




## Ijoolee gagaa

## Children of wax

 Southern African Folktale

 Wiehan de Jager

 Demoze Degefa

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 Afan Oromo [om](#) / English [en](#)



Yeroo took matii gammachudhan jiratu  
tokkotu ture.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Wal-lolani hinbekan. Matii isaani manatis ta'e allati nigargaaru.

...

They never fought with each other. They helped their parents at home and in the fields.





Garuu gara ibbiddati siquu dhorgamani turan.

...

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Hojii isaani halkan hojachuu qaban. Sababin isaas matiin kuni gagaa irra hojataman!

...

They had to do all their work during the night.  
Because they were made of wax!



Isaan kessaa mucaan tokko garu gara adduti bahuu fedhee ture.

...

But one of the boys longed to go out in the sunlight.



Kessaahu gaftokko bayee hawee garu  
obbolawan isaa isa dhorgan.

...

One day the longing was too strong. His  
brothers warned him...

Dhorgam suni bayee ture. Muccichi addu  
kessati baqee jira.

...

But it was too late! He melted in the hot sun.







Ijooleen gaga yeroo obbolessi isani baqu  
argudhan bayee aaran.

...

The wax children were so sad to see their  
brother melting away.



Sagantaa qaban turan. Gagaa baqee sana gara simbrooti gedaran.

...

But they made a plan. They shaped the lump of melted wax into a bird.



Obbolessa isaani simbirro kan gara gaara guddaa gessan.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high mountain.



Akkuma addun bateen sirbaa balali'aa  
deeman.

...

And as the sun rose, he flew away singing into  
the morning light.



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