



Press Release

CRISIS AT THE VOICE! **(Hell Hath No Fury Like A Woman Scorned)** **Scandal Mondays to Thursdays @ 7.30pm**

The Voice is close to collapse! Now you could blame the official division between the independent weekly newspaper's publisher and editor (with the depleted, overworked staff taking sides) and the fact that circulation is down by 40% due to a lack of advertisers and plenty of bad Press from competitors for shoddy reporting.

But it's Nirvana Nahir who should receive the dubious credit for creating the catastrophe that is currently placing the paper in jeopardy. Here's the background to the story, via the main players:

Nirvana (Keren Tahor): The Voice's former marketing manager and exotic temptress managed to seduce Editor Stan, a former fine and upstanding member of society and a happily married man of 17 years. She's still recovering from a month-long coma after a botched murder attempt (she wasn't the one whom the hit man was ordered to kill – it was actually the tenacious News Ed/political writer). She just won't accept that her affair with the main man, even after being dumped like yesterday's dailies, is so over. And although Stan wanted her permanently out of office, she was reinstated due to threatening sexual harassment charges (which would have cost the paper millions) and the blackmailing of Vusi, publisher and co-owner of the paper.

News Editor, Vanashree, who was investigating an illegal construction deal set up by businessman, Mzi Khanyile, discovered that Vusi was his secret partner and worked overtime with her co-ordination of a sting that resulted in Khanyile (and only Khanyile) being arrested for the attempted murder of Nirvana. That got Stan off the hook as the initial suspect.

Khanyile is out on bail and seeking vengeance. That's why he's given Nirvana compromising pictures of long-time lovers, Vusi and Thato (Stan's wife) that she has used as leverage to be reinstated at The Voice.

An increasingly arrogant, demanding and temperamental Nirvana has pitched the idea of her editing a new gloss stalk-the-celeb magazine. In the beginning, Vusi went along with the idea (including her poaching of newsroom staff and initial draining of the paper's finances) so that his dirty little affair could remain a secret from Stan. But Vusi is already double-dealing: he's still assuring an increasingly irate, suspicious and demoralized Stan that the rehiring of Nirvana is only to give her enough rope to hang herself. They can officially fire her for poor performance without having to pay out a cent. But in reality, the proposal is already attracting major advertisers and Vusi can taste the (big) money.

Stan Nyathi (Luthuli Dlamini)

Editor Stan (and co-owner of the paper) prided himself on being a man of "integrity" and a man of "his word". Now he's eating "his word" after letting other "integral" parts of him lead him into a very public extra-marital, messy affair with his former marketing manager. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and has had to endure a lie detector test, house confinement, ridicule by rival papers, the duplicity of his best friend, the near collapse of his publication – and the deep disappointment of his staff. He's now under extra pressure because Thato wants another child and that involves a series of expensive fertility treatments. Watch how Nirvana feels obligated to meddle once again in their private life.

Thato Nyathi (Rami Chuene)

She's the dutiful wife of Stan and a nursing sister. She saved the life of her husband's mistress and personally took care of Nirvana while she lay in a coma after a gone-wrong murder attempt on her life. Waging psychological warfare only, Thato never once made practical use of all the shiny, sharp instruments at hand, including scissors and syringes, while looking after this particular patient. She desperately wanted to save her marriage, so she demanded Stan end the affair and fire his lover. Now she wants another child to seal the deal. Thato has been the (secret) long-time mistress of the paper's publisher, Vusi, Stan's best friend. Nirvana's blackmailing of Vusi has meant Thato has had to swallow her pride and (covertly) support Nirvana's new magazine project. But her hate of the femme fatale is festering inside her.

Vusi Zwane (Siyabonga Twala)

The publisher and co-owner of the paper was Stan's best friend for over 20 years (long-term affair with his wife and allowing him to be arrested, aside). He regards his staff as servants – there only to do his bidding (which includes regular shady business schemes) and make more money for him. This cold-as-yesterday's-news character is disliked and distrusted by everybody – but that doesn't stop women from flinging themselves at his feet.

Vanashree Dhevan (Leeanda Reddy)

She's the News Editor and Political reporter - and she has the respect of every single staff member including (*Shock Headline!*) publisher, Vusi. Vanashree was thrown into the deep end when the previous news Ed did her walk of shame to join a rival paper. Not once did Vanashree sink – with her instincts, dedication and work sweat she's led her team through photographer Breyton's funeral; Nirvana's coma, Stan's arrest; the stress of cancelled advertising/pages and tight deadlines. Can she keep the copy – and morale - flowing despite all the mounting pressure at the newspaper within the next few weeks?

The line has been drawn. War has been declared. Will the paper remain The Voice of all that's fair and balanced reporting – or will it become tomorrow's (tabloid) trash?

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