



Umwana wakwa Punda

Donkey Child

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 AGNES CHIBAMBA

 3

 IciBemba [bem](#) / English [en](#)



Umukashana umunono ewabalilepo ukumona
icinjelengwe akatalamukila.

...

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



Ilyo icinjelengwe cafikile mupepi, amwene ukuti ni namayo uwali sana pabukulu.

...

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



Nensoni shakwe, umukashana umunono alikosela na ukupalama mupepi na namayo. “Tufwile twamusunga pamo naifwe, “umukashana umunono uwatemenwe ukwikala na bantu ali ipeleshe. “Tulemusunga bwino na umwana wakwe.”

...

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.”



Panonofye umwana ali munshila. "Sunka!" "Leta
amalangeti!" "Amenshi!" "Suunkaa!!!"

...

The child was soon on its way. "Push!" "Bring
blankets!" "Water!" "Puuuuusssshhh!!!"



Nomba ilyo bamwene umwana, bonse balitolokela kunuma mu kusunguka. "Punda?"

...

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



Bonse batampile ukusushanya. “twacitila tulesunga umwana naba nyina mutende, efyo twalacita, “efyo bamobamo basosele. “Nomba bakatuletela ishamo!” efyo bambi basosele.

...

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.



Efyo nomba namayo aisangile eka nakabili. Taishibe ifyakucita na icinjelengwe ca mwana. Taishibe ifyakucita umwine.

...

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



Panuma alisuminafye ukuti ali mwana wakwe elyo
nao ali ninyina.

...

But finally she had to accept that he was her child
and she was his mother.



Nomba, ngacakuti umwana talekula, alifye umunono, fyonse nga fyalipusana. Lelo umwana wa punda alikulile sana icakuti aleka ukukumana mu numa yaba nyina. Elyo nangu eshe shani, ificitwa fyakwe tafyali fya buntu. Inshita yonse ba nyina balifye abanaka na icifukushi. Limo limo balemupela incito sha nama.

...

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.



Punda alifye awa lubana elyo atampile ukumfwa na icifukushi. Teti acite icili conse. Teti abe ifili fyonse. Ali fulilwe sana icakuti, ubushiku bumo, alipantile ba nyina bapona na panshi.

...

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.



Punda alyumfwile insoni. Atampile ukubutuka ukuya ukutali sana.

...

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



Ilyo Punda alekele ukubutuka, palifita, aluba na ukuluba. “Hee haw?” atotosha munfifi panono panono. “Hee Haw?” Iciunda caumfwika. Ali eka. Aipeteka sana, apona namutulo utwine twine utwamalangulushi.

...

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.



Punda ukubuka asanga shikulu bantu uwo taishibe alemulolesha. Alolesha mu menso yakwa shikulu bantu atendeka ukumfwa icicetekelo.

...

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.



Punda aile mu kwikala na shikulu bantu, uwa mufundile inshila sha kwikalilamo ishingiri. Punda alyumfwile na ukusambilila, cimo cine na shikulu bantu. Baleyafwana na ukusekela pamo.

...

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.



Ubushiku bumo, shikulu bantu aipwishe punda ukumusenda pamulu wa lupili.

...

One morning, the old man asked Donkey to carry him to the top of a mountain.



Pamulu mu makumbi basendama. Punda alotele banyina abalwele balemwita. Ilyo abukile...

...

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



...amakumbi yaliya pamo na umunankwe, shikulu bantu.

...

... the clouds had disappeared along with his friend, the old man.



Panuma punda alishibe ifyakucita.

...

Donkey finally knew what to do.



Punda alisangile ba nyina, beka balelosha umwana uwalubile. Baliloleshanya akashita akatali. Elyo bakumbatana sana.

...

Donkey found his mother, alone and mourning her lost child. They stared at each other for a long time. And then hugged each other very hard.



Umwana wa donkey na banyina bali kulila pamo
elyo balisanga inshila ishingiri ishakwikala pamo.
Panono panono, bonse ababashinguluka, balupwa
bambi balitampa ukwikala bwino.

...

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.



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