



S O L' | WELCOME TO THE TRIBE | STYLE...FROM WITHIN



CONTENTS



MAIN STORY: AKC THE QUEEN



INFLUNCER CORNER



PROFILE: OLUCHI. B.
KOLANISI



Editors Corner

BY: S O L'

I first want to say that I write this here in literal tears. I knew this day would come but now that it's here I am filled with emotion.

I started S O L' and back then it wasn't called S O L' it was called "UNTITLED" because I really didn't know what I was doing. To be honest, I'm not a great writer, my editor will tell you that for a fact but when I put my name on something I really try and do my very best and now that I have created this from scratch there was no way I was gonna be let it fail. I thought it would be long but short fame. Let me explain, I thought if I put out good work someone would come to me and be like, "OMG you are #Dope here are your 10k followers and 5 brand deals" boy O boy was I wrong. The fame didn't come, in fact, it still hasn't but what did come is understanding that everything you do requires consistency, needs you to believe in it more than anyone in this whole world and calls for collaboration and fusion and I think that is the essence of S O L' the fusion and collaboration understanding that you can be multifaceted and you can be you and that is enough. It's soo cliche with every TikTok and Reel telling you to romanticize your life but in some weird way, it's true. You can love fashion and also love GOD, you can want to work hard and yes make money and still remain humble, you can be a girl who started a blog and after 8 years and many people who helped, advised, loved, and also fell in love with the same brand by force or by seeing the vision, you too are trying to create.

I think finally, I would like to say none of this would be possible without GOD. There were and sometimes still are times where I feel like giving up TRUST but GOD is good, even if you don't read all the articles, and look at the pretty pictures even if you don't know when your 10k followers will come, even if you have to push yourself to limits that make you cry and doubt yourself every time, wonder if this thing is even worth all this stress, know He really is Master Potter, and HE IS GOOD.

To every single person, who has lifted S O L' up in any way in the past 8 years, this is your win as much as it's mine, so cheers to us, all of us.

S O L'

FOUNDER | CHIEF EDITOR



A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a dark dress with a white circular pattern and a large, light-colored, textured bag, is walking away from the camera on a cobblestone path. She is pointing her right arm towards a house in the background. The scene is outdoors with trees and a fence visible in the background.

"LETS CATCH A
RIDE"

Welcome to S O L'

S O L', a tribe that was built when there was only one but the Word says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20

Questions, where do Christians go when life is "lifing" and we really don't know what to do, the LORD is there but the prayer is answered or it hasn't yet and they aren't working yet, but you like yourself an Aldo bag, a quick vacation to the Cape Town and enjoyed, "Gossip Girl"? Does that make us bad because we indulge in the things of this world?

Welcome to the Tribe

I wanted to create a space where you enjoy the things of this world but you also understand that you are grounded. The LORD almighty said that things will get HARD, it won't be pretty you will definitely be tempted but GOD is GOOD and even though you may not hear this every day you matter, your style matters, your faith matters, your hope matters, YOU MATTER and I think this is why I welcome everyone to the tribe.

Whether you feel like GOD has let you down or you feel soo far from the LORD or you are closer than ever, never think you are alone, we are a tribe, we are still together, honest, in great style serving the LORD

The Combination

It's an odd combination, of faith and fashion but I never saw a space that was open and honest about Christianity and your walk with Christ combined with, "Ways you can make your LBD look good as new" so I decided to create it myself.

A space where we could share bible reading plans but also talk about the latest Vogue magazine cover. A place where you could be vulnerable about your transgressions but also a place where you could find inspiration for your next holiday with the girls.

Yatser - Master Potter (Isaiah 64:8)

The reason the first issue is also called Yatser which means Master Potter because GOD did this and #Honestly without Him and His perfect timing this would not be happening. There were many times in this journey were giving up, stopping and just saying, "I tired" was soo tempting BUT Master Potter did His thing and reminded me that this is not about me it's about spreading the Word of GOD, GOD Master Potter did this and so we thank Yatser



S O L'

Style...From Within





STYLE...FROM WITHIN

The reason I dedicated this first issue to the many many women who decided to take up my ask in taking photos of them with their clothes and them giving me their time is because the fashion element would have never grown to where it is without them. I have photographed many women, many faces with many different styles and it's been both a pleasure to firstly how #Damn beautiful women are and also that they realized that my style though slightly curated is #Dope, is cool, makes up who I am and that is a feeling I am truly grateful to give to them, they have realized that they are beautiful behind the lens and without it and that has been amazing.



OVER CAST BLUES

INFLUENCER CORNER



We can't deny that we are influenced by many people, places and activities on our social media.

We decided to create an influencer corner to showcase the cool cats of the digital space right now.

The peeps who we heart their IG reels and heart their TikTok videos

That Orange!



Sabelo

A lifestyle and fashion influencer

IG:

sabelo_the_kreator

Twitter:

@sabelokah2



Samukelisiwe

A peng peng girl

IG:

samukelisiwe_mazibuko

Twitter:

@amanda_samuke

That Vibe



Colour Me Simphiwe
MakeUp Artist
IG:
colourme_sim
TikTok
@colourme_sim

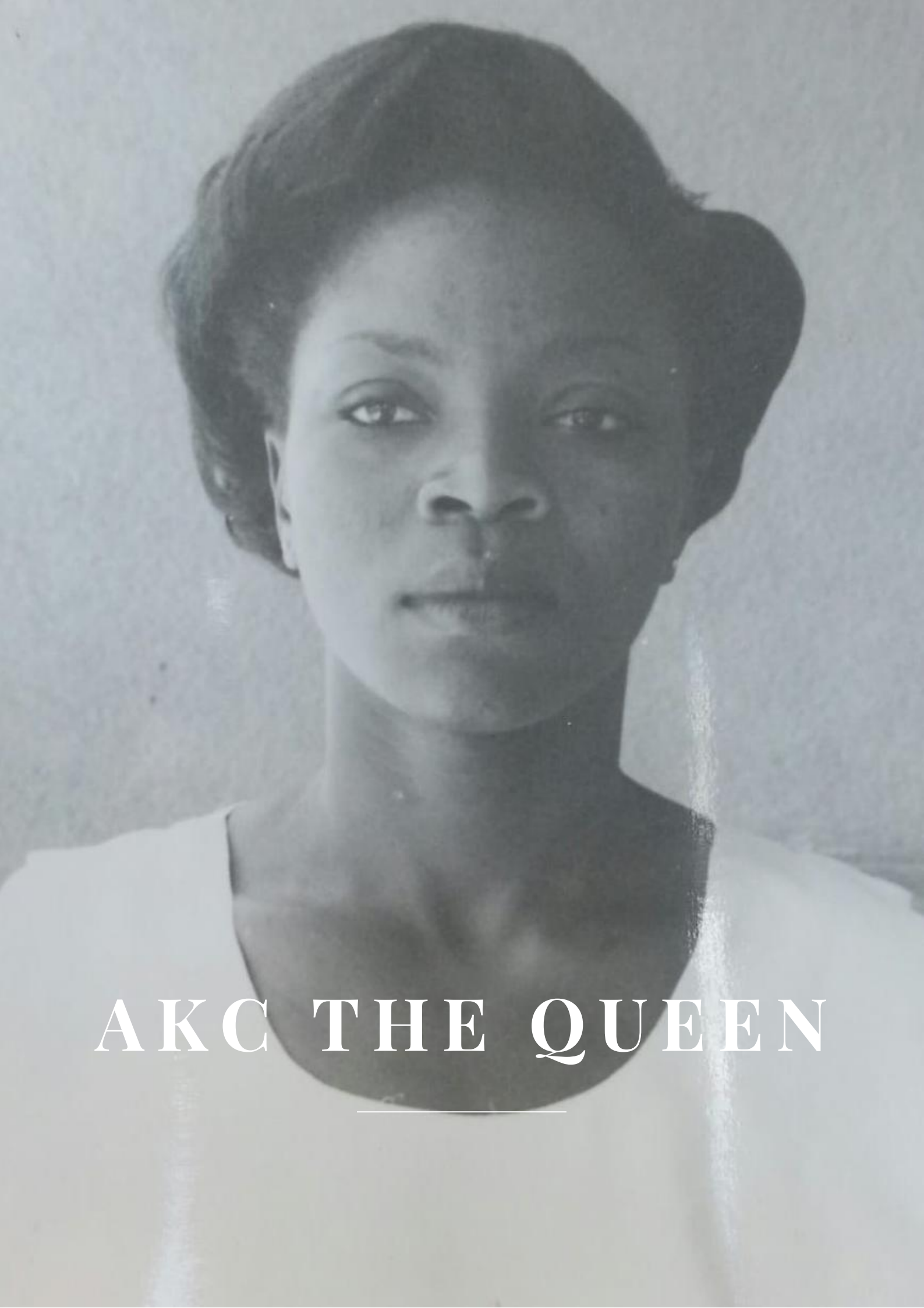


Bafana Mthembu
NKABI
IG:
eezynkabi
Twitter:
@eezynkabi

WRITE IT OUT



I wanted S O L' to be a place where you hear from many collaborators, people from different walks, tongues and places of life because it's only then that you understand you are not alone. GOD has disciples everywhere to encourage you push and drive you to be the best you can be, so write it out.



AKC THE QUEEN



The Queen AKC

BY: S O L'

Who's ever thought of a life without their arm, #Legit your whole arm. Left or right have you ever thought of your life without it. Exactly.

Well it's the same thing with MY QUEEN. I can't think of a life without her.

You know those D.R.Y cliche line, "words can't describe how I feel" #Legit I'll have to use it as well. Words can't decide how I feel about MY QUEEN.

In my eyes she surpasses Kate, Elisabeth, Kim, Taylor, Beyonce and the newest member to the female gender Caitlyn. My Queen is beautiful, honest, raw, tender, exquisite, precious and overall, just one of a kind.

I really can't remember when she wasn't there. When she didn't put me on her back while she had to clean the house, or when she covered my books for my first day of school, when she stayed with me until I fell asleep because I was afraid of the dark or when she ran to find the perfect dress and even when I decided to wear a suit and she was #Tootez on board, when I had to realize the dream I had been chasing since I was 10 wasn't mine or when I thought I had found someone who truly loved ME and ended up hurting my feelings and let's not forget the endless delicious meals, laundry doing, hugs and kisses and #OfCourse the many injections that #Legit took a Sumo wrestler (which she became) to keep me down. My Queen's always been there.

It is said in the Word that "He formed you before you were in your mother's womb" I also believe while he was forming you, he really thought about who's womb you would be in.

Thing is EVERY mom is #Legit one of a kind. There's something your mom does that no other mom can do. There's qualities and traits that come from those times she forgave you for breaking the fancy plates, or danced with you to that song just for just. A mom is a jewel.

I can remember once when I was young and going through that thing we call puberty and upset about life and all (which happens at that stage life #I'mJustSaying) I told my mom I wished I belonged to another family and I wasn't part of this #1. Instead of consoling me and understanding the period I was going through she wasted no time in giving me a nice back hand, so hard and said, "I'm the only mother you'll have so like it or not I'm here to stay" while crying I looked at her & saw the even deeper pain I had created in her eyes.

#NoLies though she really is. There will be no one that understands me like she does, who laughs with me & at me like she does & even though that wasn't the last time I ever hurt her feelings she's always been the only mom I have & quite frankly ever want. Your mom is #Dope & all BUT there'll never be another AKC.

You see MY QUEEN she has annoyed, irritated, pissed and just down right made me so angry #LikeLegit it's not a joke, BUT how much more has she made me laugh louder than ever when her head was troubled, made me comfortable when she was in no comfortable position herself. When she gave me what I wanted when what she wanted she could never obtain or have at the time.

A QUEEN is jewel whether you acknowledge her or not she's a jewel and circumstances may occur, words can be said that are never forgotten BUT she's a jewel

I mean just think of the simple biology of it all. A human carries another human being, a soul in her belly & cares for it like no words imaginable and YES with today's current situation

with a girl falling pregnant for all types of reason it still doesn't erase the simple biology that you have been connected to this #1 human, this female this Queen since birth and so regardless she must still sit on her throne.

QUEEN I solute you, for being an amazing, a great parent and real a real jewel of a human being because without you in my head and always on my team and loving me unconditionally like you do I'd never do the things I do.

We are all beautifully blessed in our form and shape as females however it's our definition of what that word means, it's how our biology whilst alike still tells a different story, our fashion statement, our testimony and it's QUEEN that make the role, form and shape of a female diverse and beautiful as she shapes the next generation of Queens.

Celebrate the Queen you were. From the times you couldn't sleep in the dark, to the times where you cried yourself to sleep because you thought you were not worthy of any good, the times where thought no goodness will ever come in this life you live & even the athlete or actress you once were. Celebrate the Queen that you are. The beautiful eyes, the luscious lips, the beautiful breast, the thick and formed hips, the perfectly rounded mass, the long legs and perfect strands of hair. The Queen you are growing into. Learning that you don't need many people to feel whole, the great fondness you have for words and clothes, realizing that GOD is truly great ALL THE TIME and now is your time & if it's not now stay close and connected to GOD so that He can prepare you for it. Celebrate YOU.

Thank-you AKC

For allowing me to never have the thought of a life without my left right arm. For you have being an irreplaceable mom, parent and most of all an irreplaceable QUEEN.

The Queen AKC



GRUDGE WINTER

Waiting on God's timing

BY: ANNOYMOUS



"When the time is right, I the lord will make it happen..."

a simple verse where the Lord reassures us that everything is on His time and on His time he will make things happen for us but yet, it's a verse often misunderstood.

Let's admit it, as much as we know this verse exists - the waiting season is not fun at all especially if you have to wait for almost everything in your life, or at least that's how my life looked and still looks like.

I mean if I have to look back, I waited to finish varsity not on record time because of a semester I failed.

Then God's timing finally came and when I eventually graduated I did not struggle much to get a job and I thought God is finally here and like we all assume that after varsity things will go smoothly and according to plan - well at least for me, my plan was to get a job, buy a car, get married and have a baby but like all the things I always plan for myself, and God has the final say.

Listen, God has really done a great job in my life but I was tested in the waiting of marriage. I met my husband in 2015 and because he was not my age group (slightly older than me) I guess the expectation from society (me included) was that marriage will not be a long term thing for us.

Let me give you a bit of background in my upbringing. I grew up with both parents and 4 siblings and I am the youngest of 5 so that family dynamic was what I always wanted for myself. My biggest goal was getting the education in the bag and working or rather, being independent but oh man I always viewed and saw myself as someone's wife. Maybe that seemed reachable because my relationships lasted long, I mean I was first engaged at the age of 21 and unfortunately things never worked out; he was a great person but I felt my character needed someone who could stand up to me and be the typical "I am a man" type, an influence I got from my parents and so I thought that's how successful homes are, but obviously with experience and growth I now see that no longer works in this day and time.

Anyways, I started working and a year later I got my first car and because that was my second becoming a reality, I wanted all of them to. I started asking myself when my man would write a letter to my family. Our relationship moved very fast so maybe that also contributed to the high expectations.

I moved in with him in my 2nd year of varsity, my res room was basically used for storage for my clothes, bad I know but in my defence (don't get me wrong this is what I wanted, because like I said I saw myself as someone's wife and in this case HIS Wife.) My theory in marriage especially having grown up in a Christian family, was that most of our Christian marriages end up in divorce because they did not get to know/explore the other person's life before entering the huge life-changing decision called marriage. I also feel like the concept of courtship is all good and well but it's not practical and unfortunately in marriage there's no option of a trial, "let me see how it goes and if it doesn't work out for me I will go out", (although that's people's first response these days when things go sour) but what do I mean not practical?

As much as we are taught 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (ESV) "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." The truth of the matter is love alone is not enough in living day to day life with your significant other. I will make an example of how the other person wakes up, like their routine. Are they tidy or untidy, are they strict on routine and what they like or don't like? These are some things that may seem small in the eyes of others but big to a person who's navigating this thing called marriage. To come back to my story, I literally did what was uncalled for in my Christian community and in my Mother's and brother's eyes.

I did a vat n sit, and we all know the myth behind that is "once you give him services of being his wife he will not see the need to marry you" I am also not saying that's not true but things work out differently for everyone.

In my waiting for the letter to get sent home I wanted my other goal to become reality (10 little toes and 10 little fingers) and maybe let me brief a little on why the letter took so long, my husband had previously lobolad his first son's mother so he had trust issues in entering another marriage.

Back to my child, I started longing for a child, on top of my unfulfilled wish for marriage. It was not even about me walking down the aisle in a white dress, it was about the lobola getting paid, having a small blessing ceremony so that we can live happily in peace and not have the fear of being judged or being labelled as the "rebellious" child who was vat n sit'ing. The plan was marriage first but I felt like I WAITED for it for too long and the idea of having a child grew stronger (also because I saw how great he parented with his first born son and the love he had for kids) as the years went and my hope was starting to get lost (I know you might be thinking how is this girl losing hope in having a child when she isn't married yet) but yes, I started getting sad that the child is not coming and doctors were not making it any easier by telling me all the complications my womb had.

Continued...

Lol I also don't know how many times I bought pregnancy tests because my periods were late.

One day I felt extremely sick but pregnancy was never a thought now because wow after so many negative tests. My husband, at that time boyfriend was not feeling the child idea because he had a child already but every time I would get sick he would suggest I get tested before I could go to the actual doctor.

On this particular day in June 2019 I was sick and my friend came to visit me and on my way back from dropping her off I got a call from my boyfriend and he was asking if I bought the pregnancy test. I said no but told him I would buy it on my way home, which I did. I got home to test and left the stick on the window seal, giving it time to read and for me to get dressed. I honestly was not expecting any two lines, my plan was "I will leave this stick here and that this man can see for himself that I am not pregnant" like the other times, but I went back to clean the toilet seat and my eyes moved to the stick and I immediately saw two lines. Till this day I can't describe that feeling. I took the stick in utter shock and immediately cried like the day I wailed after finding out that my dad passed away.

I called my boyfriend and he could not understand why I was crying so much, I'm sure he thought something was wrong because even when he arrived home later on, he found me crying still.

Our precious boy was on the way and the pressure of lobola was at its peak, and when I thought finally it's happening, the families could not agree to anything which put a strain on my pregnancy. My Mother woke up one morning to say we want a healthy baby and a happy mommy so let's pause everything till you give birth and trust God that it will all happen at his own time, unrushed.

And finally the words "when the time is right I the lord will make it happen" made sense. 1 May 2021 his family walked through our home gate and all went smoothly. At last, my last goal became a reality-I am traditionally Mrs K...

I may not know what you're faced with today as our circumstances and experiences differ in life but I want to encourage you to not be like me, do not lose hope in your waiting season but hold on to His promises and when anxiety feels great in you, find joy in the consolation that He will make everything happen when the time is right.





OUTSIDE



PROFILE

OLUCHI. B. KOLANISI

"Deal with the cards you are dealt with"

What is your name

Oluchi B. Kolanisi

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in Khayelitsha outside of Cape Town. I am the middle child of 5 sisters. I enjoy relaxing and the quiet. I enjoy the outdoors. I like walking. I am a self-mastery coach, author and speaker. I love travelling and do that as often as possible. I have real plants in my house.

What exactly is your passion and where does it comes from

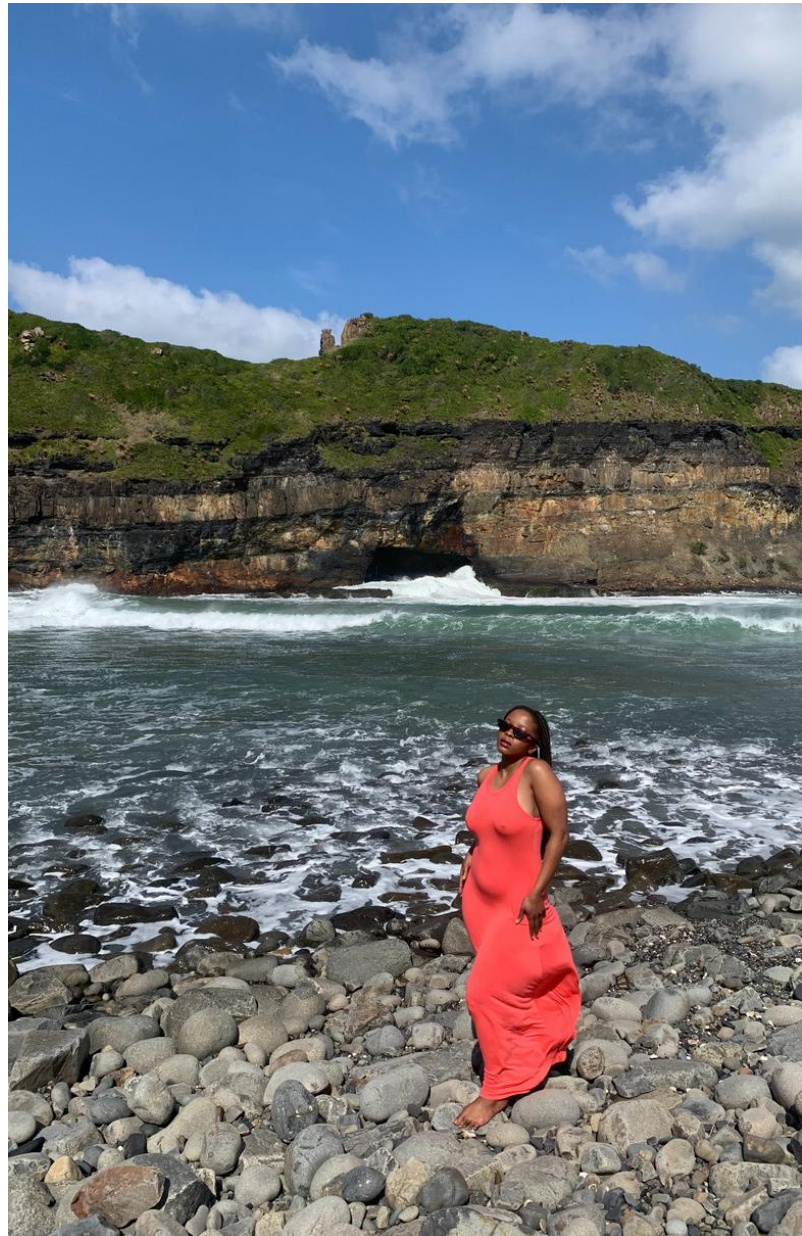
My passion is education. Growing up I wanted to be a teacher. In my corporate career, I worked in Medical Education. It just chose me. I love learning and teaching, they give me joy and make me feel happy while also contributing positively to society.

How do you keep grounded and push for your passion?

I have learn to relax and take things one at a time. I always wanted to move to the next with quickness and never salivated the present. I have since learnt that every moment is important whether good or bad. The future is accumulated every day. So I do things every day in the direction of the future I want. That keeps me pushing for my passion. What keeps me grounded is my relationship with God. Having that connection with the divine is important.

What do you want to be remembered for?

I love writing, I love reading, I am a nerd, I love music and hope to have the songs I write on the radio someday, love bodies of water so I love going to the beach.



FANCY WALLS
AND BLUE DENIM

When God calls us to pray for those that persecute us

BY: SANDISIWE

I was born into a Christian home; my parents had fully converted, Jesus was the truth and the only way in our family. I am sure fellow believers who grew up in Christian homes had as convoluted relationship with God as I did. Jesus was my genie, if He could make sure my mum didn't find out I broke that vase I would really pray at prayer time instead of sleeping. If He could make me pass that test or ensure my report came back great then I would sing loud in assembly and own my Christianity really proudly amongst my pre-teen friends.

As the years went on and more time spent reading my bible, praying, fasting and growing in my faith I soon learned that God was not a genie and that he wanted a relationship with me (us). I learned that he wants us messy and imperfect and he wants our total surrender and some of the terms and conditions of this relationship are easier said than done.

Skip a couple of years and I am working in a really toxic environment with a boss that has no manner of speaking to people, who's every other word was degrading and just plain rude. After months of hostility and not looking forward to going to work my depression was triggered and I had one of my worst stages with anxiety ever, I went through a period of having a panic attack every day.

In the midst of my therapy I decided to turn to the Lord to help me, yes therapy was giving me skills to deal my anxiety, suicidal ideation, and panic attacks but I needed to get to the heart of the matter. After months of reading verses about how God protects us when all turn on us and how he smites our enemies and I constantly asking when will you smite my enemy? I came across Matthew 5 verse 44

"But Now I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. SO that you may become the children of your Father in Heaven"

I remember when I came across this verse, it was during my early morning conversations with God. My reaction was nope, not this one. Full disclosure I cried a little, I really wanted to be obedient but instead I listed all the things my boss did to me, mostly triggering my anxiety. I refused this request, it was just too much! So, I sat there just staring into space (in an imaginary staring competition with God). Since I am the human in this scenario and I want to be known as a friend of God I started begrudgingly praying and it was vengeance prayers. So, the Holy Spirit nudged me further, I decided to change tactics instead praying for their marriage and children and family. That was easier to pray for their children and not them and I continued for a couple of days until I could pray for them and pray that God would bless them and protect them and finally I prayed for their forgiveness not in my strength but in Gods. Nothing changed for a couple of months but my anxiety got better, my perception of them changed, yet how they treated me did not change and yet still I prayed. It would take a couple more months before things really changed. You see dear reader our walk with Christ isn't always moonshine and roses and he really can ask some difficult tasks of us but on the other side of that is growth, fullness of Joy and a covenant with him. We are called to be set apart, if it were easy then we would all do it in our own strength..

I know it might feel like I might have skipped a few parts but I wanted to focus on an integral part, that of obedience to God, regardless of the ask and believing that he will work all things for our good. That season I grew leap and bounds, God blessed me for my faithfulness. Whom is God saying pray for? What is the hard task that his given?



Sandisiwe works in HR and Communication. In her spare time writes for her personal development and lifestyle blog.

www.sandys-place.co.za



YELLOW PAGES

THE WORD



You want to get into the word but there is no time or you don't know where to start or you just don't know what you want GOD to say.

To be grounded in the Word means to be covered in the Word, there will be times when you feel like what you are reading doesn't speak to you or your situation but grow in the Word and know that the LORD always has something to say to you in His Word.



Bible Reading Plans

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah talks about the nation's coming judgement and the hope of a new Messiah. I think this book speaks directly to what's happening all over the world. GOD will come again but we need to understand that nation will definitely be judged.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3DG2e1S>

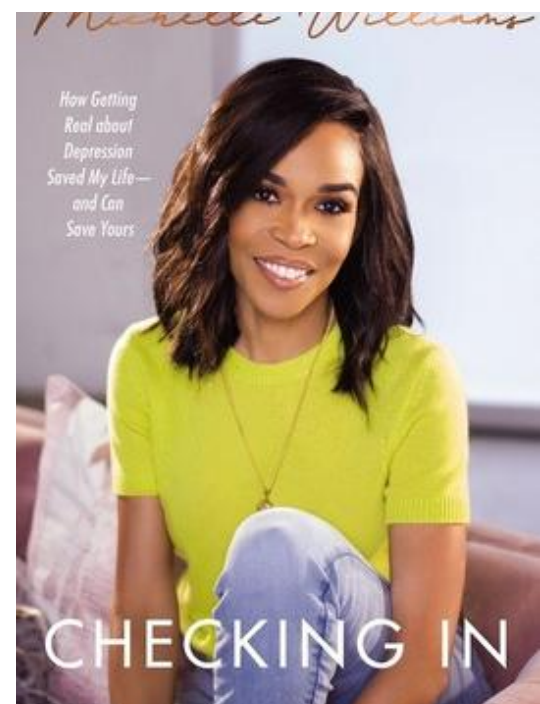
DAILY PSALM

The Psalms are a great place to start a bible reading plan because the Psalm reminds us of the LORD's reverence and how He can always be there but also reminds to continue pushing forward because He is always with us and that is a blessing on it's own.



OVERLAY

THE MIND THE SOUL



We can't deny that we are inspired pushed and guided by some people and it is those people's words that can inspire us to change behaviour, start something, change our mindset and realize that we are never alone.

For our two recommended books this month we would like you to read **Woman Evolve: Break Up with Your Fears and Revolutionize Your Life** by **Sarah Jakes Roberts** and if you are experiencing depression read **Checking In: How Getting Real about Depression Saved My Life** by **Michelle Williams**



Woman Evolve: Break Up with Your Fears and Revolutionize Your Life

Sarah Jakes Roberts, with life lessons she's learned and new insights from the story of Eve, shows you how the disappointments and even mistakes of your past can be used today to help you become the woman God intended.

Who would imagine being friends with Eve—the woman who's been held solely responsible for the fall of humanity (and cramps) for thousands of years? Certainly not Sarah Jakes Roberts. That is, not until Sarah discovered she is more like Eve than she cares to admit.

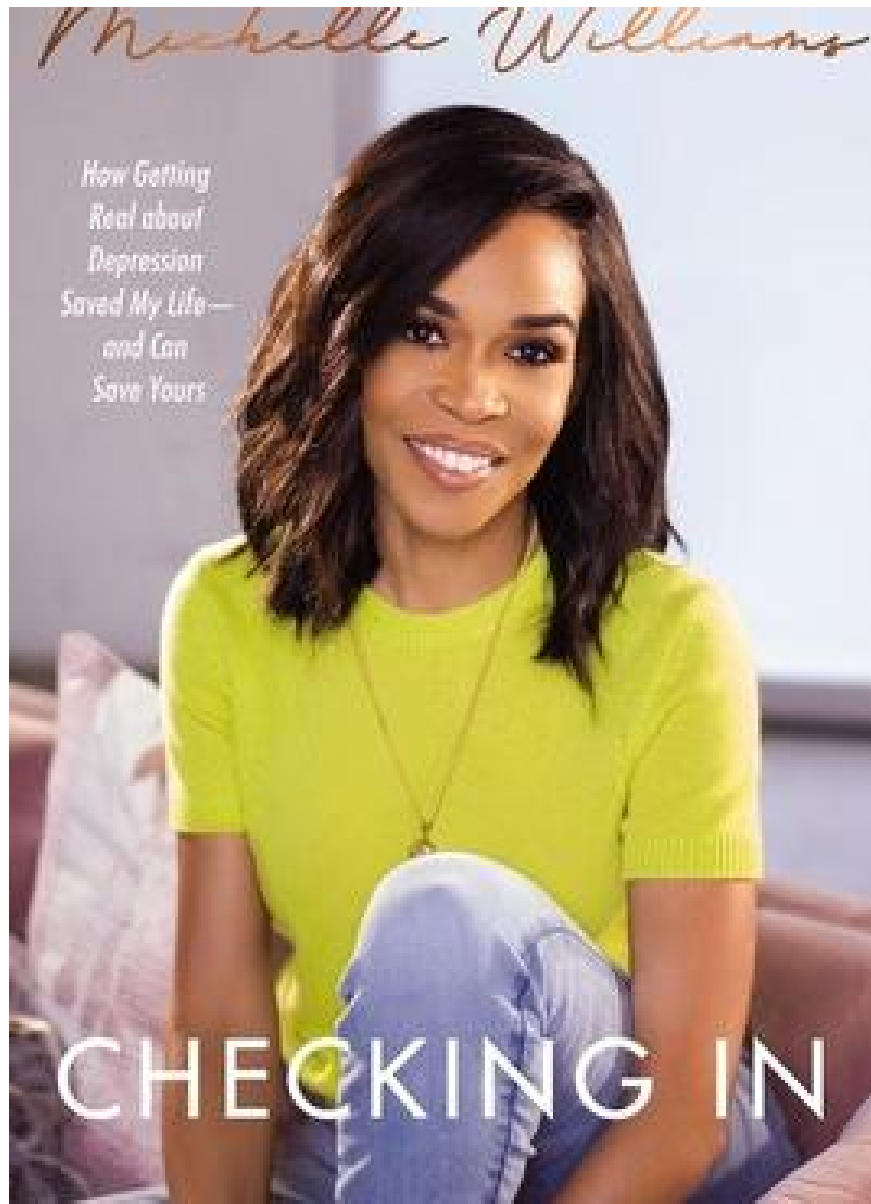
Everyone faces trials, and everyone will mess up. But failure should not be the focus. Your focus should not be on who you were but rather on the pursuit of whom you can become. In *Woman Evolve*, Sarah helps you to understand that your purpose in life does not change; it evolves.

Making her mistake in the Garden of Eden, Eve became the first woman to deal with rebuilding her life in the aftermath of her past. Eve knew better, but she didn't do better. With scriptural lessons and Sarah as your guide, you discover and work through

- past issues and questions that haunt you,
- seeing yourself as God sees you and trusting Him with who you really are,
- how to come out of darkness and pursue a real relationship with God,
- why it's important to truly care for yourself,
- setting in motion the beautiful seed that God planted in you, and
- running to become who you were meant to be!

Your fears and insecurities may have changed how you viewed God, others, and yourself, but in *Woman Evolve*, you can breakthrough and use past mistakes to revolutionize your life. Like Eve, you don't have to live your future defined by your past.

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54287716-woman-evolve>



“I need help.”

Those three words saved Grammy Award-winning singer Michelle Williams’s life. After decades of sweeping her anxiety and depression under the rug—even during her years in the spotlight with Destiny’s Child—Michelle found herself planning her own funeral. Realizing that she needed immediate help and could no longer battle her anxiety and depression alone, she checked herself into a treatment facility. When she came home, she was energized and determined to check in on a regular basis with herself, God, and others.

Practical, engaging, and full of wisdom, *Checking In* helps us understand that

- building walls around our vulnerability can hinder our healing;
- we need to reject the lies of anxiety and depression and replace them with the truth of God’s Word;
- joy can be found when we release toxic thought patterns;
- childhood wounds need to be healed;
- freedom can be found when we forgive ourselves and others; and
- a beautiful life comes from living honestly.

An uplifting, behind-the-scenes look at one woman’s path to healing, *Checking In* reminds you that you are not alone, and that God is not yet finished writing your story.

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, looking back over her shoulder. She is wearing a light-colored plaid blazer over a pink top. She is in a wooded area with many trees in the background. The word "ARRIVED" is written in white serif font across the lower part of the image.

ARRIVED
