, looking for Adelle.

She wasn't by the pool, or near the dance floor. He ran out the gates. There was a police van being loaded with partiers. Sbu looked inside, but Adelle wasn't among them.

Mfundo came out, feeling his swollen cheek.

"My mother's going to kill us for this," he said.

Mfundo's mother didn't like him going to parties with Sbu and K8, and only let him go because Sbu had promised her that he was perfectly safe. When he came home with a face like this, both of them were going to be in trouble.

K8's car pulled up outside the gate. She rolled down the window.

"What's going on?" she asked.

Mfundo told her about the raid.

"Well, come on, let's go," she said.

Sbu went inside for one last look for Adelle. He had to see her again. When he got back to the car, Mfundo was already asleep in the back seat.

"Come on," said K8. "You can sleep at my house."

"Won't your parents mind?"

"Nah. My brother's away at university. You can sleep in his room."

As they drove, the sleeping Mfundo kept sliding onto Sbu's shoulder, and Sbu had to keep pushing him away. He thought about the evening. Adelle had been impossibly beautiful, and he didn't know anything about her. It was like she didn't exist. She could have been a ghost, or a dream. Except... Sbu took out her cellphone, and turned it over in his hands.

They drove into K8's driveway just as dawn broke over the city.

Vote

Have you ever had an encounter with the police? What was it like? Our readers responded like this: *It was great, they really helped:* **4%**, *I wish they could have done more:* **13%**, *They arrested me! But it was my fault:* **0%**, *They arrested me! And it wasn't my fault!:* **0%**, *I've never had an encounter with the police (luckily!):* **83%**. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Cops are great to have in our time of live,going home and knowing you can call them for help. Them comming to the party was a good thing i mean the party was getting out of hand and in my point Adelle had something the police wanted because why would they bring dogs to sniff them but il have to wait and see. **BigD**

Could the crazy guy be looking for Adelle? (And Airtime just got beaten up because he was speaking too much?)..we know that Adelle is a mystery,,for now,,but I think So ngezwa must not be forgotten as well,,with her sneakyness,,it could be her...Whatever the case may be,,the crazy guy should be locked up for what he did to Airtime..fighting aint kwl man...! Chapter 5 reavel more.. **JesusFreak**

think the police had no rights searching the guys like that unless they had good reason to but in any case im glad Sbu n Airtime were free inspight of the pain and bruises they got
Suga

What do you think?

The crew's friend Songezwa is hiding from them. Any idea why? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 6

It was the first time Sbu and Mfundo had slept over at K8's house. She normally gave them a lift home, even when they'd worked late on some complex piece of graffiti. They sneaked in so they wouldn't wake up K8's parents, and K8 showed them to her brother's room. Mfundo slept on the bed, and Sbu got a thin camping mattress on the floor. He drifted off to sleep, still thinking of Adelle.

He woke up to the sound of the phone beeping. He yawned deeply, took out the phone and slid it open. The screen lit up: "1 new message" from a withheld number. He opened the message. It said, "YOU WON'T ESCAPE." It beeped again, and a new message came in. "I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE." And a third beep. "YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, ADELLE."

There were footsteps in the corridor, and the door opened. Sbu looked up at a woman, who gasped, and slammed the door shut.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"George!" she screamed. "There are men in Ben's room!"

Mfundo was waking up groggily just as a middle-aged bald man burst into the room holding a steel poker.

"Get out!" he shouted. "Get out of my house!"

"Whoa! Calm down!" said Mfundo, putting up his hands.

They grabbed all their stuff and made for the door. K8 came out of her door just as they were being herded down the corridor.

"Dad!" she said. "What are you doing? They're my friends!"

"Well, how were we meant to know that?" said K8's mother. "We thought they were robbers! And what have we told you about having boys over?"

"You're in a lot of trouble, Catherine!" said K8's dad, and slammed the front door behind them.

Sbu and Mfundo stood outside, not knowing what to do. Sbu felt humiliated and angry, and Mfundo just seemed shocked. Without anything else to do, they went to the taxi rank and got a ride home. It was a long journey, wedged between a stubbled man in a wrinkled suit and a woman with a baby on her lap, which kept on trying to poke Mfundo in the ear.

He said goodbye to Mfundo outside his house, which looked so small after K8 and Bulana's places. The lime-green paint on the outside was peeling, revealing patches of old brown bricks. It was much bigger than the shacks just a few blocks away, though. Sbu sighed, and went inside.

He had sent an SMS to his mother to tell her he was spending the night away, so he didn't get into too much trouble, but she still made him clean up the house as punishment for coming back so late.

After he finished, he lay in bed and went on MXit.

K8 was on, and she was very apologetic.

"Sry abt my parnts," she wrote. "Thyr crzy."

Vote

What would you do in Sbu's situation with K8's parents? Our readers responded like this: *I would go home, but I would be angry: 9%, I would demand an apology: 0%, I would be extra-nice, to prove they were wrong: 87%, I would never see K8 again: 0%, I would throw a rock at their house: 4%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

I thnk k8 shuld hv asked 4 ha parentz permission first b4 letting sbu ad mfunido sleep over. Itz their house and she has no right letting frindz sleep over without discussing it with them first. I also thnk that her parentz culd have jst let them stay 4 the night as k8 had explained 2 them that they were her friendz. **Bookworm**

Poor guyz!.. But who can blame k8's parents.. That was kinda irresponsible of the guyz,my parents would freak if something like that were to happen to me.. I undastand they are afraid but those are the people that can really help! **Cassie**

U knw what k8 should have ask her parents a permission ,before invytnng same frndz over{sbu and mfunido}.because that shows an am0unt or planty of respect,talerants for her parents.and you knw wht respect starts frm with!n, by respecting you as a matured person. then respect the pe0ple around you.INDLELA IBUZWA KWABAPHAMBILI. **Diary**

What do you think?

What do you think was up with K8's parents? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 7

"U in trubl?" wrote Sbu.

"A bit," K8 replied. "S ok. My parnts say sriry for yelling at u. They wr mad cos they tol me not 2 hav boys ovr. Theyr cool now."

"Ok" wrote Sbu. He didn't really feel okay, but he knew K8 was trying.

He told her about Adelle, and the phone.

"I'll ask bulana if he nos hr," K8 wrote.

Sbu waited. After a while his phone rang.

"Hi," said K8. "I spoke to him, and he doesn't know anyone called Adelle. But he said he didn't know most of the people at his party. He was quite proud about that."

"Sure."

"But have you tried the contacts on her phone? Someone will know where she is."

"I'll try now," Sbu said. He hung up his phone and picked up Adelle's, to check the contacts list.

Weirdly, there were only five numbers listed, with strange names: "Azure", "Hyena", "Maman", "Museum", and "The Eye".

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

It sounded like something out of a movie. He tried "Azure" first.

"Hello, Azure Hotel?" said a woman on the other end of the line.

"Hi," said Sbu. "Uh, do you have someone called Adelle staying there? I've got her phone."

"Just let me check," said the voice on the line. There was a pause, and then they said, "I'm sorry, sir, there's no-one of that name staying here."

"Thanks anyway," said Sbu. He tried the next number, which was for a security company called Hyena Personal Guards.

"No man," said a gruff man on the other end of the line. "We don't give out client details."

The next number, called "Maman", took a long time to connect, and someone answered the phone in French. Sbu tried to ask her about Adelle. "Désolé, je ne comprends pas," said the French woman, and hung up.

"Museum" was even stranger. It was an automated response from the Township Museum in East London. Without much hope, Sbu tried the last number, the one listed as "The Eye."

"Hello? The Daily Eye, John speaking," said a man on the other end of the phone.

Sbu again explained that he'd got the phone at a party from someone called Adelle.

"Adelle? The French Adelle?"

"Yes," said Sbu.

The man on the other end of the line cleared his throat.

"I'll give you five hundred rand for that phone."

Vote

Would you give the phone to a stranger for R500? Our readers responded like this: *Yes: 5%, No: 84%, Maybe for R1000: 5%, I'd lend it to them, but I wouldn't give it: 5%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Oh...oh! i smel trouble wit a capital T... da disappearing act, da sms threats, da weird contacts n sum1 wilin 2 pay 4 her fone - Adelle is in sum c-rias trouble, i thnk Sbu shud kip da fone, mayb dat cud save her life!!! **Twiggy**

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Things are heating up for Sbu as he realizes that Adelle is not just any ordinary that he on the street, because he is going to be bribed with a sum of R500 only just for her cellphone. This she is important but Sbu must not make the mistake of accepting the bribe, he must now investigate because it is clear that she is no ordinary person. Sbu could end up being Adelle's hero. Sbu and K8 are still getting along after the incident with K8's parents because that's what friendship is about. **Sbuja**

Unknown adelle? Totally strange! I absolutely think sbu should not sell the phone coz he needs 2 find out who his mystery lady really is n what kind of trouble shez in. Bt i HOPE he finds her soon coz i really think thyl make an oulik (cute) couple. Haha. **Suga**

What do you think?

What do you think is going on? Why doesn't anyone know Adelle? Why do you think the journalist wants the phone? To answer these questions, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 8

Sbu didn't reply.

"One thousand rand," said the man. "Come on down to the Daily Eye offices and I'll give you a thousand rand for that phone."

"It's not mine," said Sbu.

"I just need five minutes with it. Give me five minutes with the phone, and I'll give you a thousand rand."

Sbu was tempted, but not for the money, although he could use it. It was because this was the closest he'd got to finding out more about Adelle. But something about the man's voice made Sbu wary.

"Sorry," he said. "Not interested."

The reporter on the other end of the line took a deep breath.

"Give me a call if you change your mind," he said, and hung up.

The next day was Sunday. Sbu went to church with his mother, so he didn't see any of his friends until Monday. Mfundo was hanging out by the school gate at lunch time.

"Howzit Mfundo!" called Sbu.

"It's Airtime now," said Mfundo.

"Serious?"

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"For sho!" he said. "K8's got her cool tagging name and Songezwa calls herself Song. I need one too. I even made a stencil. Look."

He showed Sbu the wall. Stencilled there were the words:

-AIR-
TIME

"Are you crazy?" said Sbu.

"What? It's cool."

"Don't tag at school! Everyone knows we do graffiti. If they see that, they'll know it's us. Look!"

Across the courtyard, one of the teachers was walking towards them - Mr Erasmus, the science teacher. He was quite young, but he dressed as if he was a lot older, in an old grey jacket. Sbu and Airtime leaned against the wall to hide the tag with their bodies.

"Hi you two," said Mr Erasmus. "Have you seen Songezwa recently?"

They looked at each other.

"No sir," said Sbu.

"Well, if you see her, let me know," he said, and walked away. Sbu and Airtime stood away from the wall, and then Sbu had to help Airtime wash the paint off his blazer because he'd leaned against the tag.

Just before lunch ended, Sbu got a phonecall.

"Sbu, quick, I don't have much time. Come around after school and bring that package you've got for me."

"Song? Is that you? I don't have the package."

"But I saw you with it! At the soccer club!"

"You were at the soccer club? Why didn't you say hi?"

"It doesn't matter! Where is it? The package?"

"It's in my jacket. I lost it. I was at a party, and-"

"You lost it at a party? Sbu, do you have any idea how important that package was? Do you have any idea-" Song's phone cut out.

"Hello?" said Sbu, but she was gone.

Vote

What do you think of graffiti? Our readers responded like this: *It is all cool: 73%, I like some of it, but I don't like tags everywhere: 27%, I don't like any of it: 0%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Why would this man want the phone..maybe some sort of data and info is on the phone? whatever it is thats on the phone could link that man to something he really wants...(thinking face) what can it be??? **Cassie**

Sumtin aint ryt. First Sbu getz a pakage then he metz a gal then da pakage z gone n nw song wants it. ADELLE + PAKAGE = Sumtin we wil al hav 2 w8 an see. Bt this story z beta than i thot it z. Cnt w8 4 da nex chapter.. **Digital**

I stayed up all night just to read chapter 8... Gotta say, the story is getting more interesting. Erasmus sounds like Erastus (from big brother africa). Anyway I wonder what's in the "package". It could be anything from drugs to a science project, LOL. Can't wait for the next chapter! **cYa**

What do you think?

What do you think was in that package to Songezwa? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 9

After school, Sbu and the newly named Airtime went around to Songezwa's house. It was three blocks away from Sbu's house, and it was quite a lot bigger.

Song's mother had gone to university overseas, and met her father there. He was a Korean doctor, and he'd moved to South Africa with her mother when she'd returned home. But they'd broken up when Songezwa was very young, and he went back to Korea, and Songezwa had grown up alone with her mother.

They knocked on the door of the house, and Songezwa's mother opened it. Sbu was surprised to see how tired she looked.

"Hello Mama. Is Songezwa around?"

"I'm afraid not, no. Song and I just had an argument."

"Do you know where she is?" asked Airtime.

"I don't know. She could be at Mr Erasmus's house."

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"Really?" said Sbu. "Our teacher?"

"Yes, she's been doing extra lessons with him. Didn't she tell you?"

Sbu shook his head.

"If you see her, please tell her to come home, ne? Tell her I'm not angry any more, I'm just worried."

She gave them directions. It was a short taxi ride to Mr Erasmus's house, and on the way, Airtime was doubtful.

"She's not going to be there," he said. "Mr Erasmus said he was looking for her."

"Ja," said Sbu. "But I want to find out more about these extra lessons. I've never heard of them."

Mr Erasmus lived in a one-story house with peeling green paint. They knocked on the front door, but there was no reply, so Sbu tried the side gate. It was open. They walked along the narrow path between the house and a high wall, and found themselves in a concrete-floored courtyard around the back of Mr Erasmus's house.

"Are you sure we should be here?" said Airtime.

"Sure," said Sbu, but he whispered.

One of the doors in the courtyard lead into an outside room. There was a glow coming from inside, like a TV set. Sbu walked towards it.

"Hey!" shouted a voice behind them.

Vote

If one of your friends went missing, what would you do? Our readers responded like this: *Call the police: 27%, Ask around the neighbourhood: 60%, Talk to their family: 13%, Search their room: 0%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

there should be more searching in the house done by the boys to build the climax and they should find evidence that looks like songs material bt totaly nt belonging to her mybe sum1 else so the guys should suspect something **Angelz**

Seemingly song is involved in sumthng datz dangerous,da questn is...wat iz it? Fortunately 4 her,she has frndz dat are concerned enough to want to help her.i dnt rily trust dis teacher,or mayb culd she b using dis story as a cover up 4 sumthng else? Itz rily sad dat her parentz split up ad now she has 2 grow up witout a father figure in her lyf.

Bookworm

Personally i think song is emotionally involved with her teacher coz she grew up without a male figure bt only her mum so shez seeking some male companionship. N i hope im wrong! **Suga**

What do you think?

What do you think has happened to Songezwa? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 10

They spun around. It was Mr Erasmus, coming out of his house and wiping his hands. "What are you two doing here?"

"We were looking for Songezwa," said Sbu. "Her mother said she might be here."

"I told you," said Mr Erasmus, "I haven't seen her for a while."

He walked around until he was between them and the out-room door, and closed it.

"Sorry, that door shouldn't be open," he said. "There's some sensitive equipment in there."

"What was Songezwa doing here?" said Sbu. "Her mother told us she was having extra lessons, but I never heard anything about that."

Mr Erasmus looked surprised. "No, I'm not giving her extra lessons. I don't know why she told her mother that. Maybe her mother doesn't want her working. No, I've got a small business I run out of this back room, fixing computers and things. Songezwa comes around once in a while to help me."

"How long has she been helping you?" asked Sbu.

"About two months. She stopped a week ago. She said she had a new job, but she wouldn't say what it was."

"Thanks," said Sbu. "We'll look out for her. Come on, Mfundo."

"Airtime," said Airtime.

As they walked out, Sbu looked back and saw Mr Erasmus slipping into the out-room and closing the door behind him.

"Do you think he's up to something?" said Airtime.

"Ja, but I don't know what."

Sbu's phone rang. He looked at the screen, and answered it.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"Hey K8."

"Hey," she said. "Guess what. Bulana just called me. He was freaking out. He said that some big guy in a leather jacket and a bulletproof vest came to his house yesterday. He bashed in Bulana's door, and threatened him."

"Wow! What for?" said Sbu.

"Apparently," said K8, "The guy was looking for a cellphone."

Vote

What do you think Sbu should do? Our readers responded like this: *Call the police: 36%*, *Throw the phone away: 0%*, *Keep trying to find Adelle: 36%*, *Keep trying to find Songezwa: 29%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Im not sure,but i think Song's "new job" might be selling drugs. Maybe she was threatened to do it and when she saw the money it made,she could not resist.. and now she's in trouble for losing a big amount of drugz in that package... Not sure,but it looks like it.. Hmmmm....

Cassie

It's like they live in soap opera. Days of our kontax lives... And theres always an "adventure" waiting for them. I like it. They all have secrets or something to hide... What kind of a friendship are they having? **cYa**

Going into sumbodys house without permission is a complete no no! Wat were they thnkin! Du thy wana go to jail?! Ok wats dne is dne thy shud find owt whu dat guy waz dat waz lukin fo the phne, it cud b a lead to adelle **Keisha**

What do you think?

What do you think Mr Erasmus us up to? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 11

K8 came to pick them up.

"Where are we going?" asked Airtime as they got into her car.

"Wherever we need to give that phone back, and warn Ariell or whatever her name is about the big guy in the leather jacket," said K8.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"And the creepy SMSes," said Sbu.

"Could be from the same guy," said K8. "So, what can we try? Are there any clues on the cellphone that we missed?"

"I don't think so," said Sbu. "No pictures, no messages. I've tried the hotel, the museum, the French woman..."

"Aha!" said K8 slapping her hands onto the steering wheel. "That's someone we can try again."

"But we don't speak French!" said Airtime.

"I know," said K8. "But I know someone who can."

K8 drove them to a restaurant in the classy part of town, called "St. Emilion". It was early evening, so it wasn't properly open yet and the chairs were still stacked on the tables. K8 spoke quietly to one of the waiters, who lead them through to the kitchen.

At one of the counters was a chubby guy, who grinned hugely when he saw K8. "Catherine!" he said in a French accent. "How are you?"

"Hi Garron!" said K8, and they hugged. Garron saw Sbu and Airtime, and eyed them suspiciously.

"It's okay," said K8, "They're friends. Listen, could you do us a big favour?"

K8 explained the situation to Garron, and he agreed to call the French lady. Sbu gave him the phone, and he took it to the back exit to make the call outside.

"What's his problem?" said Airtime to K8 while they were waiting.

"What do you mean?" said K8.

"The way he looked at us."

"Garron is from the Congo. I met him last year, after some people burned down his house in the xenophobic attacks. He's a good guy, he's just a bit distrustful now. He doesn't like strangers."

The back exit burst open, and Garron entered. "I've got her!" he told K8 happily.

"Who was she? The woman on the phone?" asked K8.

"Her mother. She lives in France. I told her all about the lost phone, and she told me the girl's name!" Garron paused for dramatic effect. "It's Adelle Mateja!"

Sbu and Airtime looked at him blankly.

"You've never heard of Adelle Mateja?" said Garron. "She's a-"

Garron waved his arms around looking for the right words, and settled on,

"-superstar."

Vote

What do you think about other people from South Africa living in South Africa? Our readers responded like this: *It is fine*: **18%**, *It is okay, as long as they get on with us*: **82%**, *It is hard enough without other people coming here too*: **0%**. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Imagine findin out somebdy u met recently bt u dnt realy knw is a superstar....wow calls for a surprise. Wonder if the agresive guys aren't her bodygaurds or smethng. **Pookie**

Ok wats wit dis adelle chick?nw all of a suden shes a superstar?wow..sumthing is realy fishey around here,or mby the guys hu have hurt airtime n sent threatz 2 pple are lukiing 4 adelle n sum how song iz also involved... **Zeze**

Xenophobia z sumtin dat z nt exceptable under any circumstances. They had no reason to burn hes housd down. An adelle z a superstar. Bt then y didn she tel sbu? What z she runnin 4rm? **Digital**

What do you think?

If you ran the country, how would you change things to stop xenophobia attacks? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 12

They thanked Garron and got back in the car. Airtime took out his cellphone. After a few seconds of tapping, he showed the screen to Sbu.

"Is this her?" he asked.

On the screen was a picture of Adelle in a sparkling black evening gown, with a red curtain behind her. She was smiling. It looked like she was at some kind of award ceremony.

"That's her," said Sbu.

K8 looked over Airtime's shoulder.

"Adelle Mateja... French movie star... The lead actress in the film 'Les Pyrenees'... Wow, Sbu! You made out with a film star!"

"Give me that," said Sbu, and took Airtime's cellphone. He read through the web search.

It was true. There was a news report from the Daily Eye about how she was in South Africa to research her role in a new movie, and a lot of other articles, mostly in French.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"This is great," said K8. "We should try the hotel again."

"Why?" said Sbu. "We've already tried that."

"But maybe she's there under a false name. Stars do that all the time. Especially if they're being pestered by reporters," said K8.

Sbu agreed that it was worth a shot.

They drove to the hotel. K8 wanted to stay in the car with Airtime, so Sbu could meet Adelle alone, but Airtime said he wanted to meet a film star, and this might be his only chance. In the end they all walked up to the Azure hotel reception desk together.

"Hi," said Sbu to the receptionist. "We're looking for one of your guests. We have her cellphone." He showed her the picture of Adelle from the internet.

"Oh, her!" said the receptionist. "Of course. Let me just call up to her room. What's your name?" Sbu told her, and she picked up the phone and dialled a short number. "Hello!" she said. "There's someone called Sbu here who's got your cellphone... Uhuh... sure.

Okay." She put down the phone, and smiled at Sbu. "They say come on up. It's room 308."

They took the lift up, and found the room. The door was open, so they walked in.

In the middle of the room, on a chair, was a big man in a leather jacket. Under it was a bulletproof vest, with a Hyena painted on it.

"Close the door behind you," he said.

Vote

Why do you think Adelle's been so hard to find? Our readers responded like this: *She's been hiding from Sbu: 0%, She's a criminal!: 0%, She's been kidnapped: 78% , It is just a coincidence: 22%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Thats probabli wat leatha jacket man is..a guard. Seein that adele is a supasta n ol, so she nidz 1. Kip ur distanc boyz til u c sight of adelle. Im sure sbu mus b so excitd..i knw i wud b. **Keisha**

Can smbdy plz tel me wht wth ds grl, evrythng wth her is strnge. 1st she trnz out 2b a bg star and nw dr is a big man wth a leather jcket in hr hotel rum. whr dz smoke, dz fire **2010**

I thnk adelle is a superstar/criminal bt she wantz 2 quit or cum clean bt theze guyz shez workin with dnt want her 2 so they "kidnapped" her in a way n dey wat sum sort of ransom money nd they r threating 2 kill her or sumthng bt i wanda watz gona happen nxt bt gud thng sbu n hez crew arent giving up yet. **Suga**

What do you think?

Adelle is a film star. Who's your favourite celebrity, and why? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 13

"So, where are you keeping her?" asked the man.

"Who?" said Sbu. "Adelle?"

"Don't play games!" the man said, standing up. "You took her phone, then she goes missing. I know how this works. You've got her."

"What?" said Airtime.

"We don't," said K8.

"How did you get that?"

"She left it with me," said Sbu.

"Lies man. You stole it."

"I didn't!"

"Take a seat!"

The man grabbed Sbu in his meaty hand, and shoved him down into the chair.

"Back when I was in the police, we learned ways of getting information out of people pretty quickly. You're going to tell me where she is right now."

The man took something out of a holster. At first, Sbu thought it was a gun. But it was thicker and stubbier, with metal spikes on the front. A taser.

"Tell me!" said the man.

With all his strength, Sbu kicked him in the shin. The man toppled forward onto him, and spread out his hands to catch himself, dropping the taser. The chair fell backwards under the weight of the man, and Sbu was crushed. The man got his arm over Sbu's throat, and pushed.

"Get off me!" Sbu croaked.

K8 grabbed the taser off the floor, and fired it at the back of the man's neck. He went rigid, and started shaking. Sbu pushed himself free from under him.

"Run!" he said.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

They clattered down the stairs, out into the parking lot, and to K8's car. K8's phone started ringing.

"Ja?" she said, answering it as she started the car, and drove to the exit. "Ja! So do we! All right. Okay. See you soon." She hung up.

"Who was that?" said Sbu.

"Song. She says she needs our help."

"Is she okay?" asked Airtime.

"I don't know," said K8. "She just told me an address, and asked me to pick her up."

It got darker as they drove into town. Traffic sprung up, and they were in the city centre. K8 tapped her fingers on the steering wheel impatiently.

"So, Adelle's missing," said Sbu.

"Any ideas why?" said Airtime. "Like, the crazy stalker?"

"Could be."

K8 turned a corner, and pulled the car to a stop.

"We'll worry about that later," she said. "We're here."

They were at the street corner where Songezwa said they should pick her up. They looked around, and saw her sitting in a doorway. It was lined with pink neon lights, and had a tatty carpet leading in. It was a strip club.

Vote

What would you think if a friend of yours worked at a strip club? Our readers responded like this: *I wouldn't mind*: **31%**, *I'd try to talk them out of it*: **69%**, *I wouldn't talk to them again*: **0%**. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Sbu and the gang should be more careful nw the man knws they ran away and he wil be looking for them. As for song they have to talk to her and find out why she is at a strip club they cant just make assumptions about her. They should also support a friend no matter her choice, i would. (when k8 shockd the man sbu would hav got shokd too? They were touchn and it was live current) **Deezo**

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Yoh now im more than hooked! I seriously thot adelle waz kidnapped turns out shez nt. N abt song i thnk shez a secret stripper n her teacher iz a strip club goer (trying to blow off some sum wife stress u knw) lol anyway nw song getz caught by him n nw hez using dat info to get sumthng 4rm her so his blackmailing her! I HOPE IM RIGHT! Mmmm:-? **Suga**

Looks lyk these kids are in a hle lot of trouble they weren't lookin for! First da strange adelle gal goes missing,sbu ends up wit ha phne,gets funny sms's,song acts strange,they get kicked & hit & nw she sitin at da strip club. My gosh!.(wonder wots next) **Pookie**

What do you think?

What do you think of places like strip clubs? Why do you think the man in Adelle's hotel is room looking for her? To answer these questions, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 14

Songezwa got into the car, and was immediately barraged with questions.

"What are you doing here?"

"Were you working in there?"

"Are you alright?"

She didn't answer, but she looked like she was dangerously close to tears, so K8 told the other two to cool it. The car pulled away, and after a few minutes of driving Songezwa took a deep breath and told them everything.

"Ja," she said. "I got a job at a strip club." The others tried to interrupt, but she kept going. "Not taking off my clothes, just serving drinks. But they kept asking for my ID, because they said I looked too young to work there. So I tried to get a fake ID. That's what that guy Chase gave you before the match. But when you lost it, I had to go in and say I didn't have my ID. And they kicked me out. And I don't have money to get home."

"But why, Song?" said K8. "Why did you do all this?"

"I needed the money."

"What's wrong with you?" said Airtime, bursting. "Why would you work in a place like that? I thought you were better than this!"

K8 asked him to calm down, but Airtime was upset. He had been in the same class as Songezwa since they were little kids. He had always been protective of Song, and to know that she was living her life like this really hurt him.

"Where's your dignity?" he asked.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Song got angry.

"My dignity? How can you say that? You don't know anything! How much dignity would I have if my mother was sick and I didn't do anything? If I just stayed in school, and kept painting pictures with all of you? How much dignity would I have?"

The car was silent.

"What's wrong with her?" asked Sbu quietly.

"She's HIV positive. I found out last month. She told me. She had to quit her job."

"What about you?" asked K8.

"I'm fine," said Songezwa. "I'm healthy. And I'm going to do whatever it takes to make money, okay? And if that means quitting school and working at a strip club that's what I'll do. And if you're my friends, you won't stop me."

Vote

Is Songezwa right to drop out of school to support her mother? Our readers responded like this: *Yes, family comes first: 0%, No, an education is important: 36%, No, but she should work part-time on weekends: 57%, She should ask her mother: 7%.* To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

I really think Song should have told her friends about the job at the strip club..friends are really important because if u are in a situation they will always help u out..well true friends will..and i really think she should continue school as education is extremely important..she should get a weekend job! **dotty1**

I think that song nd her m0m should go 4 counselling so that they can knw the way forward... Hiv is a huge barrier bt in orda 4 song 2 hav a gud future she needs her educati0n!
Tanzey

I am sorry of accusing u fr the missing of song as i think Erasmus as the teacher of her mst talk 2 her mayb she wl listen as a girl sie mst lok afr herself **CLAYTON**

What do you think?

What would you do if your friend was in this position? Do you think Sbu and Airtime are unfairly judging Song? To answer these questions, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 15

The next day during lunch break, Sbu and Airtime found Songezwa sitting by herself on one of the benches next to the school's playing field.

"Hey, look, we're sorry about yesterday," said Sbu. "I'm glad to see you at school."

"Don't get used to it," said Songezwa. "As soon as I get a job, I'm leaving. I only came today because it was easier than having another fight with my mother."

"Songezwa, why didn't you come down to say hello after the football match?"

"I'm sorry," she said. "It was too much. I didn't want to have to explain what was happening."

"Well, don't worry. We're your friends. We can handle whatever you tell us," said Airtime. He thought about it for a bit, and then said, "As long as you don't count how we acted last night."

Sbu shared his lunch with her, and Airtime managed to get her talking.

He told her the whole story of Adelle and the cellphone, but Airtime-style, which meant that everything he said was out of proportion. For instance, in his version, he fought off a whole pack of angry police dogs at the party all by himself, the Hyena guy was the Hulk, and Sbu had been promised a trip to Hollywood by Adelle herself if he solved the mystery of the phone.

After Airtime's story was over, Sbu had to tell the whole story again, accurately.

Songezwa enjoyed the Airtime version, and even laughed in places, but Sbu's version of the story got her curious. Finding Adelle was exactly the kind of problem she enjoyed solving.

After the story, Sbu asked her if she had any ideas.

"Hmm. Well. I've got one idea that might work," said Songezwa. "It's a long shot, but it's worth trying."

"What is it?"

"Illegal."

Vote

Do you think the situation in the story is worth breaking the law over? Our readers responded like this: *No: 45%, Yes: 9%, Yes, but only because Adelle could be in danger: 45%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Stickin together & handling whatever comes ur way because its your friend is brave. Well done! **Pookie**

Itz a gud thng song iz willing 2 help out inspight of her personal problemz bt i thnk sbu n da dudez should try it out coz dey all in this 2gether n adelle realy needz 2b rescued o wateva da case iz. N i thnk if song getz involed in the process theyl figure out how they can get her out of her sad situation bt they should just be careful. (all 4 1 n 1 4 all!) **Suga**

Songezwa's idea could be perfect because things that are illegal are the fastest but they must be aware that they could get arrested because something that is illegal does not magically or suddenly become legal because it is used for the right reasons. They must beware!!!!!!!!!! **Sbuja**

What do you think?

What do you think Songezwa is going to do? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 16

Songezwa lead them back to Mr. Erasmus's house after school. They stopped past the park to pick up K8, who was finishing a colourful graffiti Throw Up of her name.

The side gate to Mr Erasmus's house was locked, but Songezwa knew where a spare key was hidden under a piece of broken concrete.

"Mr Erasmus?" she called, leading them into the courtyard behind his house.

He came out of the out-room and closed the door behind him.

"Songezwa!" he said, rubbing his hands. "It's good to see you're okay. What can I do for you?"

"We need to use the Reader," she said.

Mr Erasmus glanced at K8, Sbu and Airtime.

"It's okay," said Songezwa. "You can trust them."

He hesitated, as if he was about to argue, then opened the door to the out-room and let them in.

Sbu, Airtime, and K8 looked around.

The room was larger than they'd thought, with large work benches and racks of metal shelves against the walls. Almost every surface was covered in some piece of half-repaired computer parts. In one corner was a stack of DVD players. On the table was a computer, hooked up to all

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

kinds of equipment that looked hand-assembled. There were video game consoles open on the table, and what looked like a box of phone chargers.

"What do you do in here?" asked Sbu.

"I told you," said Mr Erasmus nervously. "Repairs."

"Not just repairs," said Songezwa.

She took Adelle's cellphone, opened it up, and took out the sim card. She slid it into a black box that was hooked up to the computer, and opened up a program on the screen.

"We do things here that you can't do at a normal repair shop."

"Like what?" said Sbu.

"Like fixing video game machines so you don't need to buy the proper disks, or fixing cellphones so they use different kinds of programs."

"Is that legal?" said K8.

Mr Erasmus glanced towards the open door. "Most of it is," he said.

Songezwa switched the cellphone on again, and plugged a wire into it.

Vote

What do you think about the kind of stuff that Mr Erasmus and Songezwa are doing? Our readers responded like this: *They shouldn't do anything illegal: 75%, People should be allowed to do whatever they want with things they've bought: 13%, I don't really know what Mr Erasmus and Song are doing: 13%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Mr erasmus should b setting an example 4 his pupils who luk up 2 hm,he cant preach good bt do bad coz children copy adults behavior mo dan dey listen. **Mandy**

now i get y mr erasmus was so protective of dat room n da stuff dats goin on in der is far les deviuos dan wat i thot but stil i thnk ol of da stuff shud b legal nt jst "most of it" **Twiggy**

I think the story is goin great bt how about using more discriptive and emotive words,tell us about peoples facial expression,it will let us in on what the people are thinking or feeling,it will also activate our imagination.maybe instead of instantly telling us what song and the teacher are doing maybe drag it on a chapter or so it will make the reader wonder and log on tommor! **Tuna**

What do you think?

Would you do a job like this that wasn't hurting anyone nearby, even if you knew it was illegal?
To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 17

"So what are you doing?" said Sbu.

"I'm going through the cellphone memory and the sim card, and seeing what's been deleted," said Songezwa. "I'll bet there's something on there we can use."

"Hang on a second," said K8. "This is an invasion of privacy!"

"Her life could be in danger," said Songezwa. "Anyway, you already looked through her phone to find her details."

"Ja, but we weren't looking for deleted things," said Sbu.

"What's the difference?" said Songezwa.

"I'm thinking of some of the things I've deleted off my phone," said Airtime. "And why I deleted them."

"Well, it's too late now," said Songezwa. "Here's her deleted messages."

A long list of SMS texts scrolled down the computer screen.

"Uh oh," said Sbu.

"What is it?" asked K8, looking over his shoulder.

"These are from the Stalker."

"Wow," said Airtime. "This guy's really crazy."

The messages were coming in.

"I WILL FIND YOU WHEREVER YOU ARE"

"I'M WATCHING YOU RIGHT NOW, ADELLE"

"DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T SEE ME"

and

"I'LL KILL YOU, I'LL KILL YOU"

As the messages went back, they calmed down.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN"

"IT WAS SO NICE MEETING YOU"

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME"

And the very first message was:

"LOOKING FORWARD TO THE INTERVIEW. HOW DOES 12PM AT THE EYE OFFICES SOUND? JOHN."

"It's the reporter," said Sbu. "The reporter from the Daily Eye."

Vote

Do you think it's right to look through someone's deleted messages on their cellphone? Our readers responded like this: *Yes: 0%, Never: 7%, Yes, when they're in trouble: 87%, Yes, when I really need to know something: 7%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Wow guyz, Song is rly a cmputer wizz. Hu wud hve thaught it pssble 2c sme dltd stuff, it amazng. Yes it invading Adelle`s privacy, bt if it d only way 2 fynd her den dy shud do whteva dy can. And i wnder y Adelle has a stalker, bt den shz a wel knwn supasta. Nw im so eager 2 fynd out more bout Mr Erasmus, u knw, lyk wht is he rly up 2. **2010**

Its wrong of Song to go through Adelles phone without her permission no matter the circumstance and the danger she might be in. I feel that Adelles right to privacy is being violated against. Song and her friends should try to track her down and then try to help her with her being fully aware of what is going on. **Amila**

Going trgh sm1s dltd staff may not fill ryt bt i thnk songs has found smthng tht could hlp, bcz i thnk the eye has smthn to do wth adells dissapranc n thy hv nw found sm prf dt he may b involvd. Y dd the eye wnt smtym wth the fone anywy? The eye shld b their numbr 1 suspct in d dsspranc **Sweetness**

What do you think?

The reporter was stalking Adelle! Did you guess that? Who did you guess it was? To answer these questions, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 18

Sbu dialled the Daily Eye offices. The phone kept ringing. Eventually, a bored sounding girl answered it.

"Daily Eye, Shannon here," she said.

"Hi," said Sbu. "Is John there?"

"John? Nee. He's on leave."

"Do you have his home address?"

K8 and Airtime leaned closer to listen in.

"Nee, man. I can't give away reporter's home addresses. You know how many enemies our reporters make?"

K8 grabbed the phone.

"Please!" she said. "We think someone's life is in danger."

There was a pause on the other end of the line.

"Is this that French chickie? The one who Johnny interviewed? Nee, you can't listen to her! She's such a drama queen! She was phoning us, saying he was pestering her, saying he was making threats..."

"She's gone missing. We think John has her."

There was another pause, as the girl on the other end changed her opinion.

"Ja, well, now that you say it, John has been a bit strange lately, that's why he's having his time off..."

Sbu gritted his teeth. "Please," he said. "Could you just tell us where he lives!"

"Ja, no, sure."

They drove to the reporter's - or, as they were calling him now, the psycho's - house, and parked across the street. It was in a part of town with tree-lined streets, and thick vegetation growing between the houses. Most of the plants were neatly trimmed, but around the psycho's house they were sprawling and overgrown.

"We should wait," said Airtime.

"We can't," said Sbu. "Adelle could be in there."

"Yeah. At least we should knock on the door and check," said Songezwa. "I mean, we don't even know if this is the right house."

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

They went up to the front door and rang the bell.

"Just a sec," said a voice inside. There were footsteps, and the door opened a crack.

Sbu and Airtime immediately recognised the reporter, and knew this was the right house.

It was the hollow-eyed man from the party.

Vote

What should the crew have done? Our readers responded like this: *Exactly what they did - Adelle is in trouble: 27%*, *They should have called the police: 33%*, *They should have told their parents: 13%*, *They should have called other friends for back-up: 27%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

The reporter sounds like a crazy lunatic. but this story just gets better and better as it progresses. I rate that they should call the police and have him locked up. he sounds like a shady character. **SilverPhoenix**

Jst thnk sbu n da othrs shld hv clld d polc 4 hlp. If d eye is capable of kdnapng adell wt mkes em thnk h cnt do the same 2 em, if thy r gettn in hs wy of doing wtevr his tryng 2 d wth adell. Thy shld hv clld da polic o atlst a parent **Sweetness**

firtz she leav ha phn wid sum1 she hardly knw,disapear in a party widout a trace,reciev trea+hning msgz n has only 5 weird cntactz on ha phnebook...nw has gne mising b+ no1 seemz 2 care...question is who realy ar u adelle n watz ur story??? **sexyeyez**

What do you think?

Would you do as much as the crew are doing for someone you didn't know? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 19

The man recognised Airtime. He slammed the door in their faces.

"Open up!" yelled Sbu, bashing on the door with his fist.

He threw his shoulder against it to try to break it open, but it wouldn't move.

"Help me!" he told his friends. On three, they all threw themselves at the door, and it tore off its hinges.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

They tumbled into the house's living room. It stank. It was piled with trash - empty pizza boxes, overflowing ashtrays and fast-food cartons.

Sbu lost his balance and staggered forward. The psycho flung himself towards them, knocking Sbu sideways into the wall.

With a kamikazi yell, Airtime attacked the psycho, but the man was fast, and brought his elbow up hard into Airtime's belly. Airtime fell down, winded and gasping for breath. But he'd bought Sbu enough time to get a couple of punches in.

There was a banging sound coming from inside the house, and muffled shouting.

"It's her!" said Songezwa.

Sbu pushed the psycho back, making him trip over the fallen Airtime, and dropped down on top of him, fists flying.

The psycho tried to get up again, but Sbu pulled him down onto a glass coffee table covered in trash and magazines. The table broke, and the man yelled as the glass cut into his arm.

While he was down, K8 ran past towards the sound of the thumping, through the corridor towards the bathroom door.

"Help!" said Adelle inside. "Get me out of here!"

It was closed, and there was no key.

"Stand back!" called K8, and gave it a hard kick. Wood splintered. With another hard kick it burst open, and inside was Adelle, on the ground, handcuffed to the pipes.

Back in the living room, Songezwa entered the fight by breaking a lamp across the psycho's neck.

He picked up a full ashtray and threw it in her eyes, and then cracked it into the side of her head. She staggered backwards.

"Look out!" yelled Airtime. Sbu rolled out of the way just as the psycho slashed at him with a shard of broken glass from the table.

With eyes streaming, Songezwa ran at the psycho again, but he kicked the legs out from under her, and she fell against a table. There was a nasty cracking sound, and Songezwa yelled in pain.

The psycho grabbed Sbu's throat with one hand.

Sbu coughed, struggling to breath, as the psycho raised the piece of broken glass. "She's mine!" he said. "She's the only thing I have left!"

There was a popping sound. The psycho looked like he had sprouted two coiled wires from his chest. There was a regular ticking sound, and he gasped, spasmed, and fell to the side, letting go of Sbu.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

Sbu rubbed his neck, and looked up at the man in the doorway, holding the taser.

"Hyena Personal Protection, at your service," said the man.

Vote

What are you most concerned about? Our readers responded like this: *The Hyena guy*: **9%**, *Adelle*: **18%**, *Songezwa's arm*: **18%**, *That everyone will be arrested*: **55%**. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

So Adelle was kidnappd by da guy. Bt wat does da guy mean by "shes al i hav left"? Ths z 1 of da best stories i hav read **Digital**

Yoh totally flabergasted! I dnt knw if sbu n da dudez r being brave o just plain stupid! Dey shuld have called 4 backup o sumthng b4 dey dey marched 2 dat psychoz house. Bt thank God adelle iz ok i knew dey gon find her eventually. Watif sumthng happend o happenz 2 dem den wat? Sed it once gona say it again ratha b safe den sorry. **Suga**

D guy is rly mad,i min,fytng d crew as if dy wr hz own age.Sis man,he shud b ashmd of hm slf.Atleast Adelle is alryt,wht im wried bout nw is wht z goin 2 hppn next.Oh,i cnt w8 2 hear d Airtym version of d stry az he tel vry1 wh@ "hppnd **2010**

What do you think?

What would you do if you had to rescue someone like this? To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 20

They went through the psycho's pockets to find the handcuff keys, and took them off Adelle, setting her free. The Hyena man used them to cuff the psycho's hands behind his back.

"This oke's a tricky one," he said. "It's lucky you lot gave me that call before you came here like a bunch of heroes."

Before they'd come to the psycho's house, Sbu had called the Hyena guy and told him everything. Airtime had been against it - after all, K8 had tasered the man - but Sbu had said that the Hyena man, as violent as he was, was just trying to look after Adelle. When they had called him, he had sworn at them for a few minutes, but when Sbu told him they knew who kidnapped Adelle, he listened.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

After strutting around the house to check that it was safe, the Hyena man kept quiet, maybe because he knew it was his fault Adelle had been kidnapped in the first place.

They waited outside for the police and the ambulance, because the stench in the house was terrible. Songezwa's arm was broken, and Adelle was in shock, but grateful.

While they waited, Sbu gave her back her cellphone, and told her everything they'd been through to get it to her. She filled in all the details.

Adelle had come to South Africa to research her role in a new movie set in the townships. On her first day in town, she had had an interview with the reporter from the Daily Eye. He had seen all her movies, and was obsessed with her, and followed her wherever she went.

The Hyena security company protected her from him, but kept on restricting where she could go, until one night she decided to sneak away from them to see some real South African life. She drove around town until she found a party to gatecrash, and that was where she'd met Sbu. But when she found out the stalker had followed her, she'd got out of there as fast as she could - just before the raid.

She'd wanted to go back to the party house, but the Hyena guy had refused to let her, and gone back himself. He had threatened Bulana when he said he didn't have the phone.

While the Hyena guy was away from the hotel, the psycho had kidnapped Adelle. And when the Hyena guy got back, he assumed that the missing phone had been a trick to get him away, which is why he had blamed Sbu.

And, there was one last thing Adelle had to tell Sbu.

She had a boyfriend, back in France.

When she'd been at the party, she had been lonely, and just wanted some fun.

For Sbu, it was a deal-breaker.

Vote

Do you think it was right for Adelle to kiss Sbu? Our readers responded like this: *No: 7%, Not if she has a boyfriend: 64%, She should have told Sbu about the boyfriend, and let him decide if he wanted to kiss her: 29%, Yes, it is all up to her: 0%*. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Now it all makes sense!... But i think Adelle might really have feelings for Sbu, maybe even more now that she knows he was willing to put his life in danger to save her.. This could be a great story to tell the grandkids oneday of how they met and all the obstacles that came with it.. He he **Cassie**

When one is in a relationship it means loyalty, honesty and trust. Adelle could have had fun at the party but kissing another guy and cheating on her boyfriend is not part of it. Sbu should let go of Adelle...uhm on that note lets wait and read what happens. **Tanzey**

What do you think?

The story is almost over, and the mystery is solved. Have you enjoyed it? What were your favourite parts? To answer these questions, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

CHAPTER 21

They were painting another wall. K8 had found a list of all the abandoned buildings in the area that were going to be demolished, and could be graffitied freely.

It felt good to do straight tagging, just for fun, and not worry about technique. They were experimenting, and growing new styles.

It was a week since the fight in the reporter's house. They had a few cuts and bruises, but things were more or less back to normal.

Songezwa's arm was in a cast, and Airtime was drawing his new tag on it with a cokey.

"We could do a series of pictures," said Sbu, looking at a blank stretch of wall.

"What of?" said K8.

"I don't know. How about our story?"

Sbu's phone rang. It was Adelle.

"I'm so sorry, Sbu," she said. "I shouldn't have done that to you."

Sbu didn't know what to say, so she continued.

"I've put in a word with my film company. They're looking for a trainee production manager, someone who can work on the film, who's organised. It'll just be weekends and evenings, so you can stay at school. Are you interested?"

"Me?" said Sbu.

He thought about it. Working in movies might be fun. But...

He looked around at Songezwa.

"Not for me, thanks. But I know the perfect person. She's smart, and she'll do whatever needs to be done. Is that okay? You'll be doing us a favour."

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

"Sure!" said Adelle. "Tell her she can come in on Monday."

"Thank you," said Sbu.

They talked for a few more minutes about nothing in particular. She told him about the research for her part she was doing at the Township Museum, and he told her about the newspaper articles he'd seen about the whole incident, and they laughed about how the newspapers always get everything wrong.

At the end of the phone call, Adelle gave Sbu her new cell number. Sbu typed it into his phone, and put it in his pocket. Then he turned back to his friends.

"Are you going to call her?" said Airtime.

"I don't think so," said Sbu. "No. I know who she is now. And I know who I am, too."

"Good," said K8. She held up a spray can for him.

"Come on, Maestro," she said. "Let's make some art."

Vote

The story is over. Who was your favourite character? Our readers responded like this: *Sbu*: 54%, *K8*: 4%, *Songezwa*: 8%, *Airtime*: 35%. To cast your vote go to www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/kontax.

Aitime...i wudnt mind grabbin a byt wit u dat way i wont hv 2 make a conversation coz ud talk enuf 4 both of us so gimme a col sumtym, dat shudnt b a prblm 4 u, ryt? Il get da bill!!!

Twiggy

bye...bye... Tnkz u 2 every1 wu helpd me change ma state of mind abt tenage lyf much credit goez 2 da technical crew 4 n job wel dne.u mad me understand n gud n bd of situationz n u changd puplz lifz out dar tnk u 4 n marvalous story which waz very eye catchn n i culd relate 2 u wer gr8 u deserve the free air hahahaha kep da gr8 job u rock lyk n star jst ned 2 be in space wuld luv 2 met yal.dis iz nly da begining of n journey u shuld publish dis buk it wil sel.mwah **Angelz**

Thanks for a wonderful story.You guys introduced to a world we never knew existed but blended it with problems we face as young South Africans.This story has been a blast...thanks for making my year **Amila**

WRITE YOUR OWN

If you enjoyed this story, why not write your own ideas for what you think should happen in a sequel to the story?

In November 2009 we ran a competition for Kontax readers to write in their sequel ideas. Over 2,000 entries were received! These are the three top winners in that competition.

1st Place: **Zindles**

Kontax will still be fully functional and the friends still united as ever. Song works after school and on weekends so she can help out her sick mother. Airtime realises that his feelings for Song are getting stronger by the day. K8 has been distant for a couple of weeks but nobody knows why or where she is, they just assume she's busy. Sbu and Airtime try to help Song in every way they can—they even accompany her to go get ARV's at the community clinic. Airtime, for once in his life, came up with a brilliant idea: to take Song's mother's situation and turn it into a learning opportunity for others. Sbu suggests that they do a Kontax project on HIV/Aids and how it is not a death sentence. But mostly they wanted to stress the fact that the community should come together to help people infected and affected by HIV and Aids. Sbu also suggests that they take Song's mother's employer to the CCMA for unfair dismissal. We watch how the trial develops and eventually they win the case.

2nd Place: **Amila**

Sbu starts hanging out with the wrong crowd. Luvo and Thando had always had a bad reputation around the township but that didn't stop Sbu from wanting to be accepted by them. Songz, K8 and Airtym tried speaking to him but they just couldn't get through to him. Sbu finds himself in a rather uncomfortable situation when Luvo and Thando hijack a car while he was driving with him. Sbu had no choice but to continue driving as he would also be thought to be part of the hijackers. Sbu is furious with Luvo and Thando but there is nothing he can do about it because they start threatening him and his friends. He turns back to his friends and reveals all. They encourage him to go to the police and report. They get arrested and are convicted for other things they had done in the past. Sbu becomes friends with K8 and them again. Sbu is punished to do community work.

3rd Place: **Lisa**

Sbu tells Song about the job interview. On the Monday, Song is very excited and gets the job. Airtime starts realising that he has developed feelings for Song and he confesses them to her. K8 and Sbu get offered a professional job at an art studio to showcase their graffiti and this is a dream come true for both of them. Sbu keeps contact with Adele and they become very close friends. Adele's directors become interested in Sbu's story and decide to make a movie out of it and it goes platinum... Song and Airtime start dating and with the money she earned she managed to get her mother treatment and healthy again. The movie receives a Grammy and goes big and Sbu gets an award for his role...

K8'S GUIDE TO GRAFFITI

Graffiti has been around for thousands of years. It was painted on the walls of buildings in ancient Greece and Rome. Depending on your attitude, you could say that the earliest cave paintings were really graffiti, which makes graffiti one of the earliest art forms.

When the volcano Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, it covered the Roman city of Pompeii in ash, preserving all the graffiti on the walls. A lot of it was rude, but there were also adverts, curses, political slogans, quotes and alphabets.

Modern graffiti started in America in the 1960's with political activists, and with gangs marking their territory. It became a game, to see how widely a graffiti writer could spread their TAG, or signature.

A quick guide to graffiti terms:

BACK TO BACK - Graffiti that covers a wall from end to end.

BITE - To steal another graffiti artist's ideas.

BOMB - To paint many surfaces in an area.

CREW - A group of graffiti artists.

LEGAL - A graffiti piece or production that is made with permission.

PIECE (short form of masterpiece) - A large and labor-intensive graffiti painting. Pieces often incorporate 3-D effects, arrows, and many colors and color-transitions, as well as various other effects.

ROLLER - An enormous piece done with a paint roller instead of aerosol.

SLAM - To paint an extremely conspicuous or dangerous location.

SLASH - To put a line through, or tag over, someone else's graffiti. This is considered a deep insult.

TAG - A graffiti signature, normally done in one color. It's the simplest form of graffiti.

THROW - UP - A throw-up is halfway between a TAG and a PIECE in terms of complexity. A throw-up is designed to be quick, to avoid attracting attention to the writer.

UP - Graffiti artists become "up" when their work is widely recognised.

WILDSTYLE - Graffiti with text so stylized that it's hard to read.

While a lot of graffiti is illegal, it's possible in most cities to find places where you can make it legally. In Cape Town, where I live, there are some graffiti pieces that have become local landmarks.

KONTAX 1: THE BEGINNING

However, a proposed new law in Cape Town -- still to come into effect -- will make it illegal to do any kind of graffiti, even if you have permission from the property's owners, unless you get permission from all the surrounding property owners, and give a written motivation to the Director of Arts and Culture in the Directorate of Economic, Social Development and Tourism. This motivation has to include accurate sketches of the piece, and descriptions of its size, and what you're going to use to paint it. It goes without saying, this will take a lot of the fun out of graffiti!

So remember, most graffiti is illegal. And when the new law is passed in Cape town, you'll get a R10,000 fine or 3 months in jail the first time you're caught.

So all I'm saying is, be wise.
K8.