



# uNozibele kanye nezinwele ezintathu

## Nozibele and the three hairs

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 isiZulu [zu](#) / English [en](#)



Emandulo amantombazane amathathu ahamba  
ayotheza.

...

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



Ilanga lalishisa kakhulu base behlela emfuleni ukuyobhukuda. Badlala, bethelana ngamanzi ngesikhathi bebhukuda.

...

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



Kusenjalo babona ukuthi isikhathi sase sihambile.  
Baphuthuma bephindela emakhaya.

...

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



Bathi sebesondele emakhaya, uNozibele wazithinta emqaleni wathola ukuthi umgexo wakhe wawungekho. Wayewukhohliwe! “Ngicela ningiphelezele bandla!” ebancenga. Kodwa abangane bakhe bathi sekuhlwile.

...

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.



UNozibele waphindela yedwa emfuleni. Wawuthola umgexo wakhe waphuthuma ephindela ekhaya. Kodwa endleleni waduka ebumnyameni.

...

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



Buqamama wabona ukukhanya okwakuqhamuka endlini. Washesha wayakhona, wafika wangqongqoza emnyango.

...

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



Wamangala kakhulu ukuthi kwavulainja, yathi  
“Ufunani la?” “Ngidukile ngicela indawo yokulala,”  
kusho uNozibele. “Ngena ngaphakathi, ngale  
kwalokho ngizokuluma!”, kushoinja. UNozibele  
wangena ngaphakathi.

...

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.





Inja yathi, “Ngiphekele!” “Kodwa angikaze ngiyiphekele inja,” kuphendula uNozibele. “Phela ngale kwaloko ngizokuluma!” kusho inja. UNozibele wayiphekela inja.

...

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.



Inja yathi, “Ngindlalele umbhede!” Nozibele wathi, “Angikaze ngendlalele inja.” “Ndlala ngale kwaloko ngizokuluma!”,kusho inja. uNozibele wawendlala umbhede.

...

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.



Zonke izinsuku wayepheka, ashanele, futhi ayiwasheleinja. Ngelinye ilangainja yathi, “Nozibele, namhlanje ngizovakashela abangane bami. Shanela la endlini, upheke bese uwashe izingubo zami ngaphambi kokuba ngibuye.”

...

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.”



Isikhashana nje inja isihambile, uNozibele wathatha izinwele ezintathu ekhanda lakhe. Wabeka unwele olulodwa ngaphansi kombhede, wabeka olunye unwele emva kwesivalo, wabeka olunye esibayeni. Wase wabaleka waya ekhaya ngokushesha.

...

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.



Yathiinja ibuya, yafuna uNozibele. “Nozibele, ukuphi?” imemeza. “Ngilapha ngaphansi kombhede,” kusho unwele lokuqala. “Ngilapha, emva kwesivalo,” kusho unwele lwesibili. “Ngilapha, esibayeni,” kusho unwele lwesithathu.

...

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.



Inja yavele yabona nje ukuthi uNozibele wayeyicuphile. Inja yagijima imfuna. Kodwa abafowabo kaNozibele babeyilinde nezinkulu izinduku. Inja yabaleka yaphindela emuva, ayiphindanga yabonakala kusukela ngalelo langa.

...

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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