**Chapter 17: My Mother’s Life**

* Trevor and Mother joke about who is the better looking person in the family
* Met Abel because his mother had to keep bringing in volkswagen for repairs and he was their mechanic
  + Mighty mechanics
* Trevor did not want her to marry Abel, but had no problem with them dating
* Abel and Patricia had Andrew
  + Brought him to meet Abel’s family in Tzaneen
  + Abels family culture was patriarchal
    - Men made the money and got the food for the women to cook and clean
    - First born son was to take care of the house
  + Abel was never a father figure to Trevor, and he liked it that way
* Abel thought that Patricia going to church all the time was disrespectful to him so he would stop fixing her car so she couldn't go
* Abel used to smoke weed and drink, but Patricia made him stop
  + His drinking increased after this
* Abel got very drunk one night and almost burned the house down trying to cook food
* Patricia called her mother to rant, and Abel hung up the phone on her and hit her for telling other people “their business”
  + He hit her again
  + She went to the police station to file a report, but they brushed it off and wouldnt write one
    - They claimed it was a family issue
    - It was a “boys club”
* Patricia tried to help Abel build up his mechanic business after they bought it from the previous owner
  + Business took over their lives
  + Ended up having so much debt
  + Patricia sold the house and they moved into the garage
  + They slept on a thin mattress on the floor and Trevor slept in cars
  + They ate spinach and caterpillars
  + She quit her job to try and help the business
  + It started to run better but Abel was not happy that people thought it was because of her, because he wanted to be “the man”
  + She quit helping him and got her own job as a secretary at a real estate agency
  + She moved up in this job
  + Paid for a house, food, and everything else for the family
* Abel beat up Trevor after he got in trouble at school
* After that he never trusted him again and got hit a few more times
* Abel kicked the family dogs and beat on Trevor and Patricia
* Patricia got pregnant with Isaac
* Trevor moved out
* Patricia divorced Abel and got remarried
* Years later he got a call from Andrew that Patricia had been shot by Abel
* He went to the hospital and ended up paying for her bills because she had no health insurance
* She miraculously survived