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uNozibele kanye nezinwele ezintathu / Nozibele and the three hairs

✏ Tessa Welch
✉ Wiehan de Jager
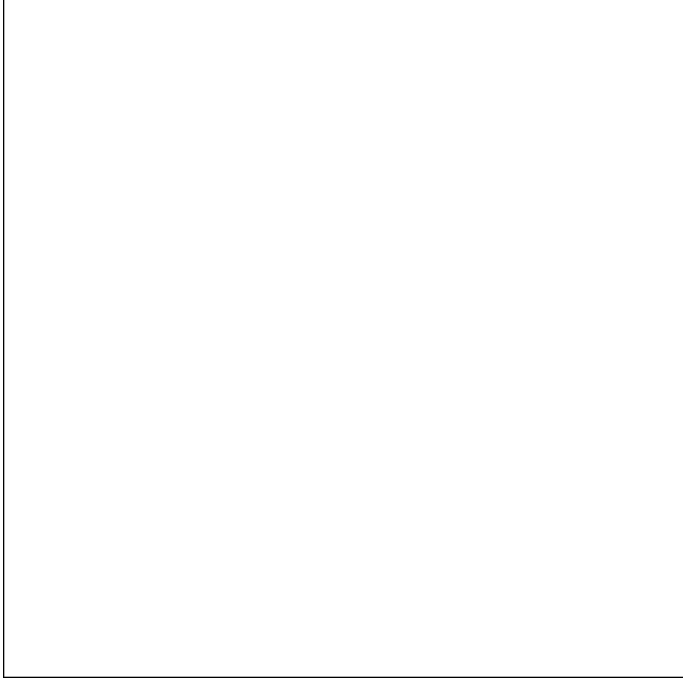🗐 Zimbili Dlamini, Phumy Zikode (zu)
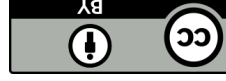
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Nozibele and the three hairs

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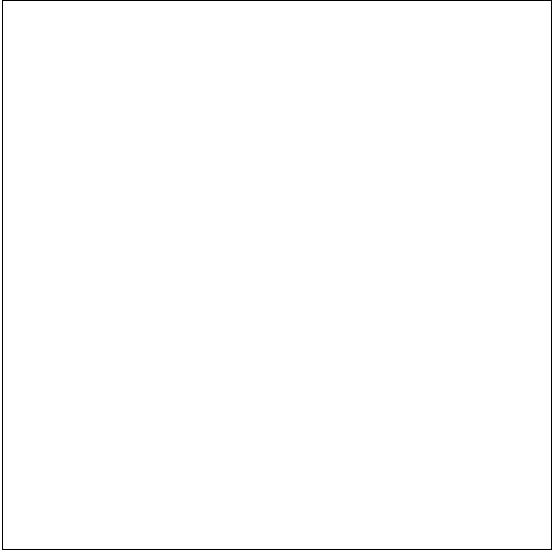
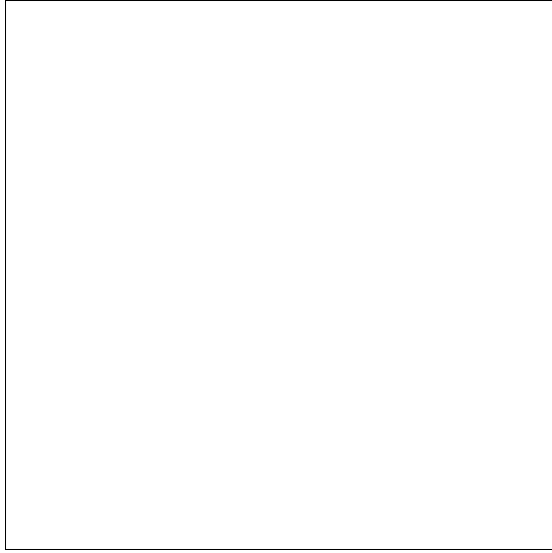Emandulo amantombazane amathathu ahamba ayotheza.

. . .

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.

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.
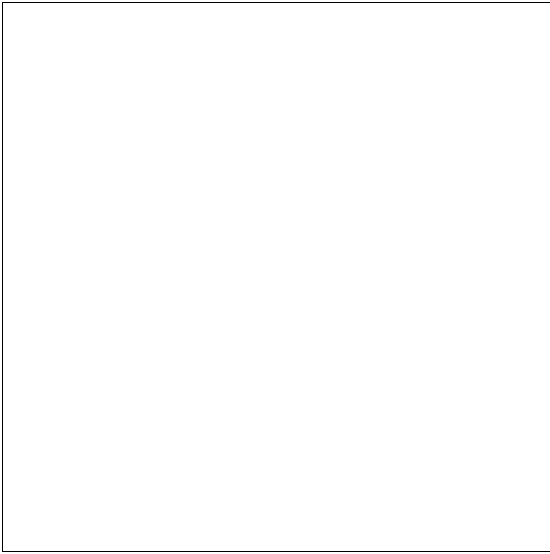
Kusenjalo babona ukuthi isikhathi sase sihambile. Baphuthuma bephindela emakhaya.

. . .

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

Yathi inja ibuya, yafuna uNozibele. "Nozibele, ukuphi?" imemeza. "Ngilapha ngaphansi kombhede," kusho unwele lokuqala. "Ngilapha, emva kwesivalo," kusho unwele lwesibili. "Ngilapha, esibayeni," kusho unwele lwesithathu.
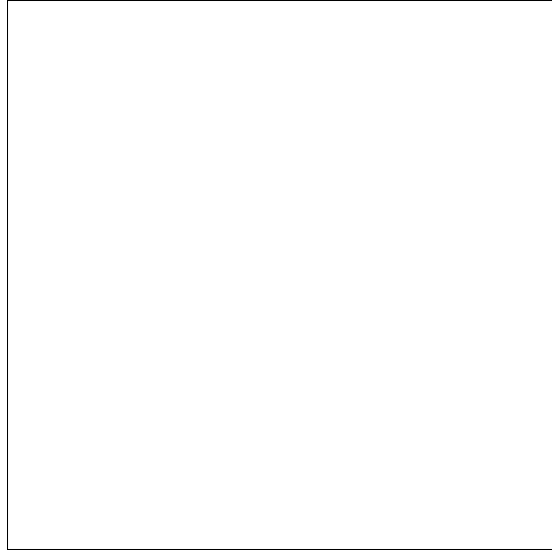
. . .

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.

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.

. . .

Isikhashana nje inja isihambile, uNozibele wathatha izinwele ezintathu ekhanda lakhe. Wabeka unwele oluludwa ngaphansi kombhede, Wabeka unwele olunye emva kwesivalo, wabeka olunye esibayeni. Wase wabaleka waya ekhaya ngokushesha.
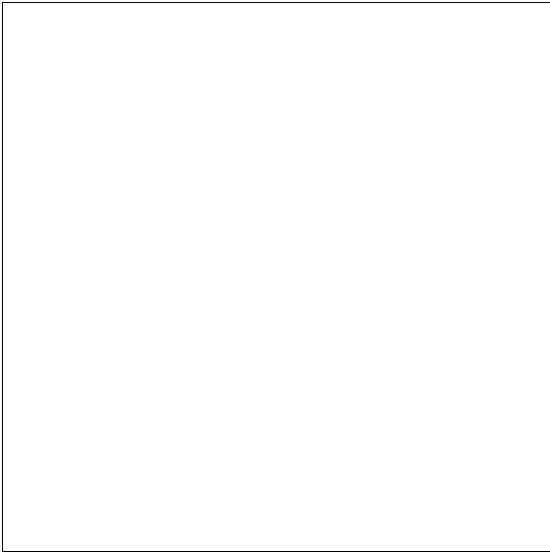
When they were nearly home, Nozibele put her hand to her neck. She had forgotten her necklace! "Please come back with me!" she begged her friends. But her friends said it was too late.

. . .

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

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.

Zonke izinsuku wayepheka, ashanele, futhi ayiwashele inja. Ngelinye ilanga inja yathi, "Nozibele, namhlanje ngizovakashela abangane bami. Shanela la endlini, upheke bese uwashe izingubo zami ngaphambi kokuba ngibuye."
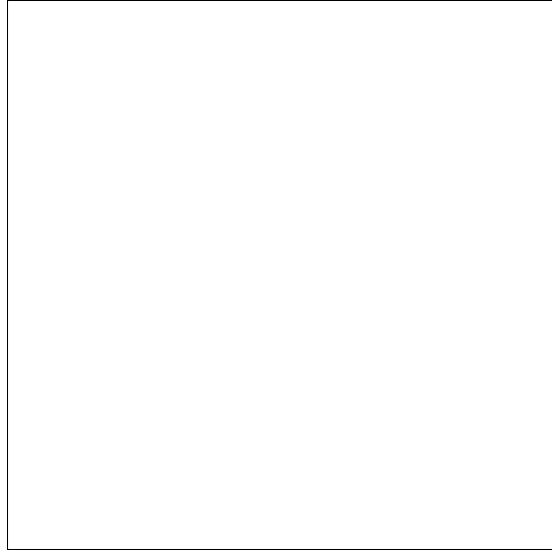
. . .

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."

Inja yathi, "Ngindlalele umbhede!" Nozibele
wathi, "Angikaze ngendlalele inja." "Ndlala ngale
kwaloko ngizokulimal!",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.

Bugamama 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.
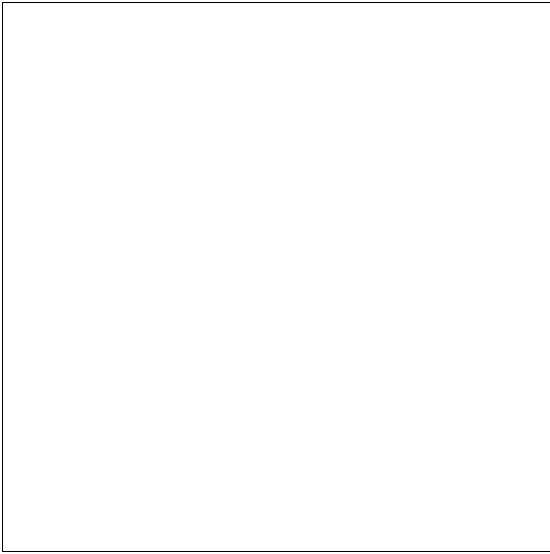
Wamangala kakhulu ukuthi kwavula inja, yathi "Ufunani la?" "Ngidukile ngicela indawo yokulala," kusho uNozibele. "Ngena ngaphakathi, ngale kwalokho ngizokuluma!",kusho inja. UNozibele wangena ngaphakathi.

. . .

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.