



Nozibele na Umushishi utatu

Nozibele and the three hairs

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Munshita yakale, abakashana batatu baile mukuteba inkuni.

...

A long time ago, three girls went out to collect wood.



Kwali ukwakaba sana, eyo baile mumumana mukowa. Bayangele nokowa mumenshi.

...

It was a hot day so they went down to the river to swim. They played and splashed and swam in the water.



Elyo baimwene ati bwaila. Babutukile ukubwelela kumushi.

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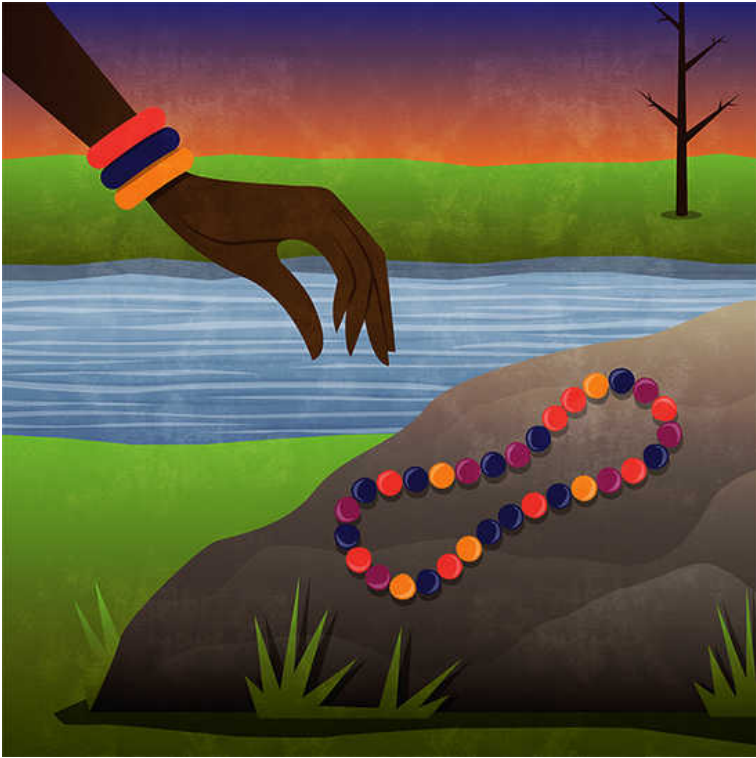
Suddenly, they realised that it was late. They hurried back to the village.



Cilya bapamina kumushi, Nozibele aikete mumukoshi. Alilaba akakufwala mumukoshi, “Napapata nshindikeniko!” Nomba abanankwe bamukanina.

...

When they were nearly home, Nozibele put her hand to her neck. She had forgotten her necklace! “Please come back with me!” she begged her friends. But her friends said it was too late.



Nozibele epakubwekelamo kumumana eka. Asendel akakufwala mumukoshi nokubweluluka bwangu bwangu ku mushi. Nomba aliluba munfifi.

...

So Nozibele went back to the river alone. She found her necklace and hurried home. But she got lost in the dark.



Akatalamukila, amona ulubuto mukasaka. Eko aya bwangubwangu mukukonkosha pacibi.

...

In the distance she saw light coming from a hut. She hurried towards it and knocked at the door.



Camupapwishe ukuti imbwa eyaiswile kucibi nokumwipusha, “Finshi ulefwaya?” Nozibele ati “Ninduba eico ndefwaya aponingasendama”, embwa aiti “Ingila pantu nalakusuma!” Nozibele epakwingila.

...

To her surprise, a dog opened the door and said, “What do you want?” “I’m lost and I need a place to sleep,” said Nozibele. “Come in, or I’ll bite you!” said the dog. So Nozibele went in.



Imbwa epakumweba ati, “njipikilako!” Nozibele ati “nomba nshatala ipikilapo imbwa.” Imbwa aiti “Ipika pantu nalakusuma”. Efyo Nozibele aipikile imbwa ifyakulya.

...

Then the dog said, “Cook for me!” “But I’ve never cooked for a dog before,” she answered. “Cook, or I’ll bite you!” said the dog. So Nozibele cooked some food for the dog.



Imbwa aiti, “Njanshikila ubusanshi!” Nozibele ati “nshatala anshikapo ubusanshi bwambwa.” Imbwa aiti, “njashikila ubusanshi pantu nalakusuma”! Efyo Nozibele ayanshike ubusanshi.

...

Then the dog said, “Make the bed for me!” Nozibele answered, “I’ve never made a bed for a dog.” “Make the bed, or I’ll bite you!” the dog said. So Nozibele made the bed.



Cilabushiku aleipikila imbwa nokuicapila. Bushiku bumo imbwa aiti, “Nozibela, lelo nalaya mukutandalila abanandi. Upyange ing’anda, wipike ifyakulya, uwashe nokuwasha eponshila bwela.

...

Every day she had to cook and sweep and wash for the dog. Then one day the dog said, “Nozibele, today I have to visit some friends. Sweep the house, cook the food and wash my things before I come back.”



Cilyafye imbwa yaya, Nozibele asenda umushishi utatu mumutwe. Abika umushishi umo pabusnahi, umbi kunuma yacibi elyo umbi mwicinka. Efyo abutwike ukuya.

...

As soon as the dog had gone, Nozibele took three hairs from her head. She put one hair under the bed, one behind the door, and one in the kraal. Then she ran home as fast as she could.



Elyi imbwa yabwelele, yaambile ukufwaya Nozibele. yapunda aiti “Nozibele ulikwisa?” Umushishi wali mwisamba lyabusanshi lyabalilapo aliti “ndimuno!” Iyakonkelepo aliti “Indikunuma yacibi”. ishiwi Ilyabutatu aliti, “ndimwicinka”.

...

When the dog came back, he looked for Nozibele. “Nozibele, where are you?” he shouted. “I’m here, under the bed,” said the first hair. “I’m here, behind the door,” said the second hair. “I’m here, in the kraal,” said the third hair.



Eyo imbwa yaimwene ukuti Nozibele naicenjeshu. Epakubutuka ukukonamo ukuya kumushi. Nomba bandume yakwa Nozibele baleilolela nefimiti. Imbwa epakupilibuka nokubwekelamo ukufumapo tayatalile aimoneka nakabili.

...

Then the dog knew that Nozibele had tricked him. So he ran and ran all the way to the village. But Nozibele's brothers were waiting there with big sticks. The dog turned and ran away and has never been seen since.



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