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Akana K'epunda / Donkey Child

Lindiwe Matshikiza

Meghan Judge

Amos Mubunga Kambere (koo)



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Olukonjo / English



Omumbesa mulere yowatsuka erilhangira
ekithikithiki embere.

...

It was a little girl who first saw the mysterious
shape in the distance.

As the shape moved closer, she saw that it was a heavily pregnant woman.

...

Neryo ekitsutsu kyamabya kikaseghera hakuhi,
kyamabya ngomukai! omkule.





Nobuba bunene, omumbesa mwaseghera hakuhi nomughole. "Tumwimaye, kandi tubye nayo". Tukendimubika nomwanawiwe.

...

Shy but brave, the little girl moved nearer to the woman. "We must keep her with us," the little girl's people decided. "We'll keep her and her child safe."



Erilhwiraho, W'apunda na mamawayo mubakulha haima nerikalha omwabuholho. Neryo lyolholyo ebindi bihanda byamatsuka erikalha haima nabo.

...

The donkey child and his mother have grown together and found many ways of living side by side. Slowly, all around them, other families have started to settle.



Omwana amabya akayalhwamo, bulimundu amayitsiada nerihunerera. "E'punda?!"

...

But when they saw the baby, everyone jumped back in shock. "A donkey?!"



W'apunda neryo mwaminya ekyerikolha.

...

Donkey finally knew what to do.



Bulimundu amatsuka erithera esyampaka.

“Muthukabugha thuthi thukendibika omwana

nanyinya, neryo kwabithya” owindi amabugha.

“Ikwa ibwa eki kanikisiran!, kyanganathulethera
mughisa mubi” aband! bathya omwampaka.

...

Everyone began to argue. “We said we would

keep mother and child safe, and that’s what we’ll
do,” said some. “But they will bring us bad luck!”

said others.



... ebithu ibyabiribirana, n’omulhume wiwe

nayo inyabiribirana.

...

... the clouds had disappeared along with his

friend, the old man.



Neryo omughole amayisanga
inyamabirisighalha eyowene. Neryo amayibulha
bulha ngakoleki nomwana oyuthemundu.
Ibbwangakoleki?

...

And so the woman found herself alone again.
She wondered what to do with this awkward
child. She wondered what to do with herself.



Neryo erihika okwa mwise wekithwa
omwabithu, omulhume na w'apunda
bamawotsera. Neryo Epunda yamalhotha mama
wayo inyabirilhwalha, kandi inyanimubirikira.
W'apunda abere akabuka...

...

High up amongst the clouds they fell asleep.
Donkey dreamed that his mother was sick and
calling to him. And when he woke up...

Okwiunzera mwabya isawithe ekyerikoha
 okwihaho iriyisinga omanawiwe. Abiributha
 epunda.
 ...
 But finally she had to accept that he was her
 child and she was his mother.



Kiro kighuma, omulhume mwasaba wapunda
 erimuheka erimuthwalha okwa kithwa.
 ...
 One morning, the old man asked Donkey to
 carry him to the top of a mountain.





Neryo ibwa epunda yamatsuka erikula kula.
 Kuyanakuha lyolho obundi ebindu
 byanganabere ndeke, kusangwa neryo muyabya
 isiyikihika emughongo y'amama wayo.
 Omughole nomwanalengeseya erilemberayo
 ngomundu, muyithathoka eribya ngabandu.
 Mamawayo amatsuka erilhuha
 neriyibulhabulha.

...

Now, if the child had stayed that same, small size, everything might have been different. But the donkey child grew and grew until he could no longer fit on his mother's back. And no matter how hard he tried, he could not behave like a human being. His mother was often tired and frustrated. Sometimes she made him do work meant for animals.



Epunda yamayikalha nomulhume oyo, nayo
 amasomesyayo bindu binene. Epunda
 muyahulikirira neriyitheghererya. Muhabya
 erikolhangana neriseka haima.

...

Donkey went to stay with the old man, who taught him many different ways to survive. Donkey listened and learned, and so did the old man. They helped each other, and they laughed together.



Akatabanguko nerithendiyithagherania
 mbyabanika omwa nyumba n'epunda.
 Isiangakolha eki nakirya. Isangasosa atia kutse
 atia. Neryo amatsumuma. Kiro kighuma
 mwasamba mama wiwe yomlas!, neryo
 amayihumba ahisi.

...

Confusion and anger built up inside Donkey. He
 couldn't do this and he couldn't do that. He
 couldn't be like this and he couldn't be like that.
 He became so angry that, one day, he kicked his
 mother to the ground.



Eribuka yikalhangira omulhume
 inyanasamalireyo omwameso. Neryo
 yamahumulikana erilhangira omutsuniri.

...

Donkey woke up to find a strange old man
 staring down at him. He looked into the old
 man's eyes and started to feel a twinkle of hope.



Epunda neryo muyayiswekera. Yamathibitha hali omwirungu.

...

Donkey was filled with shame. He started to run away as far and fast as he could.



Ahayimanira, omwirimya inyamabiribyayo. Epunda neryo yamathalhira omwamwirimya. "Hee haaa?" yamalhakira omwamwirimya. "Hee haaa?" yamamwithaba. Epunda yamayisanga omwamwirimya iyyene, neryo yamawotsera.

...

By the time he stopped running, it was night, and Donkey was lost. "Hee haw?" he whispered to the darkness. "Hee Haw?" it echoed back. He was alone. Curling himself into a tight ball, he fell into a deep and troubled sleep.