

CHARACTER: NAZIHA

AGE: 30

11. INT. KALIFAH'S RESIDENCE- DAY

Binta is shown in and she goes straight to the parlour where Ziha sits, looking forlorn. Ziha looks up and gives a tired smile

ZIHA

Binta, I'm so glad you could come.
I'm sorry for just calling you out
of the blue and making you change
your plans like that

Binta sits down and touches Ziha's arm with a smile

BINTA

Haba Ziha- what are friends for?
Besides, you sounded so...sad. And
you look tired too

ZIHA

Oh, my brother-in-law came for a
visit and...well, lets just say
that he can be a draining person

Binta raises her brows

BINTA

Really? Aren't all in-laws supposed
to be strange though?

Ziha is about to answer when Hamza's voice booms across as he comes down the stairs

HAMZA

Ziha! Ziha, that your houseboy
spoiled my caftan fa! I don't...

He strides in and stops when he sees Binta and grins

HAMZA (CONT'D)

Oh hello. Ziha didn't mention she
had company

ZIHA

(surprised laugh)
Ah ah? I should inform you about my
guests kuma?

HAMZA

At least the beautiful ones so I
can make myself presentable.
(his eyes take on a feral
gleam as he approaches
Binta)
And who is this delectable lady?

BINTA

(amused smile)
My name is Binta Kutigi. You must
be Alhaji Kalifah's brother. There
is a resemblance

HAMZA

Does that mean I am handsome? I
hear people commenting on Kalifah's
fineness all the time so I guess I
should be flattered

Binta gives a smile and indulgent nod. He gives her the once
over

HAMZA (CONT'D)

How I wish I didn't have to travel
today. I would have loved to take
you out to dinner so that we could
get to know ourselves better

Binta gives a dry smile and speaks in mild sarcasm

BINTA

I suppose that is a great loss for
me. Perhaps next time.

Hamza nods and then turns to Ziha who has an indulgently
patient look on her face

HAMZA

Please excuse me- let me go and
finish packing then

He turns to go back up the stairs but when he is out of sight
he slows his steps, ready to eavesdrop. The ladies begin to
speak, Ziha looking hurt

ZIHA

I asked you to come to confide in
you...I ...I don't have many
friends and Kalifah...well, he
doesn't encourage visitors.

Sure of...Binta nods, listening

ZIHA (CONT'D)

I have had a nagging suspicion for a while...that Kalifah is seeing someone else.

Binta raises her brows and leans back against the chair

BINTA

Are you sure? And in any case...are you not prepared for him to marry a second wife?

Ziha shakes her head slowly

ZIHA

I dont think Kalifah is planning to marry another woman. He may be the worst husband in the world but he is not the type to marry two wives. Reasons nwhy I suspect there is something about this woman that he doesnt want people to know about.

BINTA

How do you mean?

ZIHA

I have a strong feeling he is hiding her because she is not a Muslim or comes from the North. He is a prince don't forget, he knows what he is suppose to do and what not to.

(her voice cracks and she clears her throat)

Well, I guess it wouldn't hurt me so much if I didn't actually love him.

BINTA

But are you sure...?

ZIHA

I am very sure Binta. He is having an affair with a Kafira! And that can get him into trouble.

Ziha closes her eyes and takes a ragged breath before looking at Binta. Hamza nods in realisation.

ZIHA (CONT'D)

A woman always knows, Binta. We feel it...sense it.

(MORE)

ZIHA (CONT'D)

There is another woman in his life
and he is being so secretive
and...I just know.

Binta bites her lip, uncertain

BINTA

And have you spoken about it?

Ziha gives a dry laugh

ZIHA

My husband doesn't speak to me
unless it is to dismiss me or say
something impersonal. He doesn't
like me very much...

A single tear comes down her face, her eyes downcast as she
clasps her hands together. Binta reaches out and places her
hand over hers

BINTA

I'm sorry about this, Ziha. There
is nothing like heartbreak...

Ziha shakes her head sadly

ZIHA

I have even thought about having
him followed and going to...her
house, whoever she is, and warning
her to stay away from him. But that
would only make him withdraw and
get angry even more

BINTA

Is there a way you
could...ehm...spice things up in
the bedroom? I know a place you can
get some lovely lingerie and...

Ziha chuckles and wipes her tears