

## THE FARMHOUSE

The year was 1948, it was around summer and the weather was hell hot although it was in the middle of the night. The 200 hectare Dubois farm was quiet, livestock was asleep and it was peaceful. Inside the main house, a sprawling white Tuscan-style mansion, the walls were painted white and the furniture had a Victorian theme except for the large kitchen with white wooden cupboards. The man of the house, the reclusive 60-year old Jean-Luc Dubois was sitting alone and relaxing on his navy blue couch by the fireplace in the lounge area. The mysterious pale-faced farmer had his long black hair styled with a ponytail and he loved smoking his pipe. As he was busy fixated on the pipe, his trusted maid, a young heavily pregnant dark skinned girl got inside the triangular shaped lounge.

The aura was a bit tense, cold and eerie as the short, curly and thick haired girl served him supper. It is now midnight and the clock ticked and ticked and as Jean-Luc sat on his large bed, the timid girl entered carrying a bowl to wash his feet. The deafening silent was interrupted by animals getting restless and the weather turned cold, breezy and windy. The pale-face has already turned into a vampire as he drowned his fangs in the girl's neck. She stood there emotionless.

After a morbid yet strange event, the man with an imposing stature stopped and with his teeth back to normal yet soaked in blood went back to his white bed and closed his eyes.

It is now closer to the morning as the girl who was now in her room felt an excruciating pain in her stomach. She screamed in agonising pain and an old woman came and helped her to give birth. As the twins were born, violent storms and thunderous rains occurred. As the tiny boy and girl cried, the weather went back to normal and their mother suffered a seizure and died on the spot.

It was now in the 1960s and it was in the peaceful Dikan village in the middle of the thick bushes and the children were busy collecting wood in the nearby forest. One of the children went the other way and as he walked through the trees, he heard a growling noise and out of curiosity, he went to check what it was. The petrified boy found a strange man covered in a heavy yet torn animal coat and he ran back to his friends and they came back to see him.

He opened his eyes and they had blood shot in them and he was still growling like a wild animal. They tried to touch him but he tried to scare them away but they were persistent. They were alarmed and ran back to the village meanwhile the first boy took him to his hut. His mother went to fetch the woods. He lied on the mud floor while the boy gave him water. His fangs appeared as he opened his mouth but the boy was aghast.

In the evening his mother arrived and was startled to find a strange man in her hut. She tried to chase him with a stick but the boy stopped him. Meanwhile a war was brewing between the peaceful Dikan tribe and the Mohemu tribe. Mohemu king was all of sudden ruthless and his army was out of the blue bloodthirsty. Before the two were living together in peace but years later, the king had change from a peaceful leader to a ruthless one who led in tyranny. They arrived along with the equally ruthless princess at night and waited for the Dikan village to go to sleep before they attack them. They waited in the bush.

The princess and the king “strangely” never appeared in the morning or afternoon and they held their meeting with the villagers at night and the villagers never knew of the king having a daughter. The Mohemu army attacked the village and some villagers managed to escape and hid in the thick bushes. The mysterious loner was woken by the screams of the villagers and he went to outside the hut and pounced on the bloodthirsty army. After defeating them, he came face to face with the “princess” but she vanished into the bush.

Fast forward it is now the year 1984 and a combi arrived at a secluded Hillcrest motel. It was quiet and in the middle of the night. Two guys and two girls in their teens climbed out. They were drunk and loud. They booked a room and continued making noise in the room. The owner, Mr. Sanchez was watching them closely from his office. One of the couples sneaked into a bathroom and they were suddenly attacked by a shadowy figure. The other two were panicking and they ended up searching for their friends and the guy went to the bathroom alone while the girl remained in the room.

He was also attacked and his blood was sucked from his neck by a ferocious woman. The girl went to check on her boyfriend and she found him bitten by a vampire. She was petrified and she tried to escape but the motel had no exit doors. The woman vampire was coming after her. Then the girl was grabbed by someone from behind. The strange man found an exit door for her and she was able to escape. In the morning the police came to check the motel but all they found was an abandoned farm.

Fast forward... it was now 2018. Lerato, a tall, dark skinned girl with blonde crops and her three friends were busy robbing a shop in their small town of Mahikeng. Afterwards they went to a tavern to celebrate and went home later that night. While she was sleeping with her two young siblings, her rowdy uncle arrived. He was drunk and loud. Lerato could not take it and stabbed him.

Lerato was arrested and she was sent to prison. Meanwhile her friend, the rough and shaved tomboy, Nana continued robbing people and shops nearby. Somebody tipped the police and she was also arrested. She met up with Lerato in prison and in the middle of night, a truck came to fetch them. They were taken to a secluded, haunting farm in the middle of a bush. The burly female warder, Ms. Potgieter led them into the tight security compound. "Welcome ladies, this is now your new home", she explained to them with a smug. The farm was large but it seemed there was no one in sight and had that unwelcoming and cold aura. The girls were shown their room and luckily Lerato and Nana shared the same room. The room was neat with white sheet but it was concrete floor. The windows had huge impenetrable burglars and no lights.

"I hate this place", Nana said furiously. Later that night at around 12h00 midnight, they were woken up. Nana was agitated because she was woken from a deep sleep. Ms. Potgieter was waiting for them outside. Four girls appeared from nowhere and came to join the new four girls. They were carrying guns while Lerato and the new girls were given shotguns. Ms. Potgieter called them back. "Here, you do as I say, no questions asked, no answers replied", she sternly warned them.

The four girls were "playing" around with their guns while the new ones stood there stunned. At around 04h00, the girls vanished into the dark and the new girls went back to their room. Lerato was unsettled but she kept her cool while Nana on the other hand ranted. It was deathly silent.

The next day in the middle of the night, they were again woken up but this time they were taken inside a truck and it drove off. In a speed of light, they robbed a bank and sped off. Their robbing spree continued. The police tried to investigate but there were no traces of anyone and anything.

Then one night as the girls were practising, a shadowy figure appeared from nowhere and stood in front of them. She was wearing a black mask and a black outfit. As she walked through the girls, she did not utter a word and just went inside the compound. Meanwhile someone was watching them closely. Lerato heard strange noises coming from a nearby bush but Ms. Potgieter was watching her like a hawk.

The following night, they went for another robbery and this time, the strange woman was the one driving them. But it seemed the police were given a tip off because they were waiting anxiously for them. The police chased them and it was adrenalin with bullets flying in the air. Police chased them but the mysterious robbers vanished into the dark night without a trace. The town was on a panic mode.

Back at the farm, the wardress was busy congratulating them for their good job. “My girls, you made mama proud”, she laughed. “So, we are not going to get anything because we are prisoners”, Lerato yelled. They both went to Ms. Potgieter’s office but strangely it was empty. “What the h...”, asked Nana as she looked around in disbelief. They went to check other rooms and the rooms were empty and they looked old and abandoned with rats running around. “What is going on here”, Lerato asked surprised.

They looked outside but strangely they could not see outside although there were windows. It was just other rooms that just appeared from nowhere. They ran back to their room and Lerato tried to peep through the burglars and she could only see rooms.

“This is not the time to cry, we have to get out of this place”, Nana replied. Lerato was frustrated and she tried to come up with a plan to escape. It was now at night and they were ordered to go outside and they found other girls enjoying themselves smoking and drinking. The wardress was watching them like a hawk and a mysterious figure was also watching the compound and it was hiding in the bush.

The Kleindorp community was now living in fear because of the spate of robberies and a strike emerged and the town became unstable with roads blocked and chaos erupted. The mayor was frustrated and the wardress paid him a “visit”. Outside his office the media and the police has already surrounded the place. Jessica Thorne was there to cover the event for her news channels, AT TV and TV show, On the Edge. “What happened here”, she asked herself. She tried to interview the police and the injured security guards but she was stopped by one of the police officers as the camera crew followed her. Jessica was a sassy, blonde haired 31- year old young woman and she was the executive producer and host of the current affairs show, On the Edge. Back at the mayor’s office, he was having an intense smug as he watched what was happening outside on his television.in the meantime the wardress ’uniform was lying on the floor as the “mayor stroked his cigar. “This is my town”! I am back”, he whispered.

Back at the compound it was in the middle of the night and as Nana and Lerato were having a rest, Nana was already fast asleep while Lerato was restless as she was thinking of a way to escape. She heard as sound in the window. She woke up and went to check it. She saw a shadowy figure calling her and at first she thought she was going insane but she checked again. And within a blink of an eye, she found herself in the bush with trees hovering over her. She looked around frightened and when she tried to ran, hands out of nowhere grabbed her and as she tried to free herself, the hands were too strong for her. She was pulled to the dark and when she turned around, she found herself facing a weird looking and strange man with blood coming out of his mouth. She got the fright of her life that she collapsed right on the spot but the “man” carried her into the thick bush.

Nana in the meantime found herself alone in the room and when they called outside, the masked woman noticed that she was alone and the girls went back to their room to search for Lerato and she was nowhere to be found. The masked woman was so furious that the girls grabbed her and pushed her to the ground. The masked woman took off her mask and she had fangs and blood was dripping out of her mouth. She hovered over her and Nana collapsed from shock. In the morning, Lerato found herself lying in animal skinned coat and she tried to get up but she was too weak. There was nobody in sight and she looked around, the farm was nowhere to be found and she was surrounded by trees, grass and huge rocks.

Few kilometres away from Kleindorp, a small farming and railroad town which was made of only five streets, a line of shops and an old railway station was very quiet. It was a small community and everyone knew everyone. On the first street near the railway station, there was a white house with a veranda which looked abandoned with lawn in front of it. It was in the middle of the day but strangely, the house was locked although there were people inside. The Kotze' family lived a recluse life.

Inside the house, the family of five, the husband, the wife and two sons were sitting for supper. It was silent. Minutes later the wife got up from her chair and went to the kitchen and took out a large bowl and filled it with blood. She took it to the small dark room at the edge of the house. The room was locked and as she opened it, there was a growling inside and a gaunt figure crept out under the single bed and crawled towards the bowl. She immediately ran out of the room. They continued with their supper. In the middle of the night, the weird man escaped through the window and disappeared through the night.

Meanwhile Jessica was watching video footages of a spate of robberies that occurred the previous week. "In one night, these people robbed so many banks. I have to find out what is going on here", said Jessica. She and her camera crew rushed to see all banks that were robbed. At the first bank, she interviewed one of the police officers and he told her that a strange thing has happened during the robbery. The video footage inside the bank was blank. Later that evening she had a romantic date with her boyfriend, Wayne at the Sousa Café. Outside the restaurant the weird man was watching them intensely. He quietly followed them when they drove to Jessica's flat nearby.

Back at the bush, Lerato woke up feeling dizzy and she could not move because her leg was swollen. A while later, a mysterious man came out of nowhere and smeared leaves on her leg mixed with saliva. At first Lerato was feeling disgusted but she gave in. “Can you speak”, she asked out of curiosity. The man just stared at her weirdly and continued sharpening a sword with thick branch. “Okay, I am sorry”, she pleaded hesitantly.

Back at the compound, Nana and the girls continued robbing banks and causing chaos in town. The mayor did not care and continue arguing with the police captain by his lack of enthusiasm in curbing crime. In the meantime, Jessica was busy investigating the mysterious robberies that were taking place and she went to the police station. Captain Moje was busy taking out his frustrations on his police force. After a brief meeting Jessica met up with him. They went into his office.” Yes, what can I do for you, Miss....” he asked patronisingly. “You know why I am here, captain”! He gave her an arrogant stare. “These spates of robberies are not done by average criminals. These people are highly skilled and I have a feeling that they are beyond your expertise, captain”!

Captain Moje was furious and he showed Jessica the door. “What do you know about this, nothing? So don’t come here with your two cent worth of knowledge and think you know how we do our work. Go back to your TV and leave us to do our job”! Jessica shook her head in dismay and turned around. “You know that I am telling the truth. No matter how much you try to hide real facts, this time won’t work for you, Captain”! She stormed out. She drove outside town and went to the mental institution in the outskirt of Johannesburg.

The building was dreary, lonely and quiet. Jessica arrived and she went straight to the rooms upstairs. There were strange noises around and screams. She entered the last room in that section. She opened the door and a frail woman was sitting in a wheelchair by the window. Her face was pale and grey and she didn’t blink. Jessica sat next to her and a little later a nurse came and asked her to leave. Later that night the bedridden woman was fast asleep when someone came through the window. It was Hendrick and he was carrying Jessica’s picture and he put it next to her and quickly climbed out the window.

Back at Jessica’s flat, she arrived late at night and she could not wait to rest. She took off her high heels and went to the kitchen to make herself a cup of coffee. But someone was watching her from the back of the door and while she was not looking, the intruder attacked her. She tried to fight back but the masked intruder was too strong for her. Hendrick jumped on top of the intruder and pulled out the mask and it was one of the compound girls. She pushed him aside and escaped through the window. Jessica rushed to the kitchen and took out the knife and pointed it to Hendrick. “Who are you and what are you doing in my house”, she nervously asked.

He gave him a creepy stare with his red eyeballs and unkempt blonde short hair. Jessica was afraid but she kept it to herself, “I have asked you a question, who are you”, she asked him as she moving backwards. He gave him a picture of her mother and Jessica as a baby. She grabbed it from his clawed fingers and looked at it with tears rolling down her cheeks. “No, it can’t be, it cannot be”, she cried. He vanished through the night leaving Jessica crying.

Hendrick found himself in the bush and he met up with the mysterious man and they went back to where Lerato was. She was terrified and she tried to escape but it seemed she was running around one place. She gave in. Jessica was busy driving on the road when she noticed an abandoned farm and she was carrying a historical novel and when she checked the farm on the pictures she discovered that it looked like the same farm. She stopped the car and tried to get inside the abandoned yard. Everything was broken and it was quiet and there was no life. As she walked around, she saw something moving in the nearby bush and she tried to run after it and she found out it was Hendrick who was watching her all along. “I now know what we are dealing with, can you help me... dad”, she asked.

The father and the daughter went deep inside the bush and they found Lerato sitting on a rock while the man was standing there emotionless. She greeted them and Kealeboga was relieved. “Thanks for coming, I want to go home, please”? Jessica reassured her that she will take her home afterwards.

They waited until midnight and watched as the masked bunch came out of the compound along with the masked woman. They were followed by Captain Moje. Jessica was in disbelief. As they prepare to get inside the truck, the foursome pounced on them and a vicious fight began. Lerato tried to rescue her friend Nana but she had changed into a vampire and a fight broke out between them. She tried to bite her but Lerato fought back meanwhile the girls were fighting to the bitter end. The twins finally met face to face and they fought like devils and as they fought, Hendrick grabbed Jessica’s lighter ad burnt the whole place. The fire raged on as Captain Moje tried to escape, the fire caught him. The twins ended up being eaten by the raging fire. Hendrick was nowhere to be found and the two women sped off.

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