



Abana b'ibishashara

Children of wax

 Southern African Folktale

 Wiehan de Jager

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 Ikinyarwanda [rw](#) / English [en](#)



kera, habayeho umuryango wishimye.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Ntibigeraga barwana hagati yabo. Bafashaga ababyeyi babo murugo no mu imirima.

...

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





Ariko ntibari bemerewe kwegera hafi umuriro.

...

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Bagombaga gukora imirimo yabo yose mu ijoro. Kuberako bari bakozwe mu ibishashara!

...

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



Ariko umwe mu bahungu yifuzaga cyane
kujya hanze kuzuba.

...

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



Umunsi umwe kwifuza byari bikomeye cyane.
Basaza be baramuburiye...

...

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

Ariko byari bitinze! Yarayonze mu izuba
rishyushye.

...

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





Abana b'ibishashara barababaye kubona umuvandimwe wabo ayonga.

...

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



Ariko bakoze umupangu. Bakoze mo ibishashara bya yonze mo inyoni.

...

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



Batwaye muzaza wabo w'innyoni hejuru
k'umusozi.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high
mountain.



Ubwo izuba ryacyaga, yagurutse aririmba mu urumuri rw'igitondo.

...

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



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