

SISTERZ II

HIDDEN DANGER

By Fiona Snyckers • *Published* 2010
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STORY TEASER

Outside of the family it's still a well-kept secret that Latoya Rampele and Amanda McBurney are new-found sisters. As their friendship grows they discover it's pretty cool to have a sister on your side – especially when love and life are throwing up a few challenges! Will Latoya and school hottie Jayden ever get it together? And will Latoya be brave enough to ask him for help when the going gets really tough?

CHARACTERS

These are the main characters in Sisterz:

Latoya Rampele, 16 Latoya is the only child of a single mother. Recently she met her father and his other family for the first time – including her ‘new’ sister, Amanda, who is in Latoya’s class at school. But life hasn’t calmed down yet, and her mother’s retrenchment brings new challenges for Latoya. Also on her mind is Jayden Depaul. Does he remember THAT kiss? And will things go anywhere from here?

Amanda McBurney, 16 Drop-dead gorgeous Amanda is slowly settling into her new school, Innesfree High. After a tough time with her family, she’s beginning to find her feet and her confidence again. Nobody at school knows that Amanda and Latoya are sisters yet, but as they become close friends will it be possible to keep their secret?

Jayden Depaul Super-cool and mysterious, Jayden Depaul is the most popular guy at school. He seemed crazy about Latoya, but since she told him to stop interfering in her life he’s been a little distant. Is he still in love with Latoya, or will he succumb to sexy Refilwe’s mission to make him her guy?

CHAPTER 1

“Just *ask* him,” Amanda says urgently. “There’s nothing wrong with asking. What harm can it do?”

I nearly laugh out loud. Amanda and I might be long-lost sisters, but there are some things we just don’t get about each other.

“Listen, Amanda ...” I sigh. “I’ve just started getting to know my father for the first time in my life. I don’t want to be the girl who gets in touch with him only to hold out her hand and say ‘please give me some money.’ I don’t want to be that girl. Can’t you understand that?”

“But you really need the money. I mean, you’re living in a ... a ... SHACK for goodness sake!”

The way she says this makes me burst into giggles. I can’t help it. She’s looking really offended now, but that only makes me laugh harder.

“What?” she demands crossly. “What’s so hilarious?”

“It’s just the way you said SHACK. Like it’s a fate worse than death to be living in one.”

“Well, isn’t it?”

“Amanda, half of South Africa lives in shacks. It’s not so bad. My mom and I lived in a shack with my granny and cousins when I was little. We only moved into our house when I was about five. So now we’re back in the shack – it’s not so terrible.”

Amanda has a look on her face like she really, really doesn’t believe me. And to be honest, I’m having a hard time convincing myself. The company my mom worked for downsized and she got retrenched. She’s been having a really hard time finding a new job. This happened to my dad – who also happens to be Amanda’s dad – a while back. But the difference was that he had savings and investments to see him through. My mom’s got almost nothing.

She immediately rented our two-room RDP house out to another family and moved us back in with my granny in Alex. And when I moaned about that, all she said was, “We need an income more than a house, my baby. That rent will buy us food every month.”

So now she’s still looking for a job, I’m sleeping on some scratchy blankets on the floor with my cousins, and a family I don’t even know are living it up in our house.

But the one thing I’m really not going to do is ask my father for money and make him think that’s all I’m interested in.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

I luv da story..itz seem so realy,itz lyk am wtchn it on t.v. **Tyga tyza**

the story teach young galz who suffer dat they must nt luv money but 2 appreciate were they come 4m. **Bernice**

She should go to her father and ask for the m0ney. Let him kn0w that while he s left and is better off hs daughter is just about living in a cardboard box. It doesnt matter what she s c0me to hm 4. He should do whatever she wants. He owes it t0 her. **DR GoNeSS**

What do you think?

Do you think Latoya's dad would understand if she asked him for money? Our readers recommend this: *Yes, he wouldn't want to see his daughter living in a shack: 55%, It might make him wonder about what Latoya really wants from the relationship – money or love: 34%, He will definitely think she's only come into his life to clean out his wallet 10%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 2

“Well, the least you should do is tell Jayden about it,” Amanda says during another one of our many talks about my total lack of money. “Maybe he could help you.”

This time I drop my head into my hands and wail loudly.

“That’s even worse!” I say. “Jayden and I almost stopped speaking after I told him to back off and quit interfering in my life. There’s no way I’m going to turn around now and ask him for help. Especially not with money involved. He’ll think I’m a total loony tune.”

“And he’ll be right,” Amanda says crisply. “You’re much too proud for your own good, Latoya. You need help but you refuse to ask for it. If you and Jayden are ever going to have a real relationship, you have to let him in. You can’t keep hiding things from him.”

“I’m not hiding anything!”

“Oh, yeah? How about the fact that you’ve moved house? Don’t you think you should share that little detail with him? Imagine if he pitched up at your old place one day to find a totally strange family living there.”

I wave my hands around my ears like I’m trying to swat away a fly. These are things I don’t want to think about. The idea of hurting Jayden makes me feel sick inside, but the thought of involving him in my problems makes me feel even worse.

Jayden and my father – they’re both such new, fragile relationships. I don’t want to do anything to damage them.

Plus, I’ve grown up with a really independent mom as an example. Mom will literally do ANYTHING rather than ask for help.

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

She always says that God is the only one you should ever ask for help, but this confuses me even more. If God is in charge, then everything must happen for a reason, right? So isn't it a bit insulting to ask Him to change things around just for me?

Oh, I don't know. This is all such a downer. I miss the days when the worst thing I had to worry about was handing my maths homework in on time.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

I pray to god but sometimes you got to do it yourself GOD HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES 8-) **Sweet NIKI**

Of course! God is everythin. He is air, water, earth, faith, love, hope, comfort and mxit(lol....) **El Nino**

Yes. I believe in God and that everything happens for a reason. I believe that problems are opportunities in work clothes. When difficult times come our way. It is Gods way of testing us. Our faith in him, our self belief. If we persevere and not give up in such times, we will become stronger people. I see it like this. E.g we a gold. When gold is found ,it doesnt look like the one s we see in shops ,all sparkly and lovely. In order for the gold to get to that stage it first has go through the heat before it becomes perfect. I also believe that God helps those who help themselves. And that is why i pray , Im helping myself. it makes me fl beta and stronger and like im not alone...**DR GoNeSS**

What do you think?

Do you believe in a higher power? Do you turn to prayer when you're in trouble, or do you try to sort it out yourself?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 3

Wow! Okay, I'm going to try this praying thing more often. God really came through for me this time.

A couple of weeks ago, Mom started going out with this guy she met at the rental agency that was handling the lease on our house. She's had boyfriends before, but nothing serious. Nothing like this.

This went from zero to a hundred in under six seconds. I haven't seen Mom this happy in years. She's like a girl again. She goes around the place singing and doing little dance steps when she thinks no one's watching.

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

They only met three weeks ago, but last week Mom announced that her boyfriend was moving in with us. Well, I wasn't too happy with that, as you can imagine. But she explained that the three of us would be moving back to our old house in Wynberg. The tenants were given free rental last week while they found another place to live. They've moved out already and today we said goodbye to my granny and cousins. And, just like that, we're moving back to our old place.

The weird thing is that I'm only meeting Mom's boyfriend for the first time today – the day we move. His name is Kabelo and he's 46 years old. Which makes him exactly ten years older than my mother.

He's not bad looking, but he's one of those old dudes who think that dressing young makes you look young. So he's all, like, cartoon-print hoodie, fake Rolex, and blinged up belt buckle, like he thinks he's Pharrell or someone.

As Mom introduces us I stick out my hand to shake hands with him, but he sidesteps like a ninja and pulls me in for a kiss instead. It's kind of gross because his mouth is all wet and he presses his body hard against me. But it doesn't last long, and Mom is smiling to see us getting along so well.

So now, at last my life can get back to normal. I'm just glad I didn't tell Jayden about it while it was going wrong.

Reader comments

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Everythng is happening to fast, latoyas mum shuld hav weighed the pros nd cons abt movin in too soon with a guy she hardly knows. Latoyas mum is blinded by wat she thnks is "love" nd in the end she myt nd up bein reali happy or she nd latoye can end up gettin hurt. **MiSs OpPoRtUnIsT**

Diam0nd+gal says

A nice hand shake would have done just fine. **Diam0nd gal**

i love the story u laugh when readin it keep it up guys wonder wat wil happen 2 the mom en her new boyfrend. **AMZA**

What do you think?

When a family friend or relative wants to kiss you hello, do you. Our readers recommend this: *Put up with it – it's the polite thing to do:* 45%, *Turn away at the last second so the kiss lands on your ear instead:* 28%, *Point blank refuse. No one's going to kiss you unless his name is Justin Bieber:* 26%.

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 4

“I’m going to ask Jayden Depaul out,” says Refilwe during Design & Technology. “I mean, he can only say no, right?”

Her friends squeal and giggle over how brave she is, while I sit there frozen to the spot. The teacher looks up from his desk for a second, but immediately looks down again as we lower our voices.

We’re supposed to be designing storage space for a kitchen out of recyclable materials, but the amount of whispering going on means we’re not making much progress.

“Jayden is SOOOO fit!” giggles one of the girls. “Totally my number-one dream hook-up. I love how his hair is all emo, but he’s built like a soccer player. You’re such a rock star, Refilwe. I wish I was brave enough even to talk to him.”

Out of the corner of my eye, I can see Amanda staring at me like she’s willing me to speak. Her eyebrows have climbed so high up her forehead they’re practically getting mixed up with her hair.

When I still don’t say anything, she can’t keep quiet any longer.

“Um ... I think you’ll find that Jayden already has a girlfriend, Refilwe. He’s going out with Latoya, remember?”

I close my eyes. I know Amanda means well, but she doesn’t know these girls like I do. That was just completely the wrong thing to say.

“Nuh-uh, I don’t THINK so!” Refilwe says, wagging her finger triumphantly at Amanda. “I don’t know what it’s like at that fancy private school you used to go to, but here at Innesfree High if a girl and a guy are dating, they spend their Saturday nights together. So why did I see Jayden all on his own in Sandton last weekend?”

“Um... he... they... were just having a break, and ...”

“And what’s it to you, anyway?” Refilwe interrupts. “You’re always jumping to her defence, Amanda. Don’t you know she can’t stand you?”

Amanda’s eyes flick to meet mine. Yes, we got off on the wrong foot when she started here, but we’ve since become friends. More than friends – we’re starting to become real sisters.

“Well ...” Amanda says at last. “It’s like this.”

I hold my breath, waiting to see if she’s finally going to tell everyone that we’re sisters.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

My friend's bf are offlimit even if they have broken up. **LADYLUV**

I wudnt exactly say they're off limits coz wat if the guy falls for the friend and the friend also falls for the the guy u cant stop chemistry its not normal...talk to your friend about and see how she feels about the whole thing...love is love its a ongoing thing. **maxine**

Guyz hav da bro code nd we galz hav da sistaz code nd one of da rules ar dat u cn nt understand no circumstance date u'r best fwendz ex-boyfriend or current bf. Itz jst wrng!!! Guyz cum nd go, bt real fwends ar hard 2 find...**Angel**

What do you think?

Do you consider your friends' boyfriends to be off limits? Or is all fair in love and war?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 5

“Latoya and I...” Amanda hesitates. “We’re really... The thing is... we’re actually...”

“Ye-es?” Refilwe sighs and rolls her eyes.

As Amanda ums and ahs, I don’t exactly know what I’m hoping for. Should she tell everyone that we’re sisters? We’ve never really talked about why we’re keeping it a secret. I know why I am, and I have a pretty good idea why she is, but we haven’t said it out loud yet.

You see, if we tell everyone that we’re related, the whole story will come out about how Amanda’s dad had a fling with my mom while Amanda’s mom was pregnant. So my mom will come out looking like a slag and our dad will look like a playa.

And they’re both really not the same people any more.

It would be fine if I went to a township school like my cousins. Loads of kids haven’t got a mom and a dad living together under the same roof. But these old Model C schools – they’re way different. There’s still this huge big emphasis on family. It’s not easy being the kid who doesn’t fit neatly into the mould.

But on the other hand, it feels like we’re living a lie when we don’t tell people we’re sisters. I really don’t know what to do.

“We’re... much better friends than we used to be,” Amanda finishes at last.

I let out a little sigh of relief. Okay, I’m definitely not ready for the secret to come out yet.

“Well, duh, you must be if you still believe she has a thing with Jayden,” Refilwe says snippily. “She had her turn and she blew it. You don’t get a second chance with a guy like that.”

I sink deeper into my seat. I did blow it, didn’t I? I had him and I threw him away. And I have no one to thank but myself.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

i think its hgh tym dat thy share their secret rather than waitng 4 it 2 bcum a scandal,da truth hs its way of cumng out no matter wht. **African+lady**

Latoya should not feel intimidated by refilewe, it is clear tht jayden has strong feelings 4 her. She has to be up front with him nd tell him how she feels, she should also tell him thngs nd let him in. As far as latoyas relationship wth amanda is concernd i think they should take it 1 step at a tym 4 their relationship to grow in strength. **MiSs OpPoRtUnIsT**

I think they mst tel ppl dat they r cc(*)z,keepn a scrt z nt a solution ,it wl cm out ada way around. **Lady g**

What do you think?

Do you think Latoya still has a chance with Jayden? Our readers recommend this: *No way, she should step aside and let another girl have a turn: 7%, Maybe. Jayden is an outsider. The rules don't apply to him: 18%, Definitely – it's true love. They're perfect for each other: 73%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 6

It's kind of weird having someone else in the house all the time. It was just my mom and me for so long that it's been hard getting used to another person_in our space.

It was different when we were staying with my granny. Her shack has always been noisy and smoky and crowded. That's just the way it is. But our little house in Wynberg used to be so peaceful.

Now Kabelo is around the *whole* time – sometimes even when my mom's out. Mom started doing admin work at his rental agency so she goes off to the office every morning, just like she used to before she lost her old job.

Kabelo, on the other hand, never seems to have anywhere to go. He says he's good at delegating and so doesn't have to go into the office every day.

I can't even get mad at the way he hangs around all the time because it's thanks to him that we're back in this house at all – he's helping to pay the expenses and he gave Mom a job.

“If we find someone at home, it's just my mom's boyfriend,” I explain to Jayden as we walk the last half kilometre from the taxi stop to my house.

Jayden's coming home with me to borrow my history notes because he was off sick last week. Which at least meant that Refilwe wasn't able to put her plan into action and ask him out. Thank goodness.

I'd like to believe that he asked me for my notes because he still likes me, but it's probably just because I'm good at history. Ever since I lost my temper and told him to back off out of my life, we've been on friends-only terms. It's like the kiss we shared never happened. Sometimes I wonder if he even remembers it.

I'd love to ask Jayden to stay and hang out for a while, but there's Kabelo sitting at the kitchen table as usual, with his newspapers spread out all around him. So Jayden thanks me for the history notes and heads off.

I go to my room to change out of my school uniform. Just as I've taken all my clothes off and am standing in front of my cupboard wondering what to wear, Kabelo opens the door and walks in.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Truely bliv dt it waz wrng 4 kabelo 2 wlk in espeacialy wit out knockn...?: Sumthn is fishy abt hm wnt b suprised if at and hear dt he attempt 2 rape hr. Bt in al it wrng 4 any1 2 enter ur room wit out knockn evn if it ur mother

I can not believe kabelo didn't knock, ever heard of "PRIVACY"... And he's a man entering a girl's room. *rolling eyes*. **Lue**

i thnk step-daddy isnt afta all dat generous,he wnts sumtin in return and unfortunately,poor latoya is goin 2 b da return. I wish jayden had stayed 4 a while myb kabelo wouldnt hv thought of goin 2 latoyas room. **Tebza**

What do you think?

Are you big on privacy? Our readers recommend this: *No. I'm not embarrassed to show my body. What's there to be ashamed of:* 5%, *It depends who the other person is:* 55%, *Yes. Anyone who walks in while I'm changing is gonna get Kung Fu'd:* 39%.

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 7

I scream and grab my school shirt off the bed – holding it in front of me like a towel.

“Oh, sorry,” he says. “I didn’t realise you were getting changed.”

“I always get changed when I come home from school,” I say, trying to stretch the shirt to cover more of me.

“Yeah ... I forgot about that.”

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

I keep expecting him to back out of my room as fast as he came in, but he's still standing there, his eyes flicking around like he's looking for something.

"Have you lost something?" I ask desperately. By now my face is so hot you could practically fry an egg on it.

"Yes..." he says vaguely. "I left my, um, sunglasses in here, I think."

"Your sunglasses? What were you doing in my room while I was out?"

This comes out more sharply than I intended so I immediately start backing down. After all, I don't want to offend the guy.

"I mean, obviously you can go wherever you like – it's your house too. But... but... I don't think they're in here. I would have seen them."

"I'll just take a look around to make sure."

He takes a step towards me, and another little half-scream bursts out of me. I try to turn it into a cough.

"I'll look for them for you," I say quickly. "I'll bring them to you if I find them. Just let me finish getting dressed."

And at last – at long last – he finally leaves the room. Breathing a sigh of relief, I drop the shirt back down on my bed.

Only to scoop it up quickly as the door bursts open again.

"There's no need to tell your mother about this, by the way," he says casually. "You know how stressed she gets in the evenings. It was just a harmless mistake."

I think about how badly Mom wants Kabelo and me to get along, and make a quick decision.

"No, of course I won't say a word."

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

This kabelo guy is really strange and that i dont trust hm, and i thnk latoya shudnt trust hm either and also she shouldnt makin excuses 4 dat coz dis myt mean more that stressing her mom, she shud think how more hurt her mom wud b if latoya got hurt, expecially by da guy. **Scarlet Angel**

I beleive heart its often broken by unspoken wordz so yep voice out n b heard

Kabelo is a very clever guy, he wil keep on making harmless mistakes, nd when Latoya realises that this guy is very dangerous she wil find difficult to tell her mum since she couldnt tell her when it all started. **Fifilayza-owakhe**

What do you think?

Is it okay to keep quiet about something to save someone from worrying? Our readers recommend this: *No, tell the truth at all times. People can handle it: 55%, Some people – especially parents – don't need to know every detail of my life: 15%, I'm very selective about what I tell people: 29%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 8

My sister Amanda is gorgeous. I mean, she is beautiful. She looks like she has just stepped off the set of Gossip Girl.

This used to drive me crazy with jealousy back before I knew we were sisters, but now I just feel proud of her. I love the way guys get a little silly around her, like they don't know what to do with their arms. And I love the way I get more respect now that I hang out with her. It shouldn't be like that, of course. Looks shouldn't matter so much, but unfortunately that's the way it is.

If I wanted to meet guys, Amanda would be my perfect partner. But there's only one guy I'm interested in dating, and that's Jayden Depaul. And Amanda and I are already friends with him.

In fact, that's part of the problem. We're all such good friends it's hard to move the friendship to another level. I know I hurt Jayden badly when I accused him of ruining my life and told him to back off. What I don't know is how to apologise and get the relationship back to where we were. To be honest, I don't know if that's even what he wants anymore.

In Life Skills, I sit slightly behind Jayden, just where I can watch him without being seen. We've got a substitution today because the teacher's off sick, so I can really stare at him, guilt-free.

His hair is flopping over his forehead, almost into his eyes, and his face is all serious as he concentrates on what he's writing. By leaning sideways a bit, I can see that he's working on a poem. Jayden is probably the only guy in school who could get away with writing poetry without being teased. The guys respect him because he's an awesome soccer player, and the girls all want to date him.

The teacher who is meant to be watching us goes out of the classroom for a minute. Immediately, Refilwe stands up and slides into the empty chair next to Jayden.

"Hi, Jay!" she says, flicking her braids over her shoulder. "What are you doing?"

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

I think latoya should stop playing games and go get jayden i mean i think they love each other deeply.i know it is hard to move friendship to other level because if doesn't work out everything gets messed up.but as for me i would tell the person than to let the feeling eat me alive.this is how i would say it:i know we've been friends like forever and i respect that but i deeply feel love for you,i love you more than i can love someone.i tried to hide my feelings for you but it feelings like i'm living a lie and i don't wanna hurt you. **Nikon**

Wow, i thnk she shuld leave thngz as they are, nd let the flow of the relationship take them to the next level. **BLACK ROSE**

i did try to change a normal friendship to a relationship nd it worked! we r still dating! but sometimes ithink iz about what u really mean nd not always what u say ht matters tha most!

What do you think?

Have you ever tried to change an ordinary friendship into a romantic relationship? How would you go about it?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 9

Jayden looks up from the poem he's working on as Refilwe slides into the seat next to him. I'm leaning so far forward to hear what they're saying that I'm practically lying on my desk.

"What are you working on?" Refilwe asks. She's using that high, sing-song voice that girls put on to chat up guys.

"Just a poem." He lifts the corner of his mouth slightly.

She gives his chair a light kick. "You're always reading or writing. Doesn't it get boring after a while?"

I almost want to laugh. This is SO not the right way to go about chatting up Jayden. He loves those books of his. He and Refilwe obviously have nothing in common.

"Sometimes."

I make a choking noise that I try to turn into a cough. What does he mean 'sometimes'? I remember Jayden telling me that he could never be bored because there are always new books to be read.

Refilwe smiles a satisfied smile. "I thought so! I bet you like doing other stuff too, like going to clubs, right?"

"Right."

I give a little laugh under my breath. Okay, maybe that wasn't really under my breath, seeing as Refilwe and Jayden both turn to look at me.

"Something wrong, Latoya?" Refilwe asks. Her voice is sweet, but her eyes are shooting daggers at me.

"I thought you liked movies more than clubs, Jayden?" I say, challenging him directly.

He's always dragging Amanda and me off to this place called The Bioscope in town where they show foreign movies with subtitles.

"I like dancing too."

Refilwe smiles like a shark scooping up her prey. "Then how would you like to come to Mirrors with me on Saturday night.

Jayden looks straight at me for a second, before turning back to Refilwe. He smiles his sexy smile at her.

"I'd love to, thanks."

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

I think he is doing it to make Latoya angry/ jelouse. why would he look at her before he answers Refilwe? **Beauty Queen**

Jayden is playn the game very smart. He knows he likes latoya nd she likes him bt in order to gt her he needs to mke her fl threatend by refilwe nd clearly its working. **MiSs OpPoRtUnIsT**

Beautiful story and i think Jayden is jst tryn 2 make latoya jealous n i also dont lyk ths Kabelo guy he soundz weird n creepy. **Rocka ref**

What do you think?

Why do you think Jayden is acting like this? Our readers recommend this: *He's given up on Latoya and he's moving on. Refilwe is a pretty girl, after all.* 3%, *He's keeping his options open. That's what guys do:* 11%, *He's totally trying to make Latoya jealous – and it's working:* 85%.

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 10

"Don't panic!" Amanda orders as I practically start hyperventilating. "Panicking is not going to help us here. What we need is a plan."

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

“A plan!” I almost scream at her. “Jayden’s going out with Refilwe and you’re making plans? The only plan I’m interested in is how to make sure she gets flu before Saturday.”

Amanda’s mouth twists. I can see she’s trying hard not to laugh at me.

“Just calm down, Latoya. Okay, listen. We were planning to go to Mirrors on Saturday night anyway, weren’t we?”

I nod. This is true. I think most of the school is going. It’s Under 18 night at Mirrors when they don’t serve alcohol and only play music that we like – no golden oldies.

“Right. I’ll come to your house on Saturday and give you a total makeover. You’ll be looking so awesome Jayden will ditch Refilwe there and then and ask you out instead.”

I can’t say I’m exactly enthusiastic about this plan, but it’s all I’ve got.

Amanda duly turns up at my house on Saturday afternoon, clutching plastic bags full of her clothes.

My mom is out grocery shopping, so it’s only Kabelo and me at home.

I introduce her to Kabelo. As Amanda holds out her hand, I have a sudden fear that he’s going to try to kiss her like he did me. But thank goodness not. He just shakes her hand and says hello normally.

“So what are you two lovely ladies up to this afternoon?” he asks with a grin.

I open my mouth to tell him exactly what we’ll be doing, but Amanda gets there first.

“Nothing,” she says, giving him a long, cool look. “Just hanging out.”

“You don’t have to tell grown-ups everything,” she says in my room later. “It’s none of his business what we’re doing.”

“I guess.”

This is one of those times when I realise how differently Amanda and I were raised. My mom taught me to have total respect for my elders. You don’t ever say no to an adult in my culture. Whereas Amanda acts like she’s an adult herself.

“Here, try this top on,” she says, handing me something silver and glittery. I’m just starting to pull my shirt off when we hear a noise outside my window.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

I do respect my elders bt respect goes 2 wayz. **DONCORLEON**

I thnk we shld give respect to our elders irrespective of their doings they might be alcoholics,drug addicts or even unsupportive, its becoz of them that we are here and what

greater gift do we have than lyf itself we get to explore and even acheive greater thngs than our elders and wen we think that we are through sum1 is there to alwys pick up the pieces 4u and that experience is worth living. **Shorty life**

In my culture, i have to respect all adults and younger peoples. **Ms pastor**

What do you think?

How were you raised? Do you have total respect for your elders, or do they have to earn that respect first?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 11

“What was that?” Amanda says quickly, as we hear a scratching noise outside my window.

I shrug. “Probably a dog or something.”

“Oh...” She stares out the window for a moment. “Okay.”

“So, how does this one look?” I parade around the room in the silver strappy top I’ve just put on.

“Hmm...” Amanda watches me thoughtfully. “It’s nice, but it hasn’t really got enough va-va-voom. This is Operation Wow Jayden, remember? One look at you and he must forget that he came to the party with Refilwe.”

“But she’s so pretty!” I wail. “And she dresses really sexy and everything. I can’t compete with her, I just can’t.”

“She is sexy,” Amanda admits. “But, you know what - don’t play her game. Play a different game. She’s got such an obvious look. Everything’s on display all the time. You want to be a bit mysterious – leave something to the imagination. She can be the Fong Kong and you can be the real deal.”

There’s a big thump outside the window. This time, both of us rush to look.

“What on earth was that?” I say, as we press our noses against the glass.

The view is not exactly five-star. My room looks out on a well-swept yard and a dusty road that leads to some old warehouses. I don’t see anything that could have made a noise like that.

“Maybe its burglars,” Amanda says her eyes wide with fear.

I have to laugh. “Any burglar who wanted to rob us could just walk in the front door – it’s unlocked most of the day. And we don’t have much that’s worth stealing anyway.”

“Well, that definitely sounded human. It was too heavy to be a dog.”

“Do you see anyone running away?”

“Nope. But don’t those look like footprints to you?”

I open the window and stick my head out to see what Amanda is pointing at. Okay, I can see what she means. There are footprints and scuff marks in the dirt just outside my window. But the thing is – there are footprints all over the yard. A lot of people cut through our yard to get to the taxi stop.

“Let’s go and have a look around.”

We open my door and step out into the kitchen. Kabelo is standing at the kitchen door, wiping his feet on the mat and holding a watering can.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

I just l0ve thz st0ry nd al the characterz, lat0ya itz gud wat u dng, jayden shud c wt he is l0osin owt on bt dnt try 2 change urslf b wu u r... Ai kabelo wat r u up 2... I l0ve hw evryb0dy leavz c0mmentz nd stf nd interact

I wnt change my looks 2 impress a guy,its either he accepts me as i am or leave me alone.

Maximum

Luv(H) m 4 who i am or g2h,beauty is 4rm withn.latoya b ur slf gal,if dis guy 2ruly luvz he wl com around.(F)am :) wit dis story,guyz u rock. **100%Sexy**

What do you think?

How should a girl dress when she’s trying to attract a guy? Our readers recommend this: *As sexy as possible. That’s the only thing guys notice: 6%, Don’t overdo it – leave something to the imagination: 16%, Just be yourself. If he doesn’t like you for who you really are, he’s not worth it: 76%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 12

I greet Kabelo with relief.

“Oh, thank goodness, it was just you!”

“What was just me?” he asks.

“Amanda and I heard someone moving around in the yard outside. I guess it was you, right?”

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

Kabelo drops his eyes to the watering can he's carrying.

"Yes ..." he says at last. "I was doing some watering outside. Sorry if I disturbed you."

"Oh, that's all right." I'm so glad to have that sorted out, I feel quite cheerful.

"We were just choosing outfits to wear tonight. We're going to a dance."

"Will you show me which outfits you've chosen?"

I'm just about to start showing him some options when Amanda blocks me again.

"We're not nearly finished," she says quickly.

Then she takes me by the arm and steers me back into my room. As I close the door behind us, she marches up to the window and firmly closes the curtains.

"What's wrong?" I ask.

"Whose watering can was that?" she demands.

"It's my mom's. You know she's got that pot plant in the kitchen and another one in her bedroom? She uses it to water them."

"And your yard has no plants in it. It's completely swept bare. So what was he watering out there?"

I stare at her in amazement. "I have absolutely no idea. Why does it matter? I mean, why would he lie about something like that?"

"I don't know, but I think he was the one sneaking around outside your window. He was looking guilty – didn't you notice?"

"No, I can't say I did."

"There's just something about him I don't trust."

I can't help feeling a bit offended. I know Kabelo isn't really part of my family, but he is my mom's boyfriend, and it's thanks to him that she has a job and we can live in our house again. I don't like hearing Amanda criticise him. It makes me want to start defending him.

But before I can decide what to say, we both hear a car pulling up outside the house. I tug the curtain back to have a look, and feel my whole body jerk with shock.

"It's your mother!" I gasp.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

No one hv a rite 2 criticize my familz. **Shhwapha**

Da story got me hookd. Bt whr is da rest of it? Gr8 novel. Genius absolutely genius.

MELODY

Wht a gud novel.Kabelo is the hiddn dngr and they mst cme out wit the secr.Cnt wait 4 the
nxt chaptr. **Lativa**

What do you think?

Do you also get upset when people criticise your family – even though you sometimes criticise them yourself?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 13

I don't believe this.

Amanda's mother has just driven up to our house in her smart BMW. How does she even know where I live? And why – I suddenly realise – is Amanda not looking more surprised about this?

“Did you KNOW your mother was coming here this evening?” I ask sharply.

Amanda looks a little guilty. “Okay, yes, I asked her to come, all right?”

“But, why?”

“Because otherwise she wouldn't have let me come at all, okay? She didn't like the idea of us taking a taxi to Mirrors. And she really didn't like the idea of us taking a taxi back. She said I could only go if I let her drive us both there. You don't really mind, do you? I mean, I know you and my mom don't exactly hit it off...”

This is true. Ever since I met my dad, I've been invited for dinner at their house exactly twice. It wasn't a total success, to be honest. So now what we normally do is he takes the three of us kids out for the day – that's me, Amanda, and our little brother, Nick. The three of us get on really well together, so that works out fine.

It wasn't that Amanda's mom was rude to me at dinner or anything. It's just that being around her REALLY made me aware that I wasn't raised in the Northern Suburbs. Normally race isn't an issue between Amanda and me, but having dinner in that house made me super-aware of the fact that the only two black people in the house were me and the domestic worker.

I felt like I should offer to help wash the dishes or something. And I could tell that Amanda's mom was just as uncomfortable around me. I suppose it must be weird sitting down to dinner with your husband's secret love-child. So, no, it wasn't exactly a roaring success.

Kabelo is standing in the doorway gaping at the navy BMW. The driver's door opens. Amanda's mom gets out – all stiletto boots, skinny jeans, and bright red trench coat. You can say what you like, but the lady's got class.

“Good evening,” she says, holding out a hand to Kabelo. “I’m Melissa McBurney...”

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Wat the hell...i usd 2 nva take public trnsprt..was scared 1of my frndz wntd 2go owt bt wthout a car,take a taxi 2da statiOn thn take da train aftr dat,i was scared..bt nw i do take it durn da day,bt nva at nyt. **lover:P**

is nt wise 4 a mother 2 drn thm 2 the party if at the party she saw ppl fightin or doin samthn bad she cn turn back nd thy cn misd the party.kb is no gud at all.y he ws around the window yoh i thk he knew dat thz gl wl b niked lol a thz man realy dangerous. **FANKI**

Yeah,i d0 use public transprt sumtmez eventh0 i hv a car,itz much cheapr if u g0 2wrk.

What do you think?

Do you take public transport? Our readers recommend this: *Yes, it's the only way I can get around. 52%, I take it during the day, but at night I get someone to drive me.27%, Never. My parents drive me everywhere.19%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 14

Kabelo wipes his hand on his jeans before shaking hands with Amanda’s mom. That’s the kind of person she is. She makes you feel like you should have brushed your hair and worn your best clothes. And you’re always on your best behaviour with her.

Amanda comes up and gives her a warm hug, but all I get is a cool nod.

“Hello, Latoya.”

“Hello, Mrs McBurney. Thanks for offering to take us to the party.”

Another cool nod. I wait for her to say that I should call her Melissa, or Mel or something. She is my step-mother, after all. But she says nothing at all, so I carry right on calling her Mrs McBurney.

“Are you girls ready?”

“Yes!”

“No,” says Amanda firmly.

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

I clap my hand over my mouth to stifle a giggle. Personally, I would never dream of keeping her waiting, but Amanda has no hesitation in parking her mom in the kitchen with Kabelo while she and I finalise our outfits for tonight.

“Okay, so you’re wearing the black jeans with the purple wash, and the silver strappy top,” says Amanda. “And I’m wearing the black mini-skirt and the striped T-shirt. Can I borrow your other pair of hi-top takkies?”

“Sure.”

We’ve both learned that you don’t wear high heels to a dance. But the trouble with flats is that they’re so boring. So now we’ve compromised on these really cool high-top trainers that I got at China City last weekend.

“Right. Let’s go.”

It’s only six o’clock, but they’re braaiing boerewors rolls at the venue first before the dance starts and we don’t want to miss out.

Mrs McBurney has just driven off after dropping us at Mirrors when Amanda grabs my arm and points.

“Oh, my goodness! Look at that.”

I look, but I don’t like what I see. Jayden and Refilwe are standing near the drinks table. And they’re holding hands.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Yes unfortunately a step mom with a dislike in her heart is so junk job..my dad always took 2me 2 twk 2hr n0 i cal hr by hr name im jst struggling 2 get past da stage wich is a long process.

I think no matter the elder person is ur step dad or stepmom,u should call them mom or dad to show respect and acceptance from u!even when talking about them u should rather say "my second mom or dad". **G.i.jane**

I love the story i wish it ws a book. but can u bring the next chapters within a day i really have a craving for more. Your novel rocks :-D

What do you think?

Do you have any stepmothers or stepfathers in your life? Do you call them by their first names?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 15

Well, to be honest, Refilwe is sort of clutching Jayden's hand between both of hers, like he might disappear in a puff of smoke if she let go of him.

But I can't really convince myself that he's trying very hard to get away. In fact, he looks quite relaxed.

"We'd better go and say hi," Amanda says, heading in their direction.

"Are you crazy?" I almost scream, grabbing her arm and steering her in the opposite direction. "We're not going to talk to him while he's with HER."

"So we're just going to ignore him the whole evening? Even though he's one of our best friends? I don't think so."

"Oh, all right."

I have to give up that plan anyway because Jayden has spotted us and is waving at us to come over. Is it my imagination or does he look a bit desperate for new company?

"So then she was all, like, what are you gonna do about it? And I was, like, what are YOU gonna do about it? And she was, like, I asked you first. And I was, like, Nuh-uh, girlfriend, it don't work like that. And she was, like, I don't THINK so. And I was, like..."

Refilwe just keeps going on and on and on with the story she's telling Jayden. She doesn't even turn to greet us. Her voice just keeps droning on. Now I'm pretty sure I'm not imagining it – he looks bored to death - and very pleased to see us.

"Hey, guys!" His voice rings with relief. "Did you hear the rumour that Locnville might be here tonight?"

We all wince as Amanda's squeal cuts through the air like a knife.

"Now look what you've done," I sigh. "You know what she's like when it comes to Locnville."

"But it turned out to be just a rumour!" Jayden says quickly, raising his voice above Amanda's excited squeaking. Her face sags with disappointment.

"Never mind that." Refilwe turns to Jayden. "Let's go and dance."

"Er... good idea!" Jayden says doubtfully. "Hey, why don't we ALL go?"

He clamps his hands around my and Amanda's arms and starts tugging us to where the dancing is happening.

I glance at Amanda. I'm very tempted to leave Jayden to Refilwe while we go and get a boerewors roll. After all, he got himself into this situation. But he looks so desperate I don't have the heart.

“Oh, all right,” I say, feeling my tummy rumble. “One dance...”

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

When im around my boyfriend i act the same,i used to be shy before but now im free i can even fart around him someting a girl would never do.

Yes i do change the way i talk when i'm with a girl but sometimes it depend if the girl i'm with is talker or just a normal shy girl.some girls like a quiet kind of a guy so for me i act within the tune. **Nikon**

Wow.wat a story.guys i cnt gt enaf of ur story.pls cary on doin dat gr8 job.it was s0o0o0o lvly:) **Anna-bby**

What do you think?

Refilwe’s mistake was talking too much. Do you change the way you speak, depending on whether it’s to a girl or a guy? Pour readers recommend this: *I sure do. Guys don’t like a lot of girlie gossip. I pretend to be interested in sport when I talk to a guy: 18%, If I see he’s looking bored, I’ll change the subject: 31% No way, he must take me as I am. I’m not pretending to be someone I’m not: 50%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 16

I leave the dance feeling about a hundred times better.

Jayden is obviously not at all interested in Refilwe. He spent the whole evening trying to avoid her, until she finally got the message and hooked up with another bunch of friends. Then he asked me to dance and we ended up having a very nice time together.

Nothing romantic, unfortunately. Just nice and relaxed.

So now I’m in a much better mood. Even though Amanda’s mom came to fetch us at 11pm - we asked for 11.30pm - I refuse to let it get to me. I feel as though a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders.

Amanda’s mom drops me off at home and waits to see me let myself into the house. Then she drives off with a wave.

“How was your party?”

I’m a bit surprised to find Kabelo still awake and watching TV in the kitchen. He and my mom are usually asleep by this time.

“It was fine, thanks. Where’s Mom?”

“She had to go to your granny’s house. Some kind of crisis, apparently. She won’t be back until morning.”

“Oh...”

I can’t help feeling a bit shocked. This is the first time I’ve been alone at night with just Kabelo for company. Suddenly the room seems very small. I’m super-aware of having to brush past him to get through the kitchen.

“Well, I’ll be off to bed now,” I start gabbling. “Good night.”

I skip into my room and close the door quickly behind me before he can say anything. As I feel it latch under my hand, I breathe a sigh of relief.

Then I change into my pyjamas and go straight to bed. I’d feel a lot happier if Mom were here, but in the meanwhile I’ll make the night go quicker by sleeping through it.

I get into bed and close my eyes. At about midnight, I hear my door-handle slowly opening.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

well he's weird,scary and guilty,it should hit everyone that hes trying to get in her pants

Maybe he might be leaving off early in the morning and wants to inform Latoya...just for formality sake. **Prolific+Quote**

I dnt trust this Kabelo,what a sneaky character,...he is definitely up 2 sumthng...the suspence cnt wait 2 read wat happens. **Thabang**

What do you think?

Why do you think Kabelo is coming into Latoya’s room in the middle of the night?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 17

I must have just dozed off because I wake up feeling fuzzy-headed and confused. Someone is opening my bedroom door.

“Mom,” I call out. “Is that you? Mom?”

Then I remember that my mother is spending the night at my grandmother’s house. She won’t be back until morning. Which is about eight hours away.

“Who is it?” I demand, trying to keep the panic out of my voice. “Who’s there?”

There’s no answer, but if I strain my ears I think I can hear someone breathing. It’s very dark. There are no streetlights around here. If I want to switch my bedroom light on I have to get out of bed and walk across the room.

“Is that you, Kabelo? What do you want?”

Even as I say it, I know exactly what he wants. On some level, I think I’ve always known.

My heart is beating so fast I can feel it pounding painfully in my head. I sit up and slide as far into the corner of the bed as I can. I can just make out a darker shadow standing near the door. As I watch, the shadow detaches itself from the doorway and starts moving across the room. Towards me.

“No!” I whimper as I feel his heavy weight sink down onto the bed. “Don’t do this. My mother...”

Kabelo gives a low laugh. “Your mother won’t know anything about it. And if you tell her she’ll be out on the street with no job. This is our little secret, Latoya.”

His hand starts feeling along the blankets for me. I hear him give a little huff of annoyance when he finds I’m not where I’m supposed to be.

I’ll fight him, I decide wildly. I’ll fight and scream. I’ll kick and bite and scratch. There’s no way I’m going to take this quietly.

His hand closes strongly around my wrist as he finds me in the dark. Just as he starts pulling me towards him, we hear the sound of a car driving up to the house. It’s a gurgling VW engine that we both recognise immediately – my mother’s car.

Instantly Kabelo’s weight is lifted off my bed and he glides silently out of the room. There’s a soft click as the door behind him. I sink back down under the covers, listening to my heart pounding in my ears.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Yoh lucky her mum came! Odawise she would have been raped yoh! She mst rather stay by her grany then living in that house n beeing raped! She mst tel her mum about it i say.

INDIGO+BABY says

4 any child 2 go through dat is trauma.it dnt nid 2 hv gotten dat worse point 2 damage.fact dat it got dat close 2 happenin is damage enough!any man lyk kabelo deserve da worst of punishments! **INDIGO BABY**

This chapter reali touched my sensitive side. Latoya should speak up be4 he he touches her inappropriately nd does sumthn tht will destroy her bcz once he doez it will be hard 4 latoya to look at herself in the same light nd her life would b completely changed 4eva.. Kabelo is sick nd a sorry excuse 4 a man, i hate his type. They prey on the weak nd

vulnerable 4 their own sick nd twisted pleasures nt thkn of how the victims life will be affcted. They dont hav a conscience bt our GOD never slps nor slumberz... I reali feel 4 latoya nd hope she speaks up b4 it goes any furthr, like some othr innocent victims tht ddnt deserv it. **Miss Opportunist**

What do you think?

Kabelo has threatened to fire Latoya's mom if Latoya says anything. What should she do? Our readers recommend this: *Tell her mom everything at once. Nothing is worth this kind of harassment: 81%, Hint to her mom that there might be a problem and see how she reacts: 12%, Keep quiet and just try to make sure she's never alone with Kabelo again: 5%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 18

"I don't believe this," Amanda says over and over again. "I just don't believe this is happening. This is a nightmare."

"I know." I give a little shiver. "It's a total nightmare."

"What did your mom say when you told her?"

"I ... haven't exactly told her," I admit.

Amanda grabs my shoulders and swings me round to face her.

"You haven't TOLD her? Latoya, you have to tell her. That man could have raped you."

I feel tears welling up in my eyes, but manage to blink them away.

"I tried to tell her the next morning while he was out. But she... she didn't believe me. I started telling her about how he walked into my room while I was changing and how you and I thought he'd been outside my window that time we were trying on clothes. And she just... she just lost it with me."

"You mean she blamed YOU?"

"Yes. She said I'm getting older now and must realise I can't walk around the house in skimpy clothes any more. And then she just started shouting at me. Like it's my fault he did anything to me. I tried to tell her that he came into my room last night, but she didn't want to hear it. It was almost like..." I stop for a moment and swallow hard. "It was almost like she was jealous of me or something."

"That is so weird."

"I know."

Amanda and I stare at each in frustration. Then we both jump as a voice speaks behind us.

“What’s weird is that neither of you told me anything about this.” Jayden steps out from behind the pillar next to us. “When were you planning to tell me that you’re in danger, Latoya? How can we ever have a relationship if you won’t trust me?”

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

We live in a society where freedom is encouraged, and therefore girls should be allowed to dress how they want to. However, we must also remember that our society is tainted by people who believe rape is ok, and girls should dress accordingly, so as to protect themselves

Its simple. Men tend 2 blame woman 4 their lack of control over their hormones. A girl is entitled 2 wearing whatevr myks her comfortable in hr own skin. Dis is where self confidence starts,which in return wil boast a gud self asteem. We as ladies, knw wen 2 draw da line. Afta all, nt dat ppl can help it but its true...hw u dress, does giv ppl an impresion, as 2 wat kind of person u r. So galz! plz dress appropriately nd guys!-do not use hw we dress as a stimulant 4 ur evil ways nd tyk advantage of us! We deserve beta-mor respect. **Nthabisexy**

That mada is an extreme idiot...hw cn 1 blame their own doughter 4 such. And any1 has the right to whatsoever thex want to wear. **Sentimental!**

What do you think?

If a girl dresses in mini-skirts and skimpy tops does she only have herself to blame when a guy misinterprets this? Or should girls be able to wear whatever they like?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 18

I’m at home ironing my Netball shirt, with Jayden’s words going round and round in my head. How can we have a relationship if I won’t trust him?

That must mean that he actually wants a relationship, right? And I do trust him – I do. Okay I admit I was a bit hesitant to let him back into my life after he interfered last time, but I know he only wanted the best for me.

Maybe now that we’re both clear on what we want, we can move forward to dating properly?

The kitchen door creaks open and Kabelo walks in. My tummy clenches into a knot. This is the situation I never wanted to be in again. I’m alone in the house with him.

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

This time he doesn't hesitate. As soon as he sees me, he crosses the floor in three steps and grabs the iron, twisting it out of my hand and yanking the plug out of the wall. How does he know I would have used it against him?

"No interruptions today," he says tensely, gripping my arm. "Today we finish what we started."

"What you started," I snap back.

He laughs. "Okay – what I started. And remember, you tell your mother one word about this and you're both back on the street."

"I'd rather be back on the street than be touched by you."

He laughs again. "I don't think your mother would agree. She likes her comforts, that one."

I say nothing, and a shadow of annoyance crosses his face.

"We're wasting time. Come here."

He pulls my arm so hard it feels like it's going to come off. I stumble and fall heavily against him. As he starts tugging at my clothes, I open my mouth to scream.

But before I can get a sound out, the kitchen door bursts open and my mom, Jayden, and Amanda tumble into the room. Kabelo jumps away from me as though I'm red hot.

Mom looks angrier than I've ever seen her in my life.

"Get out!" she screams. "Get out of this house!"

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Thank god da empty headed kabelo got caught. If latoya's mom doez nthng ths tym, thn shez selfish. **Lulu**

Wow great i was getting worried that latoya's mom will only notice that when kabelo has already done the damage but nooooi like this they bustered him in action no denyi.

Cute Vicky

Finali!! I'm so glad latoyaz mum saw wat hapnd! This story just took a turn 4 da best. Love it.

Black Diamond

What do you think?

Who do you think Latoya's mom is angry with? Our readers recommend this: *Kabelo, of course. She has finally seen his true colours: 86%, Kabelo and Latoya – for putting her in this position: 4%, Latoya, for 'stealing' her boyfriend: 8%.*

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

CHAPTER 20

“I’m sorry, Mom!” I sob. “You were so happy with him and now it’s all over. And now you won’t have a job anymore.”

“We’ll manage,” she says fiercely, stroking my hair as I cling to her. “I’ll get another job. We can stay with Gogo again. It doesn’t matter. None of it matters. All that matters is that you’re safe. I’m so, so sorry for not listening to you. I should never have rushed into the relationship. It’s all my fault for bringing that man into our lives and putting you in danger.”

When we’ve both calmed down, Mom starts making tea for everyone.

Amanda, Jayden and I go into my bedroom to talk. I’m so grateful to them, I can hardly speak. The whole thing was their idea. They got my mother to wait outside the kitchen window with them so she could see with her own eyes the way Kabelo treated me. I knew they were watching so I wasn’t really scared - except right at the end when he grabbed me.

I see Jayden and Amanda looking at each other. Then my sister gives a tiny nod. She hugs me one last time, and walks out of the room to join my mom in the kitchen. I’m left staring at Jayden.

As I watch, Jayden opens his arms wide and I walk straight into them as though I belong there – as though I’m coming home.

“I’m so sorry I didn’t trust you with all the worries that were going on in my life,” I whisper as he hugs me tightly. “I didn’t want to be a nuisance – not after I told you to butt out so rudely that time.”

“Ssh...” he murmurs, his lips warm against my forehead. “I just wish I’d known that you still cared about me. I’m so sorry I used Refilwe to make you jealous. I should actually apologise to her too. The poor girl still has no idea why I ditched her so fast.”

I giggle. Somehow I can’t bring myself to feel too sorry for Refilwe.

“What about us?” he asks, tilting my chin up with his finger and looking down into my eyes. “Do you think we can try again? Maybe make a better job of it than last time?”

I nod my head vigorously. “Yes. That’s exactly what I want too.”

His lips come down on mine in a kiss that I wish would never end.

Reader comments

Here are some comments left by readers at www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Gr8 story guys,m crazy abt it,cnt wait 4 da next 1,gr8 job yoza u kpn us intertained(x) **Lebo**

I loved the story its so intereting bt ey I would like to know how letoya nd jayden ended oh my word am inlove with this story I love it I love it(x) **Unconditional love**

SISTERZ: HIDDEN DANGER

I loved it!but im stil a little freaked out about dat kabelo guy this story has come to an end though i wanna knw how jayden nd latoya work dis time wil their relationship last or wil sumthin get in da way again.....? **Miss irresistible**

What do you think?

This story is far from over. Latoya still has a difficult relationship with her dad and his wife. Latoya and her mom may lose their house again. What other problems can you see in the future for them?

To answer this question, or to leave your own comment, go to www.yoza.mobi/stories/18/

Your words

Jayden has hardly ever been in a township in his life. Write a story about Jayden visiting Latoya at her granny's shack in Alexandra. Try to imagine how everyone would be feeling and acting. The story should be written from Latoya's point of view.