

## Norma, Kiyi

added power to my depleted strength. You're an angel and I thank you.

**Alice** *just stares at him. Suddenly she bursts into tears and runs out of the store.*

**Brother Kiyi** *doesn't know how to react to this.*

**Norma**, *who had entered near the end of their conversation and overheard 'angel', walks forward as Alice runs out past her.*

**Norma** What you and that gal have, Kiyi?

**Brother Kiyi** We don't have nothing.

**Norma** So what, she just up and bawl so? Is mad, she mad?

**Brother Kiyi** I don't know!

**Norma** Woman don't just bust eye water so!

**Brother Kiyi** Not all woman is hard like you, you know, Norma!

**Norma** Indeed.

**Brother Kiyi** That sounded worse than I meant it to.

**Norma** No, it's OK.

*Beat.*

**Brother Kiyi** *starts to busy himself tidying the books.*

**Norma** What you doing?

**Brother Kiyi** I was about to call you, actually.

**Norma** Really? So what was you going to call me to say?

**Brother Kiyi** I . . . I . . .

**Norma** Boy, something really must a bite you, dread. Cleaning up? Can't open your mouth. What?!

**Brother Kiyi** Norma, Bernie vex you or something?

**Norma** No. Bernie don't vex me. Is you making a fool of yourself that's vexating me soul.

**Brother Kiyi** Me?

**Norma** Yes, you! One little mix-up girl breeze in here and is turning you head stupid?

**Brother Kiyi** What you talking about?

**Norma** You don't know that girl, Kiyi, and you be laughing up like a fool, talking to her as if you and she is companion.

**Brother Kiyi** Norma, I converse with the girl, she's bright, what is the problem?

**Norma** Oh, she's bright, is she? What else is there about this gal that you know for two minutes?

**Brother Kiyi** Norma . . .

**Norma** No, don't 'Norma' me. Tell me what else she is that makes you talk *shit* you should be keeping to yourself? Or to you people them that has been here, with you, since morning?

**Brother Kiyi** I don't know what's going on here, Norma, but it should stop. Right now.

**Norma** Why? Why should it stop? It's the first real conversation we've had in a lifetime.

**Brother Kiyi** That's not true, we talk all the time.

**Norma** About what you want to talk about. When was the last time you told me something new? Something you've never said before. Something about you? About your hinterland?

**Brother Kiyi** Norma, what you trying to say here?

**Norma** How can that rasclaat girl that just reach be your angel, Kiyi?

*He is taken aback for a second.*

**Brother Kiyi** I didn't mean . . .

**Norma** Then what did you mean? Because words are everything and you wanna be careful about what you say because people might hear it and believe it.

**Brother Kiyi** All I was trying to say was that . . .

**Norma** That what?

**Brother Kiyi** That I appreciate her being here.

**Norma** And what about me, Kiyi? When was the last time you said you appreciate me, Kiyi?

**Brother Kiyi** I say that all the time, what you want me to say that for?

**Norma** Because sometimes a woman needs to hear it. But of course I'm hard Norma, I don't need to hear nothing.

**Brother Kiyi** I appreciate you, Norma, there. You OK now?

**Norma** Don't patronise me.

**Brother Kiyi** Well, I don't know what you want, Norma, because I was simply expressing . . . Look, the licks I've been taking, I was simply expressing I'm pleased someone young wants . . . wants to engage. That's what this place was built for, Norma. It's what it is . . .

**Norma** Well, maybe we give too much attention to the young . . . That young girl is playing you, Kiyi . . .

**Brother Kiyi** What is there to play, Norma? I have nothing . . .

**Norma** That's the problem — you don't see what you have. You have us, you have your shop.

**Brother Kiyi** I don't have the shop any more, Norma! It's gone. I squander you money, OK?

**Norma** I know. The whole of the street know.

**Brother Kiyi** I'm sorry. I was waiting for you to come, I was going to call . . . But I plan to go out and . . . I'm going to get you money for you, Norma, it might take a little longer than I thought, but . . .

**Norma** So that's it, then?

**Brother Kiyi** Look so.

**Norma** Not the shop, me and you? If you don't have here when am I going to see you?

**Brother Kiyi** Come to my yard, I'll come to yours.

**Norma** When was the last time you came by my house, Kiyi?

**Brother Kiyi** Um, I came . . .

**Norma** You know the last time you come? When the car knock me down and I was lay up in me bed for six weeks . . .

**Brother Kiyi** Well, there you go then.

**Norma** That was three years ago. That's not coming to see your friend. You only came because you thought I was going to dead. When last you just pick up yourself and say you'll come by me?

**Brother Kiyi** I don't like other people's houses . . .

**Norma** I is 'other people'?

**Brother Kiyi** No, but . . .

**Norma** But what . . . ?

**Brother Kiyi** Family homes are for families, alright?

**Norma** What shit is that?

**Brother Kiyi** It's not shit, OK. Now I'm gonna get your money by hook or by crook.

**Norma** *turns to walk out but stops.*

**Norma** Give me little satisfaction, Kiyi. When I come back me and you going to see Mustafar. Together.

**Brother Kiyi** It's not going to do no good, Norma.

**Norma** Did you hear me? If me have to lose ting never let it be said that I didn't fight. Good.

*She leaves.*

*Lights down.*