

EMAGQUMENI 1

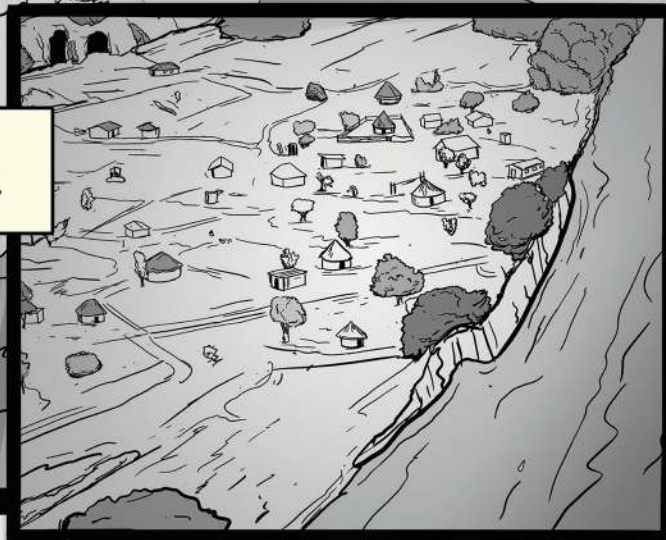
The Valley of Secrets

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



WELCOME TO EMAGQUMENI, PLACE OF THE HILLS ...

A SMALL COASTAL VILLAGE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S WILD COAST.



HERE, CATTLE GRAZE ON THE TALL GOLDEN GRASS OF THE OPULENT HILLS.



DURING THE WEEK, CHILDREN WALK FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS EACH MORNING TO GET TO SCHOOL.



ON THE WEEKENDS, THEY GO FISHING, OR HELP OUT IN THE SUGARCANE FIELDS. MAYBE ENJOY A GAME OF SOCCER AFTERWARDS.



UTAT'UDLAMINI MAKES HIS LIVING BY COLLECTING WATER FOR VILLAGERS AT R20 A BUCKET.



UMAM'UKHUMALO RAISES DOZENS OF CHICKENS.



ON THE SURFACE, EMAGQUMENI IS LIKE ANY OTHER IDYLIC VILLAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA ...



... BUT UNDER ITS MAIZE AND SUGARCANE FIELDS, IT CARRIES A SECRET.



AS A VILLAGE PRESSED AGAINST THE INDIAN OCEAN AND HIDDEN UP ON THE HILLS, EMAGQUMENI HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY. THERE IS NO RUNNING WATER. NO ELECTRICITY.

THE 1045 VILLAGERS WHO LIVE HERE, KNOW BETTER THAN TO EXPECT ANYTHING TO CHANGE.

UMAM'UNOLWAZI MKUNGU HAS SEEN IT ALL.

IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN EMAGQUMENI -THE GOOD AND THE BAD - IT IS THIS WOMAN. SHE IS THE VILLAGE STORY-TELLER.

BUT LATELY, UMAM'UNOLWAZI HAS BEEN FEELING NERVOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE. THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING AND SHE WORRIES ABOUT NEW BROKEN PROMISES.

BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO WORRY WITH ABANTWANA AROUND...

MAKHULU!
MAKHULU!

WE ARE
READY FOR
THE STORY!

(CHUCKLES) EWE
BANTWANA BAM.
LET'S FIND A
COMFORTABLE
SPOT.

LONG LONG AGO,
WHEN I WAS ONLY
16 YEARS OLD ...

TO BE CONTINUED ...

27 June 1964 ...



A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



EWE MAMA.

HURRY UP NOLWAZI! I NEED THE WATER EARLY TODAY!



AND DON'T FORGET TO SWEEP THE YARD WHEN YOU GET BACK!

NDIZOKWENZA NJALO MAMA.



NOLWAZI MY FRIEND, WHEN WILL YOU GIVE APHIWE A CHANCE?



UZAME EVERYTHING TO IMPRESS YOU.



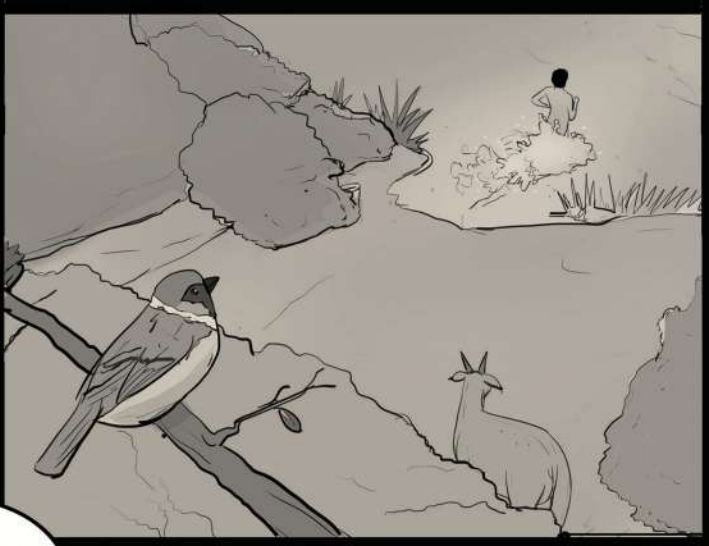
YOU ARE ONE STRANGE GIRL, 'LWAZI ...



WHAT WILL YOUR FAMILY EVEN DO IF THEY FIND OUT YOU PLAY SOCCER WITH THE BOYS?



YOU NEED TO START TAKING YOURSELF MORE SERIOUSLY ...



SNENHLANHLA, YOU TALK WAY TOO MUCH! THE WATER IS GREAT! COME IN!



YHUU

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE GQUMENI RIVER ...



UXOLO YOUR MAJESTY, NKOSI JONGIKHAYA. I WANTED TO CONFIRM THE OPERATION WILL GO AHEAD THIS MORNING?

KING JONGIKHAYA HLATHI INHERITED THE EMAGQUMENI THRONE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, KING NO-BUKHOSI HLATHI.

HE MADE HIS DECISION.



MAYIQHUBEKE!

YHUU MNGANI, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THAT SWIM. OMAMA BETHU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE WATER ...



HAIBO MHLOBO WAM, WHY IS THE ENTIRE VILLAGE GATHERED OUTSIDE?

...?



WHAT'S GOING ON?



TO BE CONTINUED ...



HAWU MAKHULU!
WHY WAS THE
ENTIRE VILLAGE
PACKING?



(CHUCKLES) HAVE
PATIENCE MZUKULU
WAM. I'M GETTING
THERE ...

EMAGQUMENI 3

The Move
A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE OF
EMAGQUMENI VILLAGE!
YOUR MAJESTY, KING
JONGIKHAYA HLATHI,
BRINGS IINDABA
EZIMNANDI!

THE KING HAS NEW PLANS
FOR THIS LAND! BUT FEAR
NOT BANTU BETHU! THIS
WILL BRING JOBS AND IM-
PROVE THE LIVES OF OUR
CHILDREN!





NDUNA, SINCE WE ARE LEAVING OUR HOMES, WHERE WILL WE GO?

THAT IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION, SIBONDA SAM ...



BAHLALI BASEMAGQU-MENI ... YOUR MAJESTY, KING JONGIKHAYA HAS ALLOTTED A NEW PIECE OF LAND FOR YOUR NEW HOMES!

HE HAS ALSO PROVIDED A BUS TO TRANSPORT THE ELDERLY! LONG LIVE JONGIKHAYA, LONG LIVE!



THE VILLAGE ERUPTED WITH CHEERS AND PRAISE.



THOSE WHO HAD DOUBTS, KEPT IT TO THEMSELVES.



ELDERS TOLD THE YOUNGSTERS NOT TO ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS. "IT WAS NOT THE CUSTOM", THEY SAID.



THE ELDERS SANG PRAISE SONGS AS THEY BOARDED THE BUS.



EVERYONE ELSE WALKED, CARRYING THEIR LUGGAGE ON THEIR HEADS, THEIR CHILDREN ON THEIR BACKS.



THE KING'S ADVISORS SAID THAT LIFE WOULD BE BETTER THERE. THAT STRUGGLE WOULD BE OVER. BUT NOTHING IS EVER AS IT SEEMS.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

EMAGQUMENI 4

The Struggle Continues

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE

YEARS WENT BY.

THE PEOPLE OF EMAGQUMENI SEEMED TO BE WORKING MORE HARDER THAN EVER...

... BUT THEY SAW VERY LITTLE IMPROVEMENT TO THEIR LIVES.

RUMOURS BEGAN TO SPREAD THAT THE KING HOSTED FANCY BUSINESSMEN FROM THE CITY.

THERE WERE OTHERS WHO SAID THEY HAD SEEN STRANGE ACTIVITIES IN THE NIGHT, UNDER THE EARTH.

MEANWHILE, THE LAND REBELLED.
THE CROPS CURLED UP AND DIED.



THE ANIMALS SEEMED WORN OUT,
AND FED UP TOO.



THE GROUND BELOW HAD ELECTRICITY
WHILE THE VILLAGERS ABOVE LIVED BY
CANDLELIGHT.



BUT WE HAVE
UMBANI TODAY!



YOU MEAN
SOMETIMES ...



(CHUCKLES)



THOSE WHO WOULD WALK KILOMETRES
TO COLLECT WATER ...



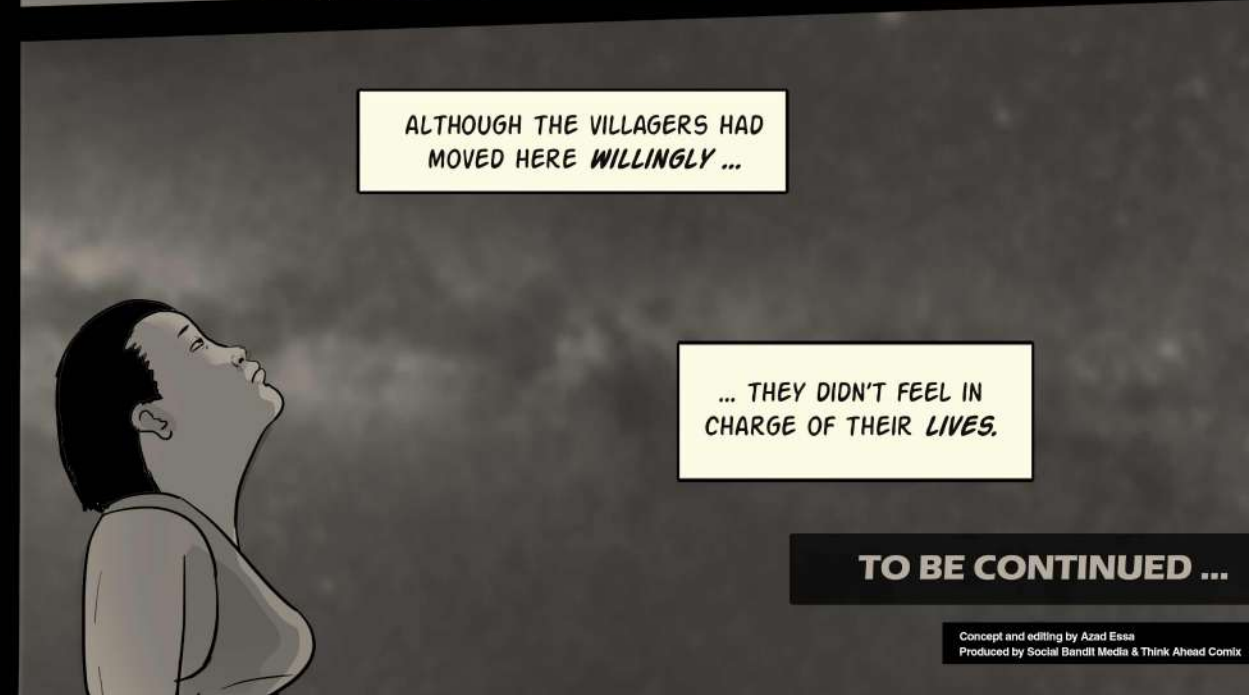
... ALSO SAID THAT THEY HAD SEEN
TAPS NEAR THEIR OLD HOMES.



THIS MADE NOLWAZI SICK.
SHE HARDLY ATE HER
MEALS.



ALTHOUGH THE VILLAGERS HAD
MOVED HERE *WILLINGLY* ...



... THEY DIDN'T FEEL IN
CHARGE OF THEIR *LIVES*.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

MAKHULU! THOSE
POOR CATTLE!

BANTWANA
BAM ...

IT WAS A
HORRIFIC
TIME ...

EMAGQUMENi 5

Enough Is Enough

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



THE RUMOURS WERE TRUE.

SOON, EMAGQUMENI WAS FILLED WITH WHITE BUSINESSMEN COMING IN FANCY VEHICLES.



THE ENVIRONMENT HAD CHANGED OVERNIGHT.



SOME YOUNG MEN ARRIVED FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WILD COAST TO WORK IN THE MINES



NOLWAZI WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR SITUATION. IN THE VILLAGE.



BUT SHE ALWAYS HAD A FEELING OF BEING WATCHED.



MHLOBO WAMI, SIBANCINCI. WHAT CAN WE DO?



I DON'T KNOW MHLOBO WAM. WE NEED TO GO SEE FOR OURSELVES WHAT THE MINE HAS DONE TO OUR COMMUNITY.



EWE. LET'S GO.



TO BE CONTINUED ...

EMAGQUMENi 6

The Shock
A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE

NOLWAZI AND SNEHLANHLA VISITED THE SITE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT THE MINE HAD DONE TO THEIR BEAUTIFUL HOME.



THE MPONDOLAND FIG TREES HAD BEEN DESTROYED.



THEN THEY SAW THE GOLD.

THE VILLAGERS HAD BEEN DISPLACED, THE FOREST HAD BEEN RAVAGED - ALL FOR GOLD.

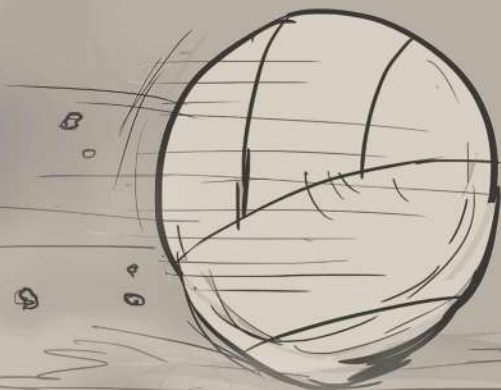


HER ANGER GREW.



NOLWAZI AND SNEHLANHLA WENT
IN SEARCH OF THE BOYS OF THE
VILLAGE.

THEY NEEDED TO TELL THEM WHAT
THEY HAD SEEN.



THE BOYS WERE PLAYING SOCCER.

VUYO! SANDILE! I
NEED TO TALK
WITH YOU ALL!

'LWAZI? IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY?

WE NEED TO TALK
ABOUT THE VILLAGE ...
DID YOU KNOW THE
KING PUSHED US HERE
BECAUSE OF GOLD?

GOLD?

EWE.

THE GIRLS DESCRIBED THE FALLEN TREES, THE
EMPTY FORESTS, THE PLUMES OF DUST ...

BUT, WHAT CAN
WE DO, NOLWAZI?
SIBANCINCI!

TO BE CONTINUED ...

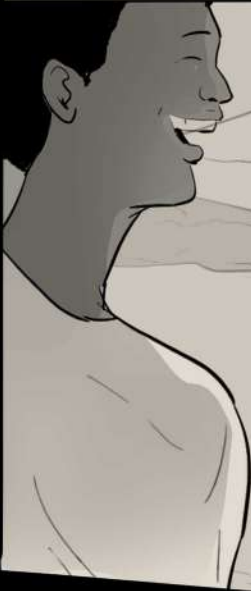
The Time Is Now

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE

THE KING IS VERY POWERFUL, NO ONE WILL TAKE US SERIOUSLY.



WHEN NOLWAZI SPOKE TO THE BOYS, SHE DIDN'T RECEIVE MUCH SUPPORT.



ESPECIALLY YOU GIRLS!



ALL, EXCEPT FOR ONE.



NOLWAZI! SNE! YIMANI!



IF YOU ARE REALLY TIRED OF KING JONGIKHAYA ...



THE BOY, DUMA, SAID THAT SOME VILLAGERS HAD ALREADY STARTED MOBILISING. HE SAID A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN HAD COME TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNED VILLAGERS.



... COME WITH ME.



WE ARE ALMOST THERE ...



THE SECRET MEETING ... THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN!



I HAVE HEARD DISAP-
POINTING STORIES ABOUT
THE KING AND HIS
FRIENDS ...



IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION
THAT SOME ELDERS IN
YOUR VILLAGE ...



... ALLOWED
YOUR PRECIOUS
RESOURCES TO
BE STOLEN!!



TO BE CONTINUED ...

EMAGQUMENI 8

The Confrontation

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



PEOPLE OF EMAGQUMENI.
IT APPEARS THAT KING
HLATHI HAS TAKEN
ADVANTAGE OF YOU
ALL!



HE HASN'T DELIVERED
ANY OF THE PROMISES
MADE TO YOU.

HE IS ONLY A
PUPPET! FEEDING
ONLY HIS BELLY AND
MAKING HIS OVER-
LORDS RICHER!

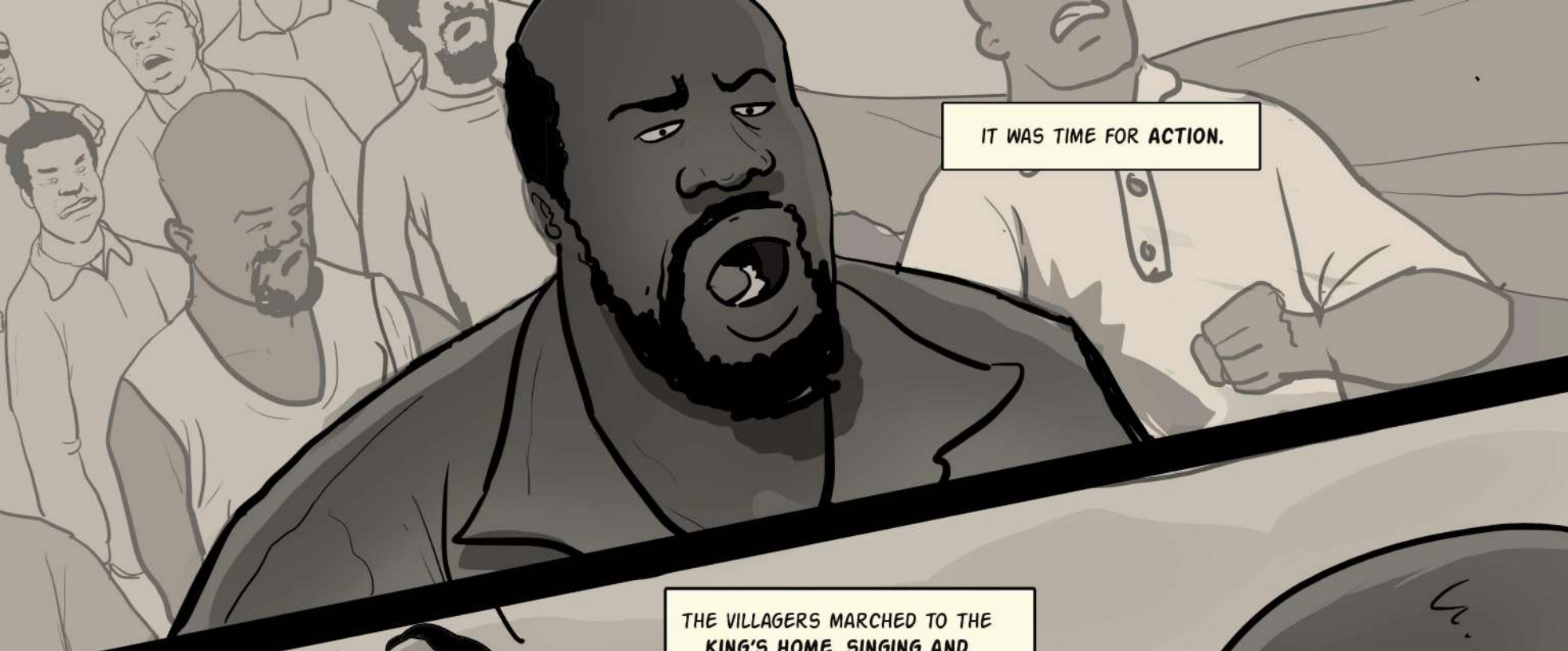
THIS GOLD,
THIS LAND,
BELONGS TO
THE PEOPLE!!

THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CONTINUED TO
MOTIVATE THE CROWD. HER NAME WAS
WINNIE MANDELA.



UMAMA
WINNIE!?
NO!

YES, IT WAS
HER.



IT WAS TIME FOR ACTION.



THE VILLAGERS MARCHED TO THE KING'S HOME, SINGING AND CHANTING.

THE KING'S BUSINESSMEN ALL FLED INTO THEIR FANCY VEHICLES SEEING THE ANGRY CROWD.



THE PEOPLE NEEDED ANSWERS.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

The Revolt

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE



MY PEOPLE ...

WHAT IS IT THAT HAS UPSET YOU?



YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY WE ARE HERE!!

YOU AND YOUR MEN HAVE BEEN FEEDING US LIES!

DID YOU CONSULT WITH US BEFORE DECIDING TO TURN OUR PRECIOUS LAND INTO A DUMP?

YOU HAVE DESTROYED OUR VILLAGE!



BANTU BETHU, THE KING ASSURES YOU ALL THAT THIS WILL BENEFIT EMAGQUMENI ...



THULA UTHI TU GWELE! YOU WERE THE ONE THAT CAME TO OUR VILLAGE AND TOLD US TO MOVE!!

THIS IS THE LAND OF OUR ANCESTORS! AND YOU EXPECT US TO ABANDON IT?



KHANIMENI MADODA ...



NO MORE LIES!

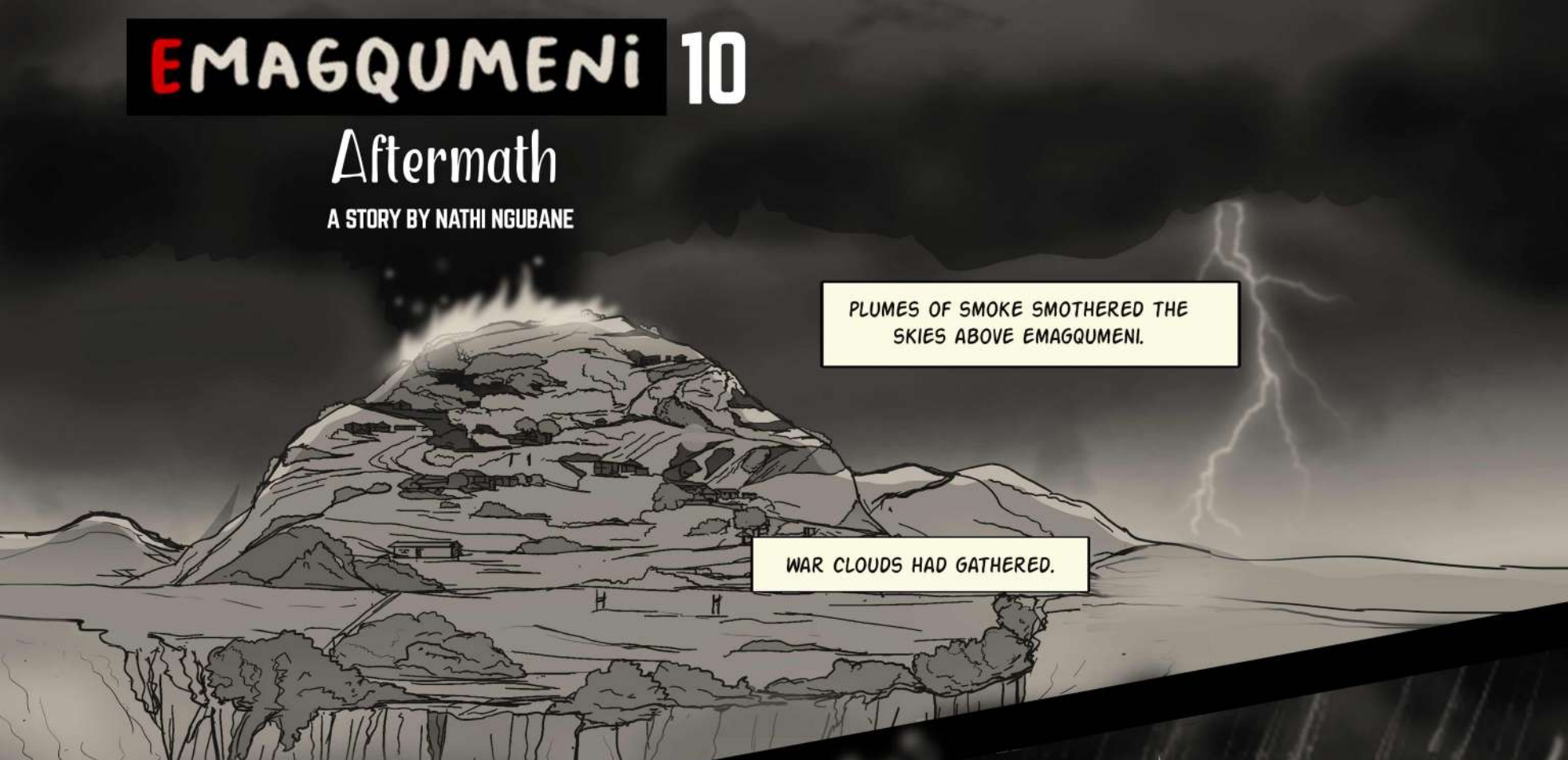


MASIBAFUMANE!

TO BE CONTINUED ...


Aftermath

A STORY BY NATHI NGUBANE




PLUMES OF SMOKE SMOTHERED THE SKIES ABOVE EMAGQUMENI.


WAR CLOUDS HAD GATHERED.



VILLAGERS FOUGHT WITH THE KING'S MEN AND BURNT DOWN HIS HOME.



OTHERS BURIED THE MINES WITH GIANT BOULDERS.



DOZENS WERE MURDERED IN THE CRACKDOWN. THE GROUND WAS SOAKED BY THE BLOODSHED.

THE APARTHEID GOVERNMENT SENT IN THEIR POLICE TO PROTECT THE KING.



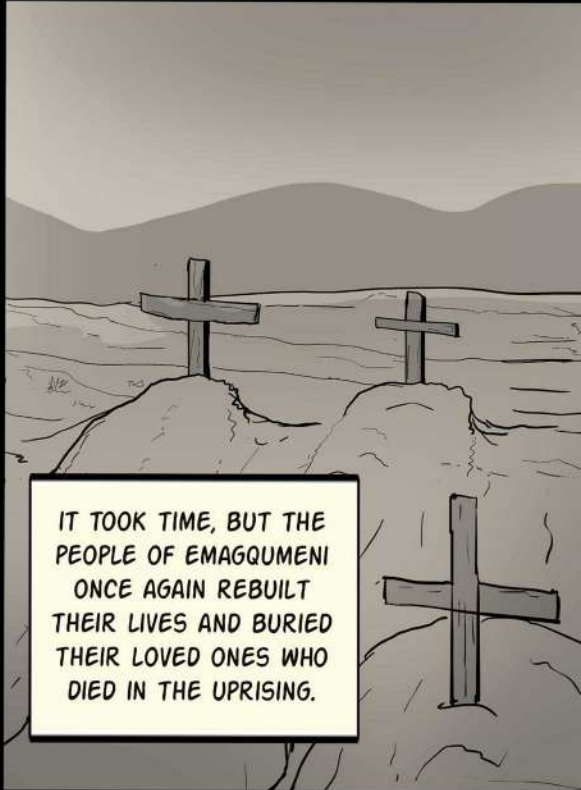
WHILE VIOLENCE RAGED ON, KING JONGIKHAYA HLATHI ESCAPED.



TO PLACATE THE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNMENT QUIETLY APPOINTED A NEW KING.



UMAMA WINNIE WAS BACK HOME IN ORLANDO WEST AND BANNED FROM LEAVING.



IT TOOK TIME, BUT THE PEOPLE OF EMAGQUMENI ONCE AGAIN REBUILT THEIR LIVES AND BURIED THEIR LOVED ONES WHO DIED IN THE UPRISING.



WELL BANTWANA BAMI, THAT IS ALL FOR TONIGHT! YOU BOTH NEED TO GO TO BED NOW.

AWU MAKHULU! WE ARE NOT TIRED!

PLEASE, MAKHULU!



HEHE! (CHUCKLES) MAYBE NOT YOU, BUT I AM!



GOODNIGHT, BANTWANA BAMI!

THE END