
ACT 1 – SCENE 1

Introduction

The introduction of the play is effective because:

- We are introduced to the main character, Sonto Mbhele.
- We also learn about the problem she is facing: Mthofi, a criminal she had previously hired to kill MaNtuli, Mbhele's first wife, has just been released from prison.
- The cause of conflict is revealed — Mthofi, after being released, goes to the Mbhele household to demand the money he was promised by Sonto.
- We are also introduced to other characters connected to Sonto.
- The time setting is shown to be modern because Mthofi arrives carrying a gun — showing that hired killings and firearms exist in their society.
- The introduction is short and attention-grabbing.

Summary of events:

- Early in the morning, Mbhele leaves home to open his shops.
- Shortly after he leaves, Mthofi arrives at the house carrying a gun to demand his payment from Sonto.
- Mthofi had been hired by Sonto to kill MaNtuli, Mbhele's first wife.
- Mthofi has just been released after serving 15 years in prison.
- He was released early for good behaviour.
- During his imprisonment, Sonto never visited him or paid him the money she had promised. She assumed he would die in prison.
- Sonto then asks Mthofi to give her a little more time to get the money — she tells him to come back in two months.
- Mthofi refuses, saying two months is too long; he'll return in a few days and wants his money no matter what.
- Mthofi leaves the house holding his gun. Moments later, Mbhele returns home.

- Mbhele asks Sonto if everything is alright and whether the armed man harmed her.
 - He also asks why that man came to their house. Sonto lies, saying the man came because he was chasing some boys and wanted to check if they were hiding there.
 - Mbhele says they should report the incident to the police, but Sonto discourages him, saying the police will ask too many questions about the gun.
 - Mbhele accepts her explanation and drops the issue. He then tells Sonto he came back early because he had forgotten his butcher shop key.
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SCENE 2

- On Sunday afternoon, a church finance committee meeting is held at the Mbhele home.
 - They met there because it was difficult to meet at church.
 - The committee gathers to count the offering money, and Sonto is one of the members.
 - The amount of money collected is large.
 - The problem arises: who should keep the money overnight, since it's Sunday and banks are closed.
 - Normally, they would give the money to Mr Ntanzi, who works at a bank, but he has moved to another town.
 - MaNsibande, the church secretary, suggests that the pastor should take the money home and deposit it the next morning.
 - The pastor doesn't have a car, so MaNsibande offers to drive him home.
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SCENE 3

- This scene takes place at the pastor's house.
- That night, Sonto knocks at the pastor's door. The pastor is surprised to see her so late.

- She enters, pulls out a gun, and points it at him. She demands all the offering money.
 - The pastor begs her to put the gun down and pray with him to fight against Satan.
 - Sonto refuses, saying prayer won't help — she has already given herself to Satan and it's too late to change.
 - The pastor finally gives her the money.
 - Sonto tells him that if she leaves him alive, it would only lead to her arrest, so she must kill him.
 - The pastor pleads for his life, promising not to tell anyone — he'll say he was attacked by robbers.
 - Sonto ignores him and shoots him — the first bullet hits his shoulder, the second his chest.
 - Believing he is dead, she leaves him lying on the floor.
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SCENE 4

- The next morning, police cars arrive at the Mbhele home after the pastor's shooting.
- Detective Nhleko knocks at the door and introduces himself to Sonto.
- He says he wants to ask her a few questions about the shooting of Pastor Zondo.
- Sonto asks who found the pastor after the shooting, but Nhleko says he cannot reveal too much because she is also a suspect.
- Nhleko informs her that the pastor is alive but badly injured, which shocks Sonto — she thought she had killed him.
- Nhleko adds that even though the pastor is alive, his chances of survival are slim.
- Sonto feels uneasy because if the pastor survives, he will reveal the truth.
- Nhleko says it looks like the attack was about money, as a few coins were found on the floor of the pastor's house.
- Nhleko asks Sonto when she last saw the pastor. She says it was yesterday during the offering count.

- She adds that the people present were the pastor, MaNsibande, and herself.
 - Nhleko concludes that MaNsibande is the main suspect, because:
 - She was present during the counting.
 - She drove the pastor home.
 - She was the last person to see him alive.
 - It was her idea for the pastor to take the money.
 - The scene ends with Nhleko and Sonto leaving to visit MaNsibande.
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SCENE 5

- Nhleko and Sonto arrive at MaNsibande's house. MaNsibande is surprised to see Sonto with the police.
 - Nhleko tells her about the pastor's shooting, and she is deeply shocked.
 - Nhleko explains he is there to question her about the incident.
 - He asks when she last saw the pastor; she replies it was the previous night at around 7 p.m.
 - Nhleko continues asking more questions, which irritates MaNsibande — she feels she's being accused unfairly.
 - Angry, she tells Nhleko to leave her house since she knows nothing about the matter.
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SCENE 6

- After visiting MaNsibande, Sonto calls Mthofi to come collect his money.
- When he arrives, she tells him she'll pay him and that it will be the end of their dealings.
- Mthofi demands all his money, but Sonto says she'll only pay what she has now.
- She warns him to stop coming to the house armed with a gun.

- Sonto goes to fetch the hidden money — but when she returns, she says it's gone.
 - Mthofi, furious, points his gun at her and threatens to shoot if she doesn't produce the money.
 - Sonto begs for more time.
 - Mthofi forces his gun into her mouth, threatening to kill her that day.
 - Just then, Toronto, another criminal, enters and tells Mthofi they must leave quickly because Mbhele's car is coming.
 - They both flee before Mbhele arrives.
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SCENE 7

- Mbhele returns home and says he's just heard about the pastor's shooting. He asks Sonto why she didn't tell him such important news.
- Sonto lies again, saying she only heard about it that afternoon.
- Mbhele says he heard the news on the radio and from others.
- Sonto says he's always busy and they never have time to talk.
- She then calls their daughter Zinhle to bring Mbhele a drink.
- Zinhle attends a multiracial school and mixes English and isiZulu when speaking.
- Mbhele says he can't believe the news about the shooting. Sonto pretends to be shocked too.
- Sonto tells him that Pastor Zondo is still unconscious in the hospital and that the police suspect MaNsibande.
- MaNsibande has been arrested and charged, and the case is being investigated by Detectives Nhleko and Zulu.
- Their conversation is interrupted by Nhleko's arrival. He apologizes for disturbing them again and says he has a few more questions for Sonto.
- This surprises Mbhele because he didn't know his wife was under investigation.
- Sonto claims she was planning to tell him later.

- Nhleko asks where Sonto was the previous night after leaving the pastor. Before she can answer, Mbhele interrupts, saying she was home all evening.
 - Nhleko thanks them and leaves.
 - After he's gone, Mbhele remembers that on the night of the shooting, Sonto had gone out to visit her sick mother and only returned after midnight.
 - Mbhele becomes suspicious — why would Sonto lie to the police? He considers calling Nhleko to correct the statement.
 - The scene ends with Mbhele leaving home with Zinhle, feeling tired and suspicious of Sonto.
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ACT 2 – SCENE 1

- A few weeks later, the pastor finally recovers. The doctors decide he's well enough to go home.
 - The church members hire a taxi to go fetch him from the hospital.
 - On their way, MaNsibande and the others stop by the Mbhele house to pick up Sonto, but she tells them she can't go.
 - They head off without her.
 - When they arrive at the hospital, the nurse tells them something terrible — just as they were preparing to discharge the pastor, he suddenly fell ill again and died.
 - Everyone is heartbroken. MaNsibande cries her eyes out because she had hoped the pastor would recover and reveal who really shot him and stole the offering money.
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SCENE 2

- Sonto sits alone at home, deep in thought about everything that's happened (she's having an internal battle with guilt and fear).
- Her thoughts are interrupted when Mbhele walks in.

- He asks if she didn't end up going to the hospital with the others.
- Sonto lies (again) saying the taxi was too full, so she decided to stay behind.
- Mbhele tells her that MaNsibande just called — the pastor has passed away.
- Sonto pretends to be shocked, but deep down she's relieved.
- Mbhele kisses her goodbye and leaves. Right after he steps out, Mthofi shows up.
- Sonto's annoyed to see him — this guy's become a nightmare in her life.
- Mthofi tells her straight up that if she doesn't pay him soon, he'll kill her daughter, Zinhle.
- He threatens that if the money doesn't come quickly, Zinhle's life is over.
- Sonto panics, realizing that if Zinhle disappears, Mbhele will definitely call the cops.
- Mthofi says if the police question him, he'll tell them the whole truth about everything.
- Before leaving, he warns her to contact him as soon as she has the money — then he rushes off to Zinhle's school.
- Sonto breaks down crying, convinced Mthofi will actually go through with it.
- A moment later, Zinhle walks in, safe and sound.
- Sonto, still shaken, asks if she's okay. Zinhle's confused why her mom's acting so jumpy.
- After a short talk, Zinhle leaves for her room, tired of her mom's weird behaviour.
- Sonto grabs her phone and calls Mthofi back, asking him to come over so they can "talk."
- He shows up an hour later, thinking he's finally getting paid.
- When Sonto tells him she called just to "discuss things," not to pay him, he totally loses it.
- Angry, he yells at her — so she sends Zinhle to the shop to buy headache pills and airtime, hoping she won't overhear.
- Once Zinhle's gone, Sonto tells Mthofi her plan: she wants him to kill Mbhele so she can get insurance and inheritance money.

- She promises to give Mthofi half of whatever she gets.
 - Mthofi agrees. (Yup — she's gone full villain mode now 😬.)
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SCENE 3

- Mbhele comes home but can't find Sonto.
 - He goes next door to ask Mr Dlamini, the elderly neighbour. Dlamini says Sonto just left in her car.
 - Dlamini advises Mbhele to keep a spare key for the house in case Sonto's not home — Mbhele says he has one but doesn't always carry it because Sonto is usually around.
 - Dlamini then drops some tea — says Mbhele needs to open his eyes because weird stuff happens in his house when he's gone.
 - He claims some men have been seen entering the house with guns, and once he even heard Sonto arguing with them about money.
 - He suspects Sonto might be plotting to kill Mbhele for money and warns him to stay alert.
 - Mbhele's head is spinning after hearing all this.
 - Dlamini suggests Mbhele talk to his lawyer, Mr Ntshangase, about it.
 - The scene ends with Dlamini warning him again to be careful or Sonto's "thugs" might get him.
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SCENE 4

- The next day, Mbhele visits his lawyer, Ntshangase, and tells him everything he's been hearing.
- Ntshangase is shocked.
- Mbhele says he suspects his wife might be plotting to kill him.

- The lawyer says, “Hey, this happens more than you think — lots of men have been killed by their wives for money or new lovers.”
 - Mbhele can’t understand what would make Sonto want him dead.
 - Ntshangase explains it could be for inheritance or insurance, or maybe she’s seeing someone else.
 - Mbhele realizes how much she’s been hiding — she never told him about the police investigation or the gunman who came to their house.
 - He recalls how, on the night the pastor was shot, Sonto said she was visiting her “sick mother” — but her mother later said she hadn’t seen her in almost a year.
 - Mbhele says he feels trapped and doesn’t know what to do.
 - Ntshangase tells him they’ll meet early the next morning near his house to come up with a plan.
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SCENE 5

- The next morning, Sonto calls Mthofi, thinking Mbhele has already left for work.
- Meanwhile, Mbhele, Ntshangase, and Dlamini are secretly hiding nearby to spy and see who comes to the house.
- After a short wait, they spot Mthofi arriving — Mbhele is shocked to see it’s the same man who once killed MaNtuli, his first wife.
- Mbhele realizes Sonto is working with the very criminals who destroyed his life.
- He nearly bursts into the house with his gun to shoot everyone but Ntshangase stops him, saying they need to handle it smartly and legally.
- Dlamini adds that Mbhele has never even fired a gun before — trying to play hero now would be suicide.
- They decide to sit down later and figure out a careful plan.
- Dlamini warns them: if they act recklessly, Sonto will sense something and turn the tables.
- The scene ends with Mbhele and Ntshangase leaving while Dlamini, shaken by what he’s seen, asks them to at least leave him a little cash for a drink.

SCENE 6

- Detective Nhleko is still on the case — even though MaNsibande was arrested, he's starting to suspect Sonto more and more.
- He visits Sonto's mother, MaMkhize, to learn more.
- MaMkhize says she hasn't seen Sonto in almost a year and that Sonto never visited her even when she was sick.
- This new info convinces Nhleko that Sonto's story about visiting her mother on the night of the pastor's murder was a total lie.
- Nhleko decides to be patient this time — unlike when he rushed to arrest MaNsibande — and vows to gather solid evidence first.

SCENE 7

- Early one morning, Mbhele calls Sonto while driving to town. He tells her that a car has been following him since he left home.
- Sonto, pretending to be calm, tells him to stop and see what they want.
- Mbhele's nervous, fearing the men might kill him, but Sonto reassures him that he'll be fine.
- Once the call ends, Sonto's thinking: "I hope Mthofi and Toronto don't mess this up."
- Moments later, Mthofi calls her — they've killed Mbhele.
- He explains they stopped his car, shot him, and then burned both the car and his body to destroy all evidence.
- Sonto promises he'll get his money soon, saying she'll push the insurance and inheritance claims fast.
- Mthofi warns her that if the payment takes too long, they'll come for her next.
- He also says the cops will soon come asking questions, so she'd better keep her story straight.

- Just after she hangs up, Zinhle walks in and sees her mom looking shaken. When she asks what's wrong, Sonto snaps and tells her not to ask stupid questions.
 - Then, there's a knock at the door — it's Detective Nhleko.
 - He asks to speak to Sonto privately, so she sends Zinhle to her room.
 - Nhleko gently breaks the news: Mbhele is dead. His car was found burned to ashes.
 - Sonto pretends to be shocked.
 - But Zinhle, eavesdropping, hears everything — she realizes her mother's lies have caught up with her and starts crying in her room.
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ACT 3 – SCENE 1

- All the funeral arrangements are made, and Mbhele's ashes are finally buried.
- A few weeks later, Sonto goes to visit Ntshangase, the lawyer, to ask about her inheritance money.
- During their conversation, Ntshangase tells her that before his death, Mbhele had already warned him that he suspected someone was plotting to kill him.
- Because of those suspicions, Mbhele included a special condition in his will:
 - If he were ever to die under suspicious or unnatural circumstances, no inheritance may be released until the police discover how he died and who killed him.
- This means that no one can receive any part of Mbhele's estate until the case is solved.
- Sonto is furious. She asks if she can at least continue running the shops to make a living.
- Ntshangase refuses, saying that the shops are legally part of the estate and must stay under the lawyer's control until the investigation is complete.
- He tells her to hand over the keys and all documents related to the shops.

- Sonto accuses him of lying — saying the “special condition” is just a trick by the lawyers to steal Mbhele’s money.
 - Ntshangase calmly says he’s following the law and that if she doubts him, she’s welcome to come see Mbhele’s signature and will herself.
 - Furious and humiliated, Sonto storms out, saying she doesn’t care to see any “rotten wills.”
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SCENE 2

- After hearing that she’ll get no money, Sonto decides to run away.
- She starts packing her clothes and valuables.
- She tells her daughter Zinhle that she’s taking her to stay with her grandmother (MaMkhize) in the rural area, where she’ll continue her schooling.
- Zinhle complains — she doesn’t want to leave the city or live on a farm. She also asks, “But what about Dad’s shops? Who’s going to look after them?”
- Sonto replies that the lawyer, Ntshangase, will take care of everything.
- She tells Zinhle to go bathe while she finishes packing.
- Just then, Sonto’s phone rings — it’s Mthofi. At first, she hesitates to answer, but finally picks up.
- Mthofi demands to know why she hasn’t called him yet — she promised to contact him after meeting the lawyer.
- Sonto lies and says everything went well with the lawyer.
- Mthofi says he’s coming over that very night to collect his money.
- Sonto panics, saying it’s not a good time because she’s just lost her husband — what will people think if men come to her house at night?
- She warns him that if anyone sees them together, the police will get suspicious.
- Mthofi refuses to listen — he insists he’s coming that night.
- Realizing the danger, Sonto grabs Zinhle and they both flee the house.

SCENE 3

- Sonto and Zinhle arrive late at night at MaMkhize's home (Sonto's mother).
- MaMkhize is surprised and asks if they've been chased away, since they're arriving so late.
- Sonto says she'll explain everything later, but for now, they just need to stay.
- She tells Zinhle to go to her cousin's room to sleep.
- After Zinhle leaves, Sonto tells her mother she wants to sell her house in town because things have gone downhill since Mbhele's death.
- She says she'll leave Zinhle to stay with MaMkhize while she goes somewhere else to start fresh.
- Sonto promises she'll come back the next day to visit and to check on Zinhle, after hearing how MaNsibande's case went in court.

SCENE 4

- Back at the Mbhele home, Mthofi and Toronto arrive late at night to look for Sonto and their money.
- They are drunk. They knock for a long time but no one answers.
- Mthofi considers breaking the door open. Toronto suspects Sonto might have run away.
- Mthofi insists she couldn't have fled — he says she told him she got the money from the lawyer, so she has no reason to hide.
- Just then, Detective Nhleko arrives.
- He finds Mthofi and Toronto at the house, both armed, and asks what they're doing there.
- Toronto tries to lie, saying the late Mrs Mbhele owed them money.
- Mthofi, drunk and frustrated, tells Toronto to stop talking nonsense.

- Nhleko warns them to tell the truth or be arrested on the spot.
 - Finally, Mthofi confesses: Sonto had asked him to kill Mbhele's first wife, MaNtuli, but she never paid him.
 - Nhleko asks if she paid them for killing Mbhele. Mthofi says no — that's why they're here, to collect their money.
 - Nhleko thanks them for "making his job easier," arrests both of them, and locks them in the police van.
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SCENE 5

- In court, MaNsibande is finally found innocent of all charges.
 - Before the verdict is even finished, Sonto rushes back home to collect her belongings — planning to vanish completely.
 - She tells her mother to take care of Zinhle. MaMkhize cries, begging her daughter not to go.
 - As Sonto heads for the door, she runs straight into Detective Nhleko.
 - Nhleko asks for her hands — he's there to arrest her.
 - He lists all the charges:
 - The murder of the pastor, Zondo
 - The theft of the church offering money
 - The murder of Mbhele's first wife, MaNtuli
 - And conspiring to kill Mbhele himself.
 - Sonto drops her bags and promises her mother she'll come back someday.
 - Nhleko says that's unlikely — she's killed too many people to walk free anytime soon.
 - He leads her out as MaMkhize weeps. Nhleko promises he'll come back later to explain everything.
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SCENE 6

- Nhleko keeps his word and visits MaMkhize to explain what happened.
- He allows her to see Sonto in the holding cells.
- When they meet, Sonto admits everything:
 - She hired people to kill Mbhele's first wife, MaNtuli.
 - She robbed and murdered Pastor Zondo to get money to pay Mthofi.
 - She conspired with Mthofi and Toronto to kill Mbhele for inheritance and insurance money.
- Sonto reveals that she stole the church money but it was later stolen from her by Dlamini, the neighbour, who saw her hiding it.
- She also confesses that she lied to the police, saying she was visiting her sick mother on the night of the pastor's death.
- Sonto says the biggest reason she feels doomed is that Mthofi and Toronto have already told the police everything, and they'll testify in court.
- Crying, she begs her mother to take care of Zinhle.
- Months later, Sonto's trial is held — she's found guilty on all charges and sentenced to life imprisonment.