

ABUYISE UBUHLE WAMI

Written by

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SHORT FILM LOGLINE:

A former kick-boxing champion has to race against time to save her kidnapped daughter from her psycho ex-husband.

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We see an upscale kitchen, sitting on top of the kitchen counter with her schoolbag besides her is BUHLE, (9), preparing a lunchbox is NONTLE, late-20s, she's busy fidgeting with the lunch box, clenching her teeth and her cellphone is on the kitchen counter too and the lunchbox accidently falls onto the floor.

NONTLE

Dammit!

BEAT.

BUHLE

Mommy, is everything okay?

NONTLE

Yes, yes, honey, mommy's fine.

She picks up the lunchbox and she continues to prepare the lunchbox.

BUHLE

Mommy, where is daddy? I have not seen him for ages --

Nontle is not amused and she glares at her.

NONTLE

-- Don't you dare ask me about that man!

(beat)

Look, honey, I'm sorry. Mommy's having a bad time at work.

We hear the CAR HOOTING from outside.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

Your transport is here.

She gets off the counter and grabs the lunchbox and she leaves.

BUHLE (O.S.)

Bye, mommy.

NONTLE

(warily)

Bye, honey. See you later.

BEAT.

Her cellphone rings. It READS: INCOMING CALL - NDUMISO

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

BEAT.

NDUMISO, late-30s, is calling her. Her eyes are wide open, she gasps and she glances around the kitchen. She grabs the cellphone and she rushes to the living room.

CUT TO:

2 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

2

Nontle promptly emerges into the living room and she rushes towards the window. She peeps through the window.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

3

We see the TRANSPORT DRIVER, late-30s, opening the door for Buhle and Buhle gets inside the car. The Transport Driver gets into the car. The car zips away.

CUT TO:

4 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

4

Nontle SIGHS in relief and she answers the incoming call. She's not amused at all.

NONTLE

(into phone)

Didn't I tell you to stay away from us!?

NDUMISO

(through phone)

Give a man a break. Can't I say hello, Nontle?

NONTLE

(into phone)

If you continue calling, I promise you that I am going to call the police.

NDUMISO

(through phone)

Is this how you talk to me now?

(beat)

Look, I'm not here to fight you. Just forward me the location so that I can see my daughter.

(CONTINUED)

NONTLE
 (into phone)
 In your dreams. You'll never see
 her again.

NDUMISO
 (through phone)
 Oh!? Okay, we'll see about that.

NONTLE
 (into phone)
 Do yourself a favour. Block my
 number and I'll do the same.

Ndumiso chuckles.

NDUMISO
 (through phone)
 Do you still play chess?

NONTLE
 (into phone)
 Go to hell.

She hangs up the call.

BEAT.

CUT TO:

The school bell rings. Cars parked outside the school gate and we see school children bursting through the gate, rushing to their transports.

BEAT.

A car pulls over and we see Ndumiso stepping out of the car, wearing his shades and leans against the car, casually crossing his arms, trying to find his daughter, he sees a bunch of school children bursting through the gate -- Buhle is amongst the other children, her eyes accidently meets Ndumiso's eyes. She stops and she glances at him. She BEAMS at him.

BEAT.

He flags his hand to her and she pushes through the other school children, rushing to him.

BUHLE
 Daddy!

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

She hugs him and he gently carries her.

NDUMISO
Hey, Buhle. You're good?

BUHLE
I'm fantastic, daddy.

NDUMISO
You want ice cream?

She nods. He glances around to see if nobody notices him. He opens the back door of the car and he puts her into the car. He closes the door and he gets into the car, on the driver's seat, closes the door, ignites the car and the car zips away.

CUT TO:

6 INT. CAR - DAY

6

Buhle is sitting in the back seat and Ndumiso's hands are clenched on the steering wheel, shades on, glancing through the window screen. Then, he glances at Buhle through mirror.

NDUMISO
Sweetheart, are you okay?

She nods.

BUHLE
Daddy?

NDUMISO
Yes?

BUHLE
Where are we going?

NDUMISO
Like I said, where going out for ice cream.

She beams and he beams too.

CUT TO:

7 INT. GYM STUDIO - DAY

7

We see an upscale gym studio, mirrors on the wall, boxing ring in the centre of the gym studio.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

We see Nontle and the COUCH, late-40s, busy sparring inside the boxing ring, she's sweating all over face, hands clenched in gloves aggressively punching the Couches hands disguised in gloves -- and he thrusts her onto the floor, she laughs.

COUCH

Time up.

NONTLE

Come on, time up already?

She stands.

COUCH

I told you that thirty minutes is enough. Tomorrow again.

NONTLE

Okay, that's my call to hit the shower then.

They chuckle and they leave the ring. She approaches a bench with her sports bag on top of the bench, she grabs her bag and her cellphone simultaneously rings --she puts on the bench and she pulls out her cellphone from the bag. And:

NONTLE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hello.

TRANSPORT DRIVER

(through phone)

Did you pick up Buhle from school?

NONTLE

(into phone)

No. Aren't you supposed to pick her up?

TRANSPORT DRIVER

(through phone)

There's no sign of Buhle at school. I even asked her teachers where is she and they said that they don't know.

She begins to panic.

NONTLE

(into phone)

Don't tell me you lost my daughter. Look for her. Now!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

She hangs up the call and she grabs her sports bag and she storms out of the gym studio.

CUT TO:

8 INT. CAR - DAY

8

We see Nontle sitting on the driver's seat, hands clenched onto the steering wheel and she glances at the school gate and it dead quiet. She leans back and she touches her forehead, worried about her daughter, Buhle.

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

9 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

9

Nontle SIGHS in relief and she answers the incoming call. She's not amused at all.

NONTLE
(into phone)
Didn't I tell you to stay away from us!?

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Give a man a break. Can't I say hello, Nontle?

NONTLE
(into phone)
If you continue calling, I promise you that I am going to call the police.

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Is this how you talk to me now?
(beat)
Look, I'm not here to fight you. Just forward me the location so that I can see my daughter.

NONTLE
(into phone)
In your dreams. You'll never see her again.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Oh!? Okay, we'll see about that.

CUT TO:

END FLASHBACK.

10 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

10

She hits the steering wheel out of frustration.

NONTLE
(to herself)
Dammit! You should read in between
the lines, Nontle.

She grabs her cellphone and she calls Ndumiso.

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Hey, you got the message?
Checkmate!

NONTLE
(into phone)
Ndumiso, I don't have time for your
stupid games. Give my daughter
back!

NDUMISO
(through phone)
You mean our daughter?

NONTLE
(into phone)
Ndumiso, leave our daughter out of
this. Stop being a coward and face
me!

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Look, I don't have our daughter
with me, you should know where
Buhle is, you full custody of her -
-

And we hear Buhle in the background --

BUHLE
(through phone)
Daddy, I want ice cream.

(CONTINUED)

NONTLE
(into phone)
Give my daughter back or else
you'll face my wrath.

NDUMISO
(through phone)
You think I'm scared?

He laughs.

NDUMISO (CONT'D)
(through phone)
You have some serious jokes to
spare.

NONTLE
(into phone)
Fuck you, Ndumiso!

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Look, let's do it like this, I
forward you the location of where I
am and you don't involve the
police. Deal?

NONTLE
(into phone)
Sure.

NDUMISO
(through phone)
Fare enough?

She hangs up the call. She thrusts her cellphone onto the passenger seat. She pulls a pistol gun from the case above the passenger seat. She cocks the pistol gun and she shoves it inside the pocket of her leather jacket.

BEAT.

She ignites the car, clenches her hands onto the steering wheel and the car zips away.

CUT TO:

A car makes its way and pulls over at the driveway and Nontle gets out of the car, in her leather jacket, skinny pants and heels. She glances at mansion and her cellphone mysteriously rings.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

NONTLE
(into phone)
Okay, I'm here. Now what?

We see Ndumiso slowly walking behind her, holding a gun in his hand.

NDUMISO
(through phone)
You listen to instructions quite well, don't you?

NONTLE
(into phone)
Oh, cut it, Ndumiso --

Just when she's about to turn -- he beats her with the gun on her head, she collapses and:

NDUMISO
Gotcha! You bitch!

He puts away his gun and he carries her. We see him walk away with her in his arms.

CUT TO:

12 INT. NDUMISO'S MANSION - ROOM - NIGHT

12

It is dimmed in here. Nontle is all tied up on the chair, bleeding on her forehead, bruises and cuts on her lips. Sitting across her is her weeping daughter, Buhle, she's not tied up but ruthlessly locked up with her mother.

BEAT.

Nontle startles, she glances at her daughter with a BLURRY VISION. She tries her best to get rid of the ropes that's she's tied up with but she's not winning.

BEAT.

She opens her eyes wide. And:

NONTLE
Baby?

BUHLE
(whimpering)
-- Mommy. Mommy, want to go home.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

NONTLE

We're going to go home, honey. Come
and untie mommy.

She quickly gets off the chair and she heads behind the chair
where Nontle is seated, she kneels down, battling to untie
Nontle.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

Make it snappy, honey.

She eventually unties her. She stands and she kneels down,
she hugs her daughter, and she whimpers.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

-- My baby.

BEAT.

CUT TO:

13 INT. NDUMISO'S MANSION - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 13

We see Ndumiso graciously whistling, grocery plastic in hand,
he reaches the door and he pulls out the keys from his
pocket.

CUT TO:

14 INT. NDUMISO'S MANSION - ROOM - CONTINUOUS 14

We hear Ndumiso whistling from outside the room, door keys
wiggling. Nontle is seated at the same chair, head facing
down, pretending to be tied up, sitting across her is Buhle.
Ndumiso bursts through the door. He laughs and he saunters
toward Nontle. He glares at her.

NDUMISO

Wake up.

She tilts her head up, pretending to be in agony, she glances
at him.

NONTLE

What?

BUHLE

Daddy, I want to go home?

He turns and glances at Buhle. Nontle sits up straight, she
pulls a pistol gun from her jacket.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

She aggressively kicks him from behind, on his butt, he drops the groceries plastic, he bends, tries to move toward the door, trying to pull out his gun. Nontle points at him with the gun.

NONTLE

Think again!

He stands and raises his arms.

NDUMISO

Okay, you win.

NONTLE

What were you trying to do?

He saunters towards her.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

Stay fuck'in back!

NDUMISO

Nontle, I'm not going to hurt you --

He quickly squeezes into her and he battles to pull the gun away from her. Buhle freaks out. And:

NDUMISO (CONT'D)

(grunting)

Just give me the fuck'in gun bitch!

BUHLE

(whimpering)

Mommy! No, daddy, don't hurt mommy!

NONTLE

In your dreams.

She hits him with her knee onto his gut, he holds his gut and she kicks him onto his face and he falls onto the floor, crawling backwards on the floor. She saunters towards, while she's glaring at him, and while he battles to pull out a gun from his jacket, Nontle points at him with the pistol gun.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

(to Buhle)

Honey? Close your eyes.

Buhle quickly disguises her eyes, scared.

NONTLE (CONT'D)

(to Ndumiso)

Nice try.

She pulls the trigger. GUNSHOT.

CUT TO BLACK.

15 **INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS**

15

We see Buhle seated in the back seat. Nontle jumps into the driver's seat, she glances at Buhle in the mirror.

NONTLE

Fasten your safety belt.

While Buhle fastens her safety belt. Nontle, puts on her shades, fastens her safety belt, slots in the car keys, pulls the hand break, clenches her hands onto the steering wheel.

BUHLE

Mommy, are we going home?

NONTLE

You're safe, now, sweetheart.

She confidently ignites the car.

CUT TO:

16 **INT. NDUMISO'S MANSION - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS**

16

We see the car making its way out of the yard.

FADE OUT.

THE END