

**Akana K'epunda / Donkey Child**

**Donkey Child**

◎ Olukonjo [koʊ] / English [en]

III 3

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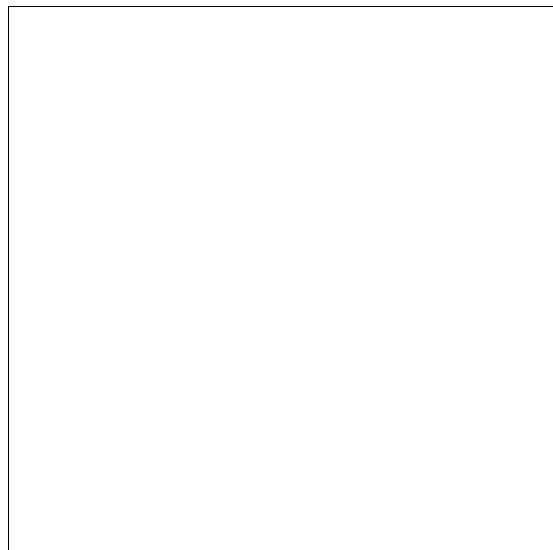
Omumbesa mulere yowatsuka erilhangira  
ekithikithiki embere.

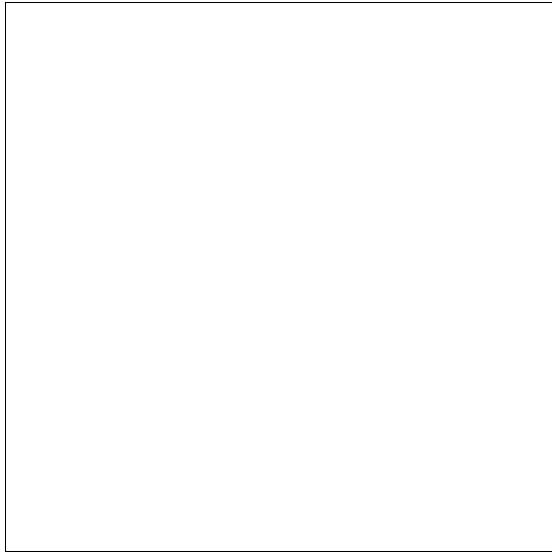
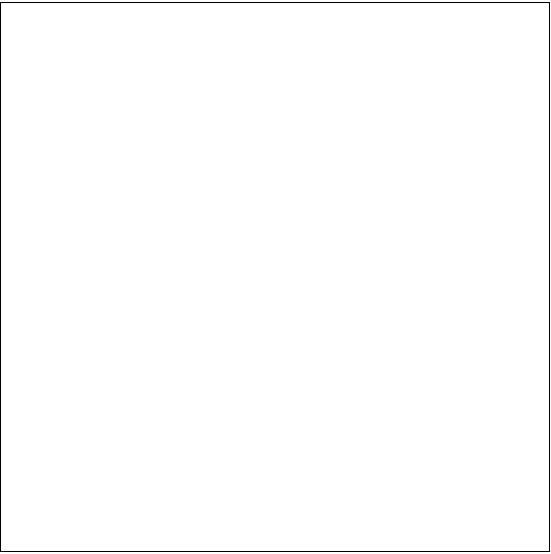
...

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

Neryo ekitstutsu kyamabaya kikaseghera hakuchi,  
kyamabaya ngomukali omukule.  
As the shape moved closer, she saw that it was a  
heavily pregnant woman.

...





Nobuba bunene, omumbesa mwaseghera  
hakuhi nomughole. "Tumwimaye, kandi tubye  
nayo". Tukendimubika nomwanawiwe.

...

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."

Erilhwiraho, W'apunda na mamawayo  
mubakulha haima nerikalha omwabuholho.  
Neryo lyolholoyolho ebindi bihanda byamatsuka  
erikalha haima nabo.

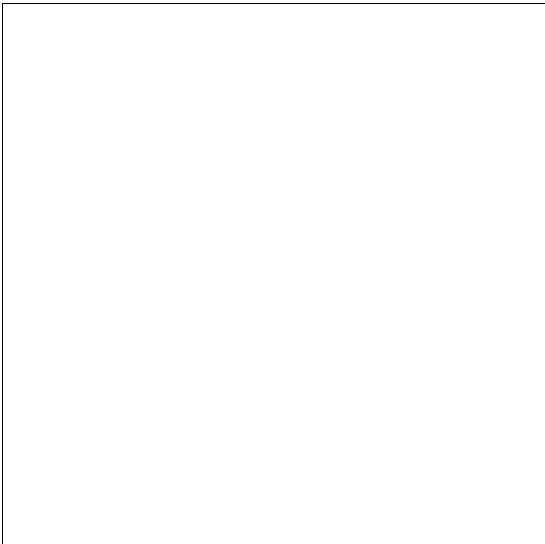
...

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.

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

...

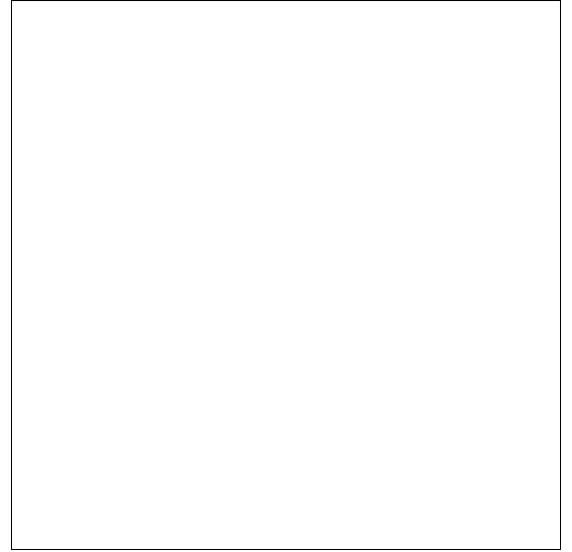
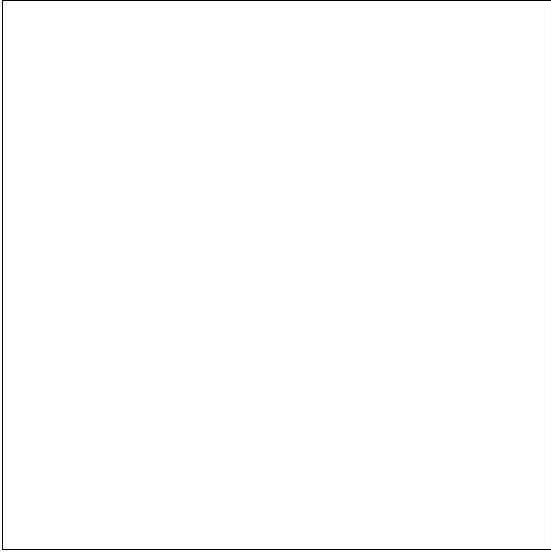
"Neryo omughole amahika eributha. "Sukuma!"  
"Mulethe esyabbulangiti syeriyiswika!"  
"Amaghetse!" "Sukumaaaaaaall!"



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.

...

"Wapunda amasangana mama wiwe iyanane  
omwakiriro kyomwana wiwe iyapunda.  
Mubasamalirana nebitisanage."



Omwana amabya akayalhwamo, bulimundu  
amayitsiada nerihunerera. "E'punda?!"

...

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

W'apunda neryo mwaminya ekyerikolha.

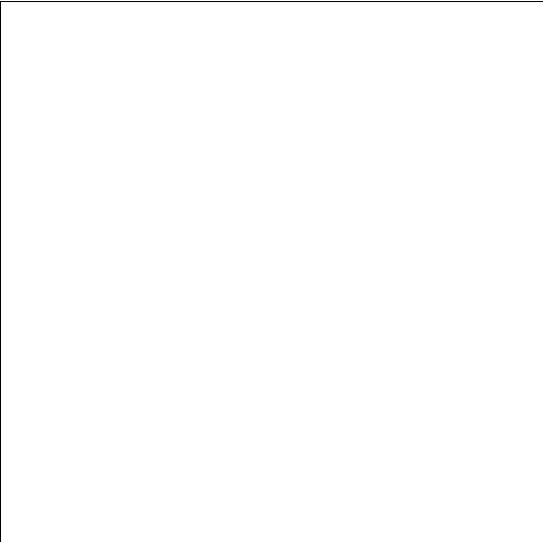
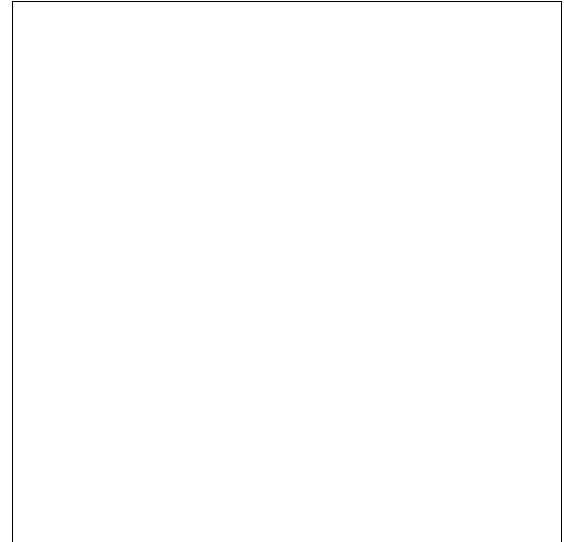
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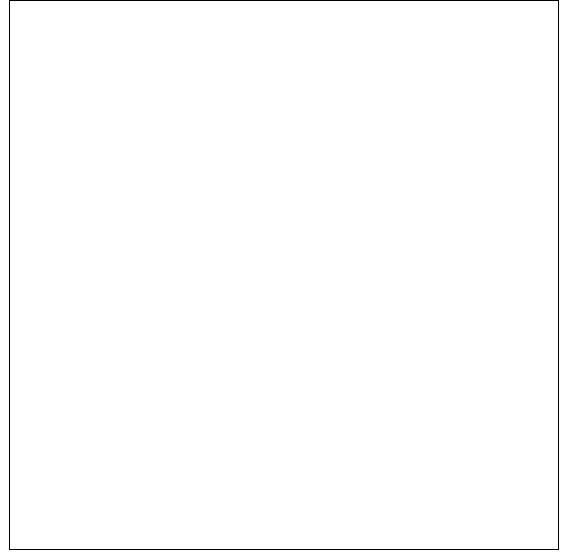
Donkey finally knew what to do.

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!"

...  
 mughisia mubi" abandi bathya omwamaka.  
 "Ikwa ibwa eki kanikisiranil, kyananganathuletheranayinya, neryo kwabithya" owinidi amabugha.  
 "Mutukabugha thuthi thukendibika omwana  
 Bulimundu amatsuka erithera esyampaka.

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



Neryo omughole amayisanga  
inyamabirisighalha eyowene. Neryo amayibulha  
bulha ngakoleki nomwana oyuthemundu.  
Ibbwangakoleki?

...

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

Neryo erihika okwa mwiso wekithwa  
omwabitihu, omulhume na w'apunda  
bamawotsera. Neryo Epunda yamalhatha mama  
wayo inyabirilhwalha, kandi inyanimubirikira.  
W'apunda abere akabuka...

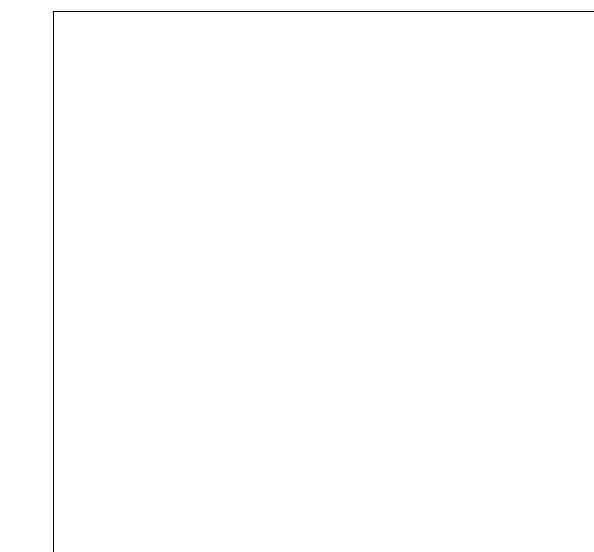
...

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

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

...

Kiro kighuma, omuhume mwasaba w'apunda erimuheka erimutwhala okwa kitihwa.

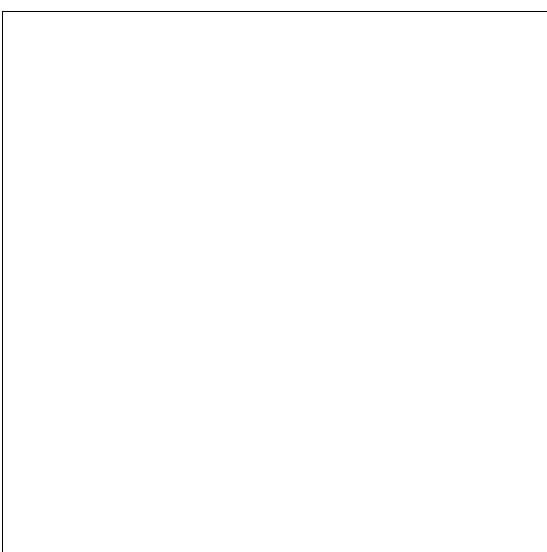


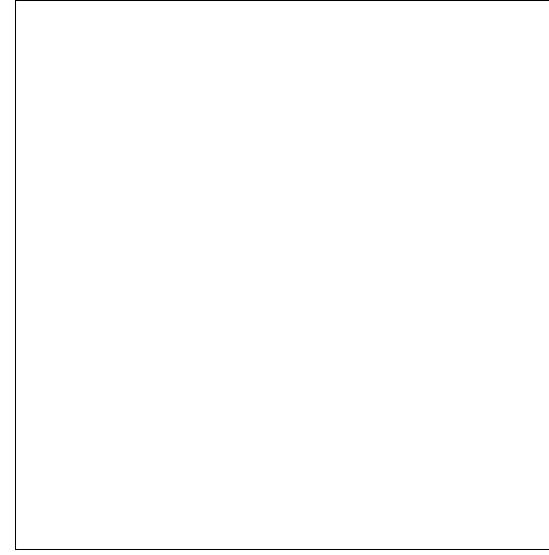
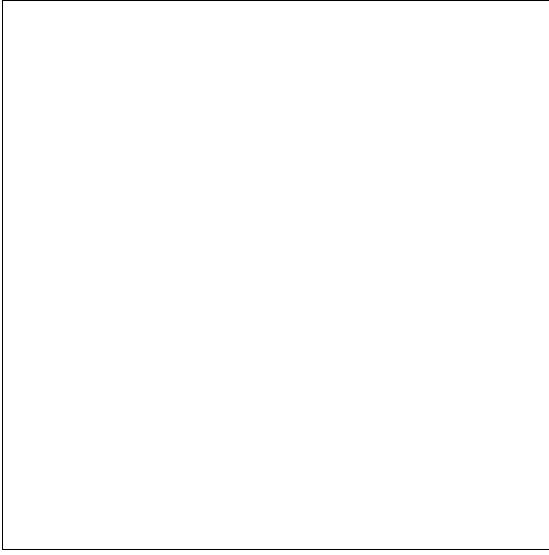
But finally she had to accept that he was her child and she was his mother.

...

epunda.

Okwiumunzerera mwabya isiawithe ekyerikola  
okwhaho iriyisinga omwanawive. Abiributha





Neryo ibwa epunda yamatsuka erikula kula.  
Kuyanakulha lyolho obundi ebindu  
byanganabere ndeke, kusangwa neryo muyabya  
isiyikihika emughongo y'amama wayo.  
Omughole nomwanalengeseya erilemberayo  
ngomundu, muyithathoka eribya ngabandu.  
Mamawayo amatsuka erilhuha  
neriyibulhabulha.

...

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.

Epunda yamayikalha nomulhume oyo, nayo amasomesyayo bindu binene. Epunda muyahulikirira neriyithegererya. Muhabya erikolhangana neriseka haima.

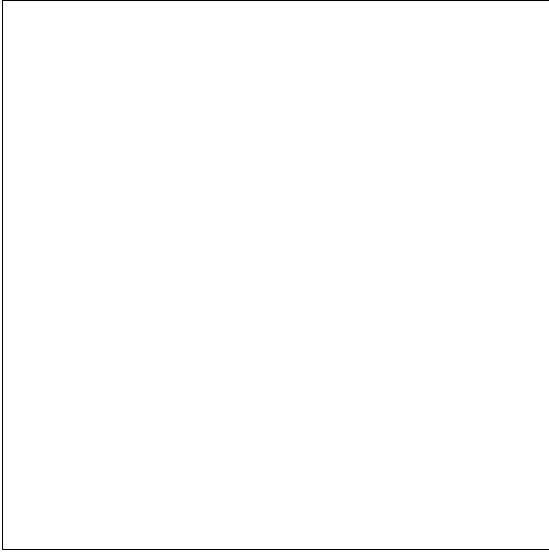
...

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.

Eribuka yikalhangira omuluhume  
inyanasa maliroyo omwameso. Neryo  
yamahmulikana erilhangira omutsuniri.  
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.  
...

Akatabanguko nerithendiyitheghereran  
mubyabanika omwa nyumba n'epunda.  
Isiangakolha eki nakiry. Isangasosa atia kutese  
ati. Neryo amatsuruma. Kiro kighuma  
mwasa mba mama wive yomulasi, neryo  
amayihumba ahisi.  
...

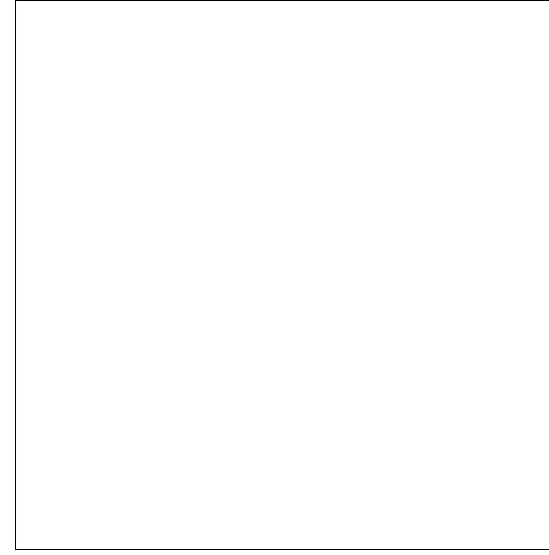
Confusion and anger built up inside Donkey. He  
couldn't do this and he couldn't do that. He  
couldn't be like this and he couldn't be like that.  
He became so angry that, one day, he kicked his  
mother to the ground.



Epunda neryo muyayiswekera. Yamathibitha hali omwirungu.

...

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



Ahayimanira, omwirimya inyamabiribyayo. Epunda neryo yamathalhira omwamwirimya. "Hee haaa?" yamalhakira omwamwirimya. "Hee haaa?" yamamwithaba. Epunda yamayisanga omwamwirimya iyiyene, neryo yamawotsera.

...

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.