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RHYTHM CITY

EPISODE 923 - 1ST DRAFT

Written by Jo Watson

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NON-ENGLISH DIALOGUE:

SUMMARY OF EPISODE

The charges of murder against S'bu are finally dropped, thanks to the wheeling and dealings of Franco. Miles is furious that Franco stole his thunder and was the one who helped S'bu. But Miles feels better knowing that Genaro is finally going to get what he deserves. The hit he's taken out on Franco's life has been set in motion with the help of Ivan. He cannot stop the hit now, even if he wanted to. Lucilla knows that Ivan and Miles are up to something and confront him. She threatens to leave if Miles doesn't come clean, eventually he tells her. It's the day after the "miscarriage" and Tshidi and Dylan are trying to come to terms with what they did. But Sis Bee is growing suspicious about the reason for Tshidi's miscarriage and confronts her. Mamokete suffers a double blow, losing her grandchild and now not being nominated as choir conductor.

SMS SUMMARY: 160 CHARACTERS INCLUDING SPACES

2DAYonRC: The hit Miles ordered on Franco's life has been set in motion and cannot be stopped now, even if he wanted to. Sis Bee grows suspicious about Tshidi's miscarriage.

ACT 1, SCENE 1

INT. LUCILLA'S HOME - DAY
(MILES, LUCILLA)

(15:00)

LOGLINE: LUCILLA DEMANDS TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON WITH IVAN AND MILES. HE DOES NOT TELL HER.

MILES AT HOME, FUMING, CONFUSED, GNASHING HIS TEETH THAT FRANCO HAS STOLEN ANOTHER MARCH.

MILES

So the case against S'bu has been dropped.

LUCILLA

Wow. That's wonderful news.

MILES

It would be, if Franco wasn't behind it.

LUCILLA

What?

MILES

S'bu is *my* son. I was supposed to fix this mess. Not Genaro.

LUCILLA

Why don't you just focus on the fact that S'bu is no longer being charged with murder. Who cares how it happened?

MILES GOES ON A RANT.

MILES

I do. I care. He has made me look like a ineffective fool in front my son.

LUCILLA

Miles, you're overreacting.

MILES

How the hell did he do this?

LUCILLA

Miles!

MILES

And what is he up to. He doesn't just do "nice things".

MILES BECOMES DANGEROUS LOOKING.

MILES (cont'd)

Nevermind though! This is going to be the last time he does anything like this. *Ever again.*

LUCILLA

What do you mean?

MILES GOES RATHER STILL, THE LOOK ON HIS FACE LEADS LUCILLA TO BELIEVE SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS IS GOING ON.

LUCILLA (cont'd)

Miles! What do you mean? What the hell is going on?

MILES

Nothing.

LUCILLA

Stop lying to me. I know you and Ivan are planning something.

MILES

(VERY DEFENSIVE)

How do you know about that?

LUCILLA

My God Miles. I'm not stupid. The two of you have been whispering into the phone for days now. I know you're both up to something and I demand to know what it is.

MILES

I can't tell you.

LUCILLA

(SARCASTIC)

And I'm going to be your wife.

(GETTING FURIOUS)

Is this how it's going to be? My husband, keeping secrets from me? I don't want to be in another relationship like that Miles.

MILES

Fine! Do you want to know exactly what's going on?

LUCILLA

I'd love to.

MILES

I'll tell you then-

THE PHONE RINGS AND INTERRUPTS HIM.

MILES LOOKS NERVOUSLY AT THE PHONE AND THEN BACK TO LU.

HE PICKS UP THE PHONE.

MILES (cont'd)

(INTO PHONE)

Hello.

HE LISTENS. IVAN TELLS HIM THE MEETING IS ON. RIGHT NOW.

MILES (cont'd)

Right now?

MILES LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

MILES (cont'd)

Give me ten minutes.

MILES PUTS THE PHONE DOWN AND STARTS GRABBING HIS THINGS, READY TO RUSH OUT OF THE HOUSE.

MILES (cont'd)

I've got to go.

LUCILLA

Miles! Was that Ivan? Miles.

MILES STARTS WALKING OUT THE HOUSE.

LUCILLA IS FURIOUS AND FRUSTRATED.

LUCILLA (cont'd)

That was Ivan, wasn't it?
(SHOUTING)
Miles!

MILES EXITS SLAMMING DOOR BEHIND HIM.

LUCILLA LOOKS AFTER HIM SHOCKED.

CUT TO:

ACT 1, SCENE 2

INT. BS. CLINIC - DAY
(DYLAN, TSHIDI)

(15:00)

LOGLINE; TSHIDI AND DYLAN SIT IN THE HOSPITAL TAKING IN THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THEIR DECISION.

DYLAN SITS WITH TSHIDI AT HER BEDSIDE. THEY ARE BOTH IN A STRANGE EMOTIONAL STATE HAVING "ABORTED" THEIR CHILD. NO ONE ELSE IS AROUND AND THEY CAN TALK OPENLY.

DYLAN IS BEING VERY AFFECTIONATE AND SUPPORTIVE.

DYLAN

It's over now and we're finally alone.

TSHIDI

Ja.

DYLAN

How do you feel? Physically I mean.

TSHIDI

It's a little sore but, whatever.

DYLAN STROKES TSHIDI'S FACE- OR REACHES OUT TO HER AFFECTIONATELY.

DYLAN

I hate seeing you in all this pain. If I could swap places with you right now, I would.

TSHIDI MANAGES A SMALL SMILE.

TSHIDI

That would be a true medical miracle.

THE TWO MANAGE A SMALL CHUCKLE, A SENSE OF INTIMACY GROWING BETWEEN THEM.

DYLAN

You know I'm here for you Babe, right?

TSHIDI NODS

DYLAN (cont'd)

We're in this together now and I'm not going to leave your side. Even if it means having to eat hospital food.

TSHIDI

Thanks.

DYLAN

I love you.

TSHIDI

I love you too.

BEAT, TSHIDI IS STARTING TO FEEL THE REALITY OF HER DECISION AND IS BEGINNING TO QUESTION IT.

TSHIDI (cont'd)

We did the right thing? Right?

DYLAN PERKING UP, TRYING TO BE STRONG AND SHOWING TSHIDI SUPPORT.

DYLAN

Absolutely. What other choice did we have?

TSHIDI

Ja. We did what we had to.

DYLAN

Exactly. And remember, this is what you wanted right at the beginning of your pregnancy.

TSHIDI

It was.

DYLAN

And a persons first instinct, is usually the right one.

TSHIDI NODS. NOT LOOKING TOO CONVINCED.

DYLAN (cont'd)

We did the right thing Tshidi. No question about it.

CUT TO:

ACT 1, SCENE 3

INT. PONTO D'ORO - DAY

(IVAN TSHINAWA, MILES, SUZUKI)

(16:00)

**LOGLINE: THE BALL IS IN MOTION NOW. SUZUKI
WILL CARRY OUT THE HIT.**

MILES AND IVAN SIT AT A TABLE, TRYING NOT
TO LOOKING SECRETIVE.

IVAN TSHINAWA

You realize after this meeting, I'm going
to have nothing to do with this.

MILES NODS.

MILES

Don't worry, I got it. This one is *all* on
me.

IVAN TSHINAWA

And you're prepared for the consequences?

MILES

Yes.

IVAN TSHINAWA

I hope so, because you're almost at the
point of no return. Once you step over
this line, you will never be the same man
again.

MILES

(CONFIDENTLY)

This is what I want. It's what I've wanted
for a long time now.

IVAN NODS.

MILES (cont'd)

Besides, my family is in danger. I have no
other choice.

IVAN TSHINAWA

I can understand and respect that.

MILES

(SARCASTIC)

I'm sure you do.

IVAN TSHINAWA

(GLEEFULLY)

Miles, you're no worse than me now.

MILES FLINCHES, LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE.

IVAN TSHINAWA (cont'd)
(BUSINESSLIKE)

I'm going to get up and walk away now and a man called Suzuki will come over. Remember, I wash my hands of this.

HE STARTS TO GO, STOPS AND TURNS ONE LAST TIME.

IVAN TSHINAWA (cont'd)

But once you give him the cash, that's it. No turning back. This man is going to bring you into a whole new world, whether you're ready for it or not.

MILES

(SLIGHTLY IRRITATED)

I'm ready.

IVAN WALKS AWAY.

HE PASSES A RATHER DODGY LOOKING GUY LURKING IN THE CORNER. TEAR DROP TATOO'S ON HIS FACE, BIG MUSCLES AND A CRUEL LOOK IN HIS EYE.

HE SURREPTITIOUSLY NODS AT THE MAN WHO WALKS OVER TO THE TABLE.

MILES LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE, NOT SURE WHAT TO DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, TRIES TO "BREAK THE ICE" WITH SMALL TALK

MILES (cont'd)

(AWKWARD)

You want a...

HE GESTURES AT HIS DRINK.

SUZUKI STOPS HIM MID SENTENCE BY FIRMLY HOLDING UP HIS HAND.

SUZUKI

You have an envelope for me?

MILES NERVOUSLY TAKES IT OUT OF HIS JACKET POCKET AND PASSES IT UNDER THE TABLE.

SUZUKI TAKES IT AND GLANCES INSIDE QUICKLY.

SUZUKI SLIDES A PIECE OF PAPER AND PEN ACROSS THE TABLE TO MILES.

SUZUKI (cont'd)

Write down the name of the person you want-

BEAT

SUZUKI (cont'd)

-dealt with.

MILES WRITES, HANDS SHAKING SLIGHTLY AND SLIDES THE PAPER BACK.

SUZUKI DOESN'T LOOK AT THE PAPER. HE FOLDS IT AND PLACES IT IN HIS POCKET.

SUZUKI (cont'd)

Okay, this is how it's going to work amigo. It'll take some time for me to set up the gig, but from now on, our associations are over. No more contact.

MILES

Okay.

SUZUKI

And there's no way to pull the plug after this.

MILES

Okay.

SUZUKI LEANS IN THREATENINGLY.

SUZUKI

(OMINOUS)

And Mr Vilakazi, if you double cross me, or I smell so much as a stinky whiff of betrayal, I swear to you, I will hunt your family down like animals, and I won't stop until you're a widow.

MILES EYES WIDEN IN FEAR.

SUZUKI (cont'd)

Do we have an understanding?

MILES NODS.

SUZUKI (cont'd)

It's a pleasure doing business with you.

SUZUKI GETS UP AND SLINKS AWAY INTO THE SHADOWS.

FIRST AD BREAK:

ACT 2, SCENE 4 (NEW DAY)

INT. KHUSE HOME - DAY
(MAMOKETE, KOP)

(09:00)

LOGLINE; THE KHUSES TRYING TO COME TO TERMS WITH TSHIDI'S MISCARRIAGE.

THIS IS A NEW DAY. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF THE MORNING.

MAMOKETE AND KOP SIT AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE, FORLORN, NEITHER OF THEM ABLE TO EAT THEIR BREAKFAST.

MAMOKETE

I wonder how Tshidi's doing today?

KOP

We must go and see her later.

MAMOKETE SHAKES HER HEAD

MAMOKETE

I don't understand Kop.

KETE IS GETTING VERY EMOTIONAL.

MAMOKETE (cont'd)

Why did this happen to us? Our grandchild is gone-

KETE CRYING NOW.

MAMOKETE (cont'd)

-and my poor baby is in hospital going through this terrible thing. It doesn't make any sense, when everything was going so well. Why?

KOP

(CONSOLING)

As hard as this is Kete, maybe it's Gods will.

MAMOKETE

But why would God rob us of our first grandchild and inflict such pain on everyone? A child is a precious gift.

KOP

You know our Lord works in mysterious ways we don't always understand. And that's when we just have to have faith in him and trust in what he's doing.

KETE BEGINS CALMING DOWN.

MAMOKETE

You're right. You're right. But it's just so hard to think like that now.

KOP

God knows what's best for us, even if we don't.

MAMOKETE SIGHS A BIG, DEEP SIGH.

MAMOKETE

I will just have to learn to accept this and come to terms with it.

BEAT

MAMOKETE (cont'd)

I'll need to do a lot of praying though.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 5**INT. RADIO STATION, FRANCO'S OFFICE - DAY**
(FRANCO, RONALD)

(10:00)

LOGLINE; HE IRONY, SAVING S'BU HAS
SHARPENED THE THREAT ON BUHLE.

FRANCO LOOKING SMUG AND CHUFFED WITH HIMSELF.

FRANCO

Ha, ha! Can you smell that Ron?

RON LOOKS CONFUSED AS DAVID TAKES A WHIFF OF THE AIR AROUND HIM.

FRANCO (cont'd)

(POETICALLY)

The sweet smell of success lingering on the morning breeze.

RONALD

You definitely pulled it off.

FRANCO

I did more than *just* pull it off Ronny boy. This ingenious little maneuver of mine is going to prove very beneficial. Trust me.

RONALD

I wonder how Miles will take it when he finds out his artist have been shopped? Isn't he going to know you were behind it?

FRANCO

Let him. Don't you see, that's the beauty of this plan Ron, he doesn't have a shred of evidence to prove it.

FRANCO SMACKS HIS HANDS TOGETHER, LAUGHS.

FRANCO (cont'd)

And his accusations will only come across as the rantings of an obsessive, paranoid man...*again*.

(MOCKING VOICE)

Help! Help! Poor me, the Genaro's are out to get me.

(SERIOUSLY)

Personally, I think that script is getting a bit old now, and I'm sure others will agree.

BEAT

FRANCO (cont'd)

Besides, I find throwing a bit of money at the problem usually works too.

RONALD

(SHOCKED)

But you can't afford that kind of thing right now?

FRANCO'S MOOD CHANGES, HE BECOMES SOMBRE. DANGER SPARKLES IN HIS EYES.

FRANCO

No. You're so right, I can't. Not unless I get my empire back, and there's only one way to do that.

RON SWALLOWS HARD, THESE THREATS TO BUHLE'S LIFE LEAVE HIM EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE.

FRANCO (cont'd)

But that's not for now Ron. Right now, we sit back and be patient. The enthused Suarez needs a bit of time to build up her case before-*bang*- she swoops in for the arrests.

FRANCO GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR.

FRANCO (cont'd)

Yes, I think this is all going to unfold rather nicely.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 6

INT. THE GYM, BACKYARD - DAY
(MAM ROSE, MAMOKETE)

(11:00)

LOGLINE: MAMOKETE IS SURE SHE WILL WIN, AND
IN THE PROCESS STINGS MAM ROSE

MAM ROSE HAS COME TO SOLICIT A VOTE OF
NOMINATION FROM MAMOKETE.

BEFORE SHE JUMPS RIGHT INTO IT, SHE WAXES
LYRICAL WITH A FEW SYMPATHIES.

MAM ROSE

Kete. How are you? How is Tshidi?

MAMOKETE MAKES A VISIBLE EFFORT TO PULL
HERSELF TOGETHER, AND PUT ON A BRAVE FACE.

MAMOKETE

Better, thank you.

MAM ROSE

I'm happy to hear that.

BEAT.

MAM ROSE (cont'd)

Have you heard about the church choir
competition?

MAMOKETE NODS GRIMLY.

MAMOKETE

Of course, I'm treasurer of the roof
building project. I think we stand a very
good chance this year, especially when I
start conducting them.

MAM ROSE SUDDENLY VERY CURIOUS.

MAM ROSE

You?

MAMOKETE

Well, since I've lead the choir to victory
before, I'm sure I'm the natural choice as
conductor.

MAM ROSE

But that was a long, long time ago.

MAMOKETE LOOKS CONFUSED.

MAM ROSE (cont'd)

Maybe they'll choose someone else this
year. Someone who can bring something new
to the sound?

MAMOKETE

Like who?

MAM ROSE

I don't know, lots of people. It's not like there's a shortage of people with musical skills in the church-

BEAT

MAM ROSE (cont'd)

-who knows, maybe they'll even choose me.

MAMOKETE ADMIRES MAM ROSES' ENTHUSIASM.

MAMOKETE

(AMUSED)

No offence, I like your enthusiasm, but this isn't really your thing, is it?

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 7

INT. THE GYM, BACKYARD - DAY
(SIS BEE, MAMOKETE, MAM ROSE, MA ROSE)

(12:00)

LOGLINE; MAMOKETE HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE CONDUCTOR POSITION IS HERS.

SIS BEE HAS COME TO PICK UP A STILL SOMBRE MAMOKETE FOR THE CHURCH MEETING.

SIS BEE
Ready to go?

MAMOKETE IS PUTTING ON A BRAVE FACE. TRYING TO BE UP-BEAT.

MAMOKETE
Ready.

SIS BEE
How are you doing today?

MAMOKETE
Better I think.

SIS BEE
I'm glad.

MAMOKETE STARTS RATTLING OFF HER VARIOUS JUSTIFICATIONS SUDDENLY.

MAMOKETE
I mean, I just have to accept it. It's God's will after all, isn't it? He knows what's best for us and what the bigger picture is. We just have to trust him. Right?

SIS BEE ANSWERS, SUPPORTIVE.

SIS BEE
That's what the Bible says. Psalms 11:1, "In the Lord, put your trust"

MAMOKETE
Yes, I think this must all be for the best, even if I don't know why yet.

SIS BEE BITES HER LIP, NOT CONVINCED BY MAMOKETE. SHE CHANGES THE TOPIC SUDDENLY.

SIS BEE
So, how are you feeling about the competition? Confident you're getting the conducting position?

MAMOKETE
Yes, I'm sure I will get it.

SIS BEE

It would be a nice distraction if you did. Something else to focus on.

MAMOKETE

It would.

MAM ROSE ARRIVES. SHE'S ALSO ON HER WAY TO THE MEETING WITH ANOTHER NEIGHBOR.

MAM ROSE

Hello ladies. Have you met my neighbor Queenie?

MAM ROSE'S WHOLE POSTURE IS A BIT INDIGNANT.

MAMOKETE

No. Nice to meet you.

SIS BEE

Hello.

THE NEIGHBOR QUEENIE GREETES THE LADIES WITH A LITTLE NOD.

MAMOKETE

So, are we all ready to go to the church?

SIS BEE

Actually-

BEAT

SIS BEE (cont'd)

Queenie and I thought we would go there together.

MAMOKETE AND SIS BEE ARE SURPRISED.

SIS BEE (cont'd)

Oh. But I thought the arrangement was for all of us to go together?

MA ROSE

Sorry. No offence. Bye, see you there. Good luck.

QUEENIE GIVES A LITTLE WAVE.

THEY HEAD OFF. MAMOKETE AND SIS BEE SHARE A PUZZLED LOOK.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 8

INT. RADIO STATION, FRANCO'S OFFICE - DAY
(FRANCO, S'BU)

(13:00)

LOGLINE; S'BU ASKS FRANCO TO MENTOR HIM

S'BU ENTERS FRANCO'S OFFICE.

FRANCO LOOKS UP ATTENTIVELY, EXCITED

FRANCO

Son. Come in, come in, have a seat close the door.

S'BU ENTERS AND SITS.

FRANCO (cont'd)

I was just about to pour myself a lunch time drink. You want one? A little celebratory "I'm not longer a murder suspect" drink?

S'BU

No thanks. I want to talk to you about something.

FRANCO

Shoot.

S'BU

I know it was you who got Suarez off my back.

FRANCO

(FEIGNING MODESTY)

I've already told you, I had nothing to do with that. Suarez must have knocked her head and finally come to her senses, or something.

S'BU

(CUTTING HIM OFF)

I just bumped into Suarez having lunch and she told me you were behind it.

FRANCO

Oh, and what else did Suarez say?

S'BU

I believe you also did something dodgy to make the case go away.

FRANCO

Are you complaining?

S'BU

No. No. Of course not. I'm completely grateful to you for what you did.

(MORE)

S'BU (cont'd)
You saved me. If you hadn't, I don't know what would have happened.

BEAT

S'BU (cont'd)
Thank you. I owe you.

FRANCO
(UPBEAT)
Then join me for a drink?

FRANCO POURS TWO GLASSES OF SOME OR OTHER DRINK FOR THE TWO OF THEM.

FRANCO RAISES HIS GLASS IN A TOAST.

FRANCO (cont'd)
Cheers.

S'BU
Cheers.

THE TWO MEN SIP, S'BU LOOKS CONTEMPLATIVE.

S'BU (cont'd)
You really know how to get things done. Like this Suarez situation . My dad tried to make it go away and couldn't, but you did.

FRANCO SMIRKS TO HIMSELF.

FRANCO
(FALSE MODESTLY)
It was nothing-

S'BU
(GETTING FIRED UP)
And that's who I want to be. The guy who gets things done. Who knows how to handle himself. The guys who sees a problem, finds a solution and fixes it.

FRANCO
And you can be S'bu.

S'BU
Only if you help me.

BEAT

FRANCO
Pardon?

S'BU
Franco, please teach me to become as effective as you.

FRANCO PONDERES THIS.

FRANCO

You want to learn from me?

S'BU

Yes.

FRANCO SIGHS

FRANCO

I don't know-

S'BU

Come on.

FRANCO

It might get a bit messy.

S'BU

What do you mean?

FRANCO

Things in life aren't always black and white S'bu. Life isn't this series of happenings that can be neatly arranged into boxes and labeled "right" and "wrong". Morality's not as clean cut as you think.

S'BU

I know that.

FRANCO

Do you really?

S'BU

Yes.

FRANCO NODS, THOUGHTFULLY.

FRANCO

In my experience, life is comprised of many shades of grey. Sometimes, what seems wrong, is actually the only thing that's right. Decisions have to be made and lived with.

S'BU GETTING FIRED UP

S'BU

I know and I'm one hundred percent ready. I want you to teach me. Teach me to become a business man like you. Starting now!

FRANCO BEAMS, PATS S'BU ON THE SHOULDER.

FRANCO

Well, who am I to stand in the way of such eagerness to learn.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 9

INT. B.S CHURCH HALL - DAY
(MAMOKETE, SIS BEE, CHURCH LEADER)

EXTRA'S

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LOGLINE: MAMOKETE IS SHOCKED, SHE HAS NOT BEEN NOMINATED AS CONDUCTOR.

MAMOKETE IS PUZZLED BY THE HUSHED WHISPERS AND LOOKS SHE'S RECEIVING FROM HER FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS.

MAMOKETE

(SOFTLY TO SIS BEE)

Is it my imagination, or is everyone staring at me?

SIS BEE HAS NOTICED IT TOO BUT DOESN'T ADMIT TO IT.

SIS BEE

Don't worry about that, lets get a seat before all the good ones are taken.

MAMOKETE AND SIS BEE SIT. THE CHURCH LEADER CALLS EVERYONE TO THEIR ATTENTION.

CHURCH LEADER

Ladies! Ladies! It's time to start the meeting.

EVERYONE SITS.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

Let us begin with a prayer.

EVERYONE BOWS THEIR HEADS.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

Lord, thanks for bringing everyone together on this great day and great occasion. We are all looking forward to the competition and the joy it brings to serve you in this way. AMEN.

AMEN'S ARE HEARD.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

And now comes the exciting part that everyone has been waiting for. Announcing the nominees.

THE CHURCH LEADER PULLS OUT A PIECE OF PAPER.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

Nominations for choir manager are,
MaElizabeth and Maria.

EVERYONE CLAPS.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

And last but not least, the nominations
for choir conductor.

MAMOKETE AND SIS BEE LOOK TO EACH OTHER
EXCITEDLY.

CHURCH LEADER (cont'd)

The nominees are Mam Rose , Lerato and
Mary.

SIS BEE TURNS TO MAMOKETE IN SHOCK

SIS BEE

Your name wasn't called out. It must be a
mistake.

MAMOKETE

Yes. I It must be.

MAMOKETE IS BEWILDERED THAT HER NAME WAS
NOT CALLED OUT.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 10

INT. CHILAS - DAY

(ROSLYN, DYLAN, BRIAN)

(12:00)

LOGLINE; DYLAN MEETS WITH HIS FAMILY TO UPDATE HIS FAMILY ABOUT THE MISCARRIAGE. THEY ARE SURPRISINGLY UPSET.

ROSLYN AND BRIAN ARE AGHAST AT THE NEWS.

ROSLYN

A miscarriage! How? I thought her pregnancy was going well.

DYLAN

It was.

ROSLYN

What reason did the doctors give?

DYLAN SHRUGS.

BRIAN

This is terrible. How is Tshidi?

ROSLYN

Oh Lord! Tshidi, is she okay? She must be devastated.

DYLAN

Physically she's much better. Emotionally, she's obviously struggling to come to terms with this. It's been a shock.

BRIAN

It's a shock for all of us. It's...it's awful.

BEAT, AS BRIAN TENDERLY TOUCHES HIS SONS SHOULDER IN A GESTURE OF SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING.

BRIAN (cont'd)

I'm so sorry son.

DYLAN NODS.

DYLAN

Thank you.

ROSLYN

And how are you holding up?

DYLAN IS TRYING TO PUT ON A BRAVE FACE AND KEEP UP APPEARANCES.

DYLAN

I'm fine actually.

ROSLYN LOOKS TO HER SON SURPRISED, NOT TOO SURE WHETHER TO BELIEVE HIM.

ROSLYN

Really?

DYLAN

(BLASE)

Ja, I mean, sure it's not nice. But what can you do hey? These things kind of happen. Miscarriages are common.

BRIAN

So what does this mean for the wedding?

ROSLYN

And your studies? Do you think you can resume them now?

DYLAN

I can't think about all that stuff right now. I just need some time to deal with this and help Tshidi through it. I'll handle all that other stuff later.

BRIAN

Of course. No pressure.

ROSLYN

And you sure you're okay? I mean, is there anything your dad and I can do to help?

DYLAN

I'm fine. Really.

ROSLYN SUDDENLY GETTING A THOUGHT.

ROSLYN

I must call Kete! How are they doing?

DYLAN

Not well, as you can imagine.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 11

INT. BS. CLINIC - DAY
(SIS BEE, TSHIDI)

(16:00)

LOGLINE; SIS BEE CONFRONTS TSHIDI ABOUT THE REASON FOR THE MISCARRIAGE.

TSHIDI IS STARING INTO SPACE WHEN SIS BEE ENTERS.

SIS BEE

Well, I have some good news for, you're free to go. The clinic is discharging you now that everything's okay.

TSHIDI LOOKS TO SIS BEE UN-ENTHUSED.

TSHIDI

Thanks.

SIS BEE LOOKS A LITTLE CONCERNED.

SIS BEE

Everything is okay, isn't it?

TSHIDI

I guess so.

SIS BEE APPROACHES TSHIDI GENTLY.

SIS BEE

You know, a lot of girls find counselling very helpful in these situations. We have a very good counsellor on staff here. I could arrange a session for you if you like?

TSHIDI

It's okay. I'll be fine. But thanks.

SIS BEE

Sometimes having a miscarriage is harder to deal with than one thinks. Once the physical pain has worn off, a different type of pain can set in.

BEAT.

SIS BEE (cont'd)

And that's often the hardest part to deal with. Some girls even blame themselves for it happening.

TSHIDI REACTS.

TSHIDI

Why would I blame myself?

SHE STARTS SUBTLY ASKING QUESTIONS AROUND THE MISCARRIAGE.

SIS BEE

Well, your miscarriage was very sudden and unexpected. Wasn't it?

TSHIDI LOOKS TO SIS BEE CONFUSED.

TSHIDI

What do you mean?

SIS BEE

I mean, your ma told me your pregnancy was pregnancy was progressing perfectly. There weren't any previous complications? And there weren't any warning signs, were there?

TSHIDI STARTS TO FEEL LIKE SHE'S BEING PUT ON THE SPOT.

TSHIDI

(DEFENSIVE)

During my medical studies, I've learnt that miscarriages are very common and unpredictable. There are often no warning signs at all.

SIS BEE

Of course you're right Tshidi but, it's just that your miscarriage seems to follow a very familiar pattern. One I've seen quite a lot in this hospital.

TSHIDI

What pattern?

SIS BEE

It's not unlike the miscarriages that have been self induced with the abortion pill.

TSHIDI

What?

SIS BEE

Tshidi, I'm just going to ask. Did you have any part to play in loosing your baby?

TSHIDI LOOKS AT HER, COMPLETELY UNSURE WHAT TO SAY.

CUT TO:

ACT 2, SCENE 12

INT. LUCILLA'S HOME - DAY
(MILES, LUCILLA)

(17:00)

LOGLINE; MILES TELLS LUCILLA EVERYTHING.

MILES RETURNS HOME TO FIND LUCILLA SITTING ON THE COUCH LOOKING VERY SERIOUS. A SMALL PACKET BAG SITS NEXT TO HER. (IT'S PART OF HER PLAN TO FORCE MILES TO TELL HER WHAT'S UP)

MILES SEES THE BAG.

MILES

What's that?

LUCILLA

What's going on Miles?

MILES

(FEIGNING IGNORANCE)

What are you talking about?

LUCILLA

You and Ivan. I wasn't born yesterday, I know the two of you are up to something and I demand to know what it is?

MILES

It's better you don't know. Trust me.

LUCILLA GETTING ANGRY.

LUCILLA

Well let me put it this way, if you don't tell me what the hell is going on, you and I are over.

MILES

Lulu, please.

LUCILLA

I'm serious. I'm not putting up with a second more of this.

MILES

Fine-

MILES SQUARES HIS SHOULDERS, LOOKS HER IN THE EYES, AND TELLS HER EVERYTHING

MILES (cont'd)

I've taken out a hit on Franco. Very soon, he'll be out of our lives forever.

OUT ON A SHOCKED LUCILLA.

END OF EPISODE # 923