

The Elevator

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INT. APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. -MORNING

On a couch, sits a man and a woman. Hate and anger in their eyes. This is clearly after an argument. LEBOGANG, 20, though still in her pajamas, beautiful, looks at Sizwe, 20, rugged and handsome(in pajamas too), with disgust.

She stands, her eyes remain fixed on Sizwe, clutches both her fists. Sizwe looks at her dead in the eye too, as if begging her to say something.

LEBOGANG

I am going to take a shower.

SIZWE

Good, don't be long. I'm also late for work.

LEBOGANG

Who said you weren't?

SIZWE

I didn't say that you...(Off Lebogang's angry face)...All I was saying is-

LEBOGANG

You know what? Never mind. I don't even know why I bother with you.

Lebogang exits the living room.

SIZWE

(To himself)

One of these days...

LEBOGANG(O.S)

One of these days what?

She walks back in.

LEBOGANG(CONT'D)

You're going to leave me? you're going to do what you've been dying to do for the last month? Is that it?

She stands over a still seated Sizwe. He buries his head in his palms in disbelief and aggravation.

He stands.

(CONTINUED)

SIZWE

You know what? Let me go take a shower. You clearly don't know what you want to do.

LEBOGANG

You mean like you?...in this relationship?

SIZWE

(Sarcastic)

Ha-ha, very funny. I'm the one who's trying to save this relationship. I'm the-

LEBOGANG

Exactly how are y-

SIZWE

Shut the fuck up and listen for a second. This is why we're fighting in the first place. You don't listen.

LEBOGANG

Is that so? When you were talking to "MELISA!" a week ago, who do you think was listening?

Sizwe is lost for words. He shakes his head, shrugs his shoulders and hugs his waist.

LEBOGANG(CONT'D)

Huh? (Off Sizwe's emotionless face)
Don't just stand there, answer me!
Who do you think was listening? Mr
"Thank you, Melisa. I can't wait to see you tomorrow. I want to thank you in person." You know how thin the walls are in this shitty apartment. I want my own house, our house. Like we promised each other.

SIZWE

(Disappointed)

You eavesdrop on me now? I was in the bathroom when I said that.
For-A-Reason.

Lebogang doesn't buy it.

(CONTINUED)

SIZWE(CONT'D)
(Off Lebogang's face)
We'll be late for work.

Sizwe exits the living room, leaves Lebogang standing still, as if bolted to the ground.

INT. APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. A FEW MINUTES LATER

Sizwe and Lebogang, neatly dressed, impatiently wait for the elevator. It is the only way to get to the bottom floor.

They both go for the elevator button at the same time. It does nothing as it was already pressed a few seconds ago. Finally, the elevator beeps and opens. They both go inside. looking at everything else but the other person.

INT. APARTMENT. ELEVATOR. -CONTINUOUS

They both go for the button marked "G" For Ground Floor. Awkward.

The elevator goes down a floor, then another, then abruptly stops. They both look at each other with concern, they're already late for work. They glance at their watches. Time is not on their side.

LEBOGANG
What the?...No No No. I'm late
already.

She presses the G again, the elevator is stuck. She presses some more, like a crazy woman.

SIZWE
STOP!. It's stuck. That's not going
to do anything.

Sizwe's words fall on deaf ears. Lebogang continues. She pushes every button now.

SIZWE(CONT'D)
This is exactly what I was saying
earlier on. You do not listen to
me. It's stuck. Leave it.

Lebogang continues regardless, every push of each button now slower and more powerful. She is slowly succumbing to the fatigue of exerting that much energy in such a rapid fashion. For some reason, she's teary eyed.

(CONTINUED)

Sizwe gets closer to her from behind, wraps his hands around her and pulls her away from the elevator's buttons, gently so, as she fights to break free from his grip but no longer has the energy she had a few minutes ago.

SIZWE(CONT'D)

Baby. Babe. Baby...

LEBOGANG

(Sobs)

No...No.

SIZWE

It's okay. Baby, Look at me...

He gently turns Lebogang around, she tries to fight it but no longer can. He keeps his hands wrapped around her waist the whole time.

She can't look at him, she looks down and sobs some more, burying her face in his chest.

SIZWE(CONT'D)

It's okay. Babe, You hear me? It's okay. I'm sorry. I know, I understand now. I've been distant. I've been acting like I don't know how lucky I am. I haven't been giving you my undivided attention. I'm sorry. Okay? I love you.

Lebogang sobs some more, face still buried in Sizwe's chest.

LEBOGANG

(Murmurs)

What's wrong with me? What's wrong with me Sizwe? Do you not find me attractive anymore? You barely look at me, you barely touch me. We've only made love once this month, and it's the 28th. I feel ugly.

Sizwe puts Lebogang's face in between his hands and looks at her in the eye, affectionately.

SIZWE

(Dead serious)

Hey, Listen. You are not ugly. The word beautiful doesn't even describe how you look. You hear me? You are not the most beautiful thing in the world, but the world is beautiful because you're in it. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

LEBOGANG

Then...then why are you talking to women in the bathroom, at night? Coming home late, not looking at me like you used to. You've changed ever since we moved to this apartment. I hate this apartment.

SIZWE

Baby, listen. I wanted it to be a surprise. I got promoted earlier this month. Melisa is a Real Estate agent. This new position and my extra hours will be enough to help us buy our dream house, cash, and move in this month. I didn't mean to hurt you baby. I'm sorry.

LEBOGANG

What? Why didn't you tell me? And...and, I'm supposed to believe you just like that? What Real Estate agent calls a client at 8 pm? Huh?

SIZWE

One that-

Sizwe's phone rings. He looks at Lebogang as if begging her to let him answer it just this once. She clearly disapproves. His hand leaves Lebogang's face for his pocket. He mouths the words "I'm sorry" as he puts it to his ear.

SIZWE(CONT'D)

Melisa.

Lebogang rolls her eyes.

MELISA(V.O)

Sizwe, I hope I'm not interrupting.

SIZWE

(Off Lebogang's disapproving face)

No, not at all. Please tell me you have good news.

MELISA(V.O)

I believe you will be moving in to your dream house this month end?

(CONTINUED)

SIZWE
(Excited)
What?! No.

MELISA(V.O)
Yes. The house is yours. Your wife
will be so happy. She's very lucky.
You went all out for this. Send her
my love.

Lebogang's wet face lights up.

SIZWE
(Looks at Lebogang. Deeply)
No. I am Lucky. She's going to be
so happy. Thank You. Melisa.

He hangs up. Lebogang cups Sizwe's face and kisses him
deeply. In an erotic fashion. She holds on for dear life.

A beat.

She lets go, catches her breath.

LEBOGANG
I love you.

SIZWE
I love you too.