

## **Nozibele and the three hairs**

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በድሮ ጊዜ ሦስት ሴቶች እንጨት ለመሰብሰብ ከቤታቸው ወጥተው ነበር። · · · ·
A long time ago, three girls went out to collect wood.

ሞቃት ቀን ስለነበር ለመዋኘት ወደ ወንዝ ወረዱ። ተጫወቱ፤ ውኃ ተራጩ፤ ዋኙ። . . .

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

ድንገት ምሽት መሆኑን ተገነዘቡ። ወደ መንደራቸውም ተጣደፉ። • • • •
Suddenly, they realised that it was late. They hurried back to the village.

እቤታቸው ሊደርሱ ሲሉ ኖዚቤሌ እጇን አንገቷ ላይ አደረገች። የአንገት ጌጧን ረስታዋለች! ‹‹እባካችሁ አብራችሁኝ ተመለሱ!›› ብላ ባልንጀሮቿን ለመነቻቸው። ጓደኞቿ ግን በጣም እንደዘግየች ነገሯት።

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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.

ስለዚህ ኖዚቤሌ ወደ ወንዙ ብቻዋን ተመለሰች። የአንገት ጌጧንም አግኝታ ወደ ቤቷ ለመመለስ ተቻኮለች፤ ነገር ግን በጨለማ ውስጥ ጠፋች።

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

ከሩቅ ከአንዲት ጎጆ የሚወጣ ብርሃን አየች። ወደሱም ሄዳ በሩን አንኳኳች። · · · ·
In the distance she saw light coming from a hut. She hurried towards it and knocked at the door.

ባልተጠበቀ ሁኔታ ዉሻ በሩን ከፈተላት። ‹‹ምን ፈልገሽ ነው?›› አላት። ‹‹ጠፍቻለሁ፤ እና ማደሪያ ቦታ ፈልጌ ነበር›› ብላ ነገረችው። ‹‹ነይ ግቢ፤ አለዚያ እነክስሻለሁ!›› አላት ዉሻው። ስለዚህ ኖዚቤሌ ገባች።

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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.

ከዚያም ዉሻው ‹‹ምግብ አብስዪልኝ!›› አላት። ‹‹እንዴ፣ እኔ እኮ ለዉሻ ምግብ ሰርቼ አላውቅም›› ብላ መለሰችለት። ‹‹ስሪልኝ፤ አለዚያ እነክስሻለሁ!›› አላት ዉሻው። ስለዚህ ኖዚቤሌ ለዉሻው ምግብ ሰራችለት።

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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.

ከዚያም ዉሻው ‹‹አልጋዬን አንጥፊልኝ!›› አላት። ኖዚቤሌም ‹‹እኔ እኮ ለዉሻ አልጋ አንጥፌ አላውቅም›› ብላ መለሰችለት። ‹‹አንጥፊልኝ፤ ያለዚያ እነክስሻለሁ!›› አላት ዉሻው። ስለዚህ ኖዚቤሌ አነጠፈችለት።

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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.

በየቀኑ ለዉሻው ምግብ መስራት፣ ማጽዳትና ማጠብ ስራዋ ሆነ። ከዚያም አንድ ቀን ዉሻው ‹‹ኖዚቤሌ፣ ዛሬ ጓደኞቼን ልጠይቅ እሄዳለሁ። እኔ ከመምጣቴ በፊት ቤቱን አጽጂ፤ ምግብ ስሪ፤ የሚተጣጠቡትንም ነገሮች እጠቢ›› አላት።

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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." ዉሻው እንደሄደ ኖዚቤሌ ከራሷ ላይ ሦስት ጸጉሮችን ከጭንቅላቷ ላይ ነቀለች። አንዱን ጸጉር ከአልጋው ስር፣ አንዱን ከበሩ ኋላ፣ እና ሌላውን ደግሞ በከብቶቹ በረት አስቀመጠቻቸው።

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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.

ዉሻዉም እንደተመለሰ ኖዚቤሌን ፈለጋት። ‹‹ኖዚቤሌ፣ የት ነሽ?›› ብሎ ተጣራ። ‹‹አልጋው ስር ነኝ›› አለ የመጀመሪያው ጸጉር። ‹‹በሩ ጀርባ ነኝ›› አለ ሁለተኛው ጸጉር። ‹‹በረት ውስጥ ነኝ፣›› አለ ሌላኛው ጸጉር።

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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.

ከዚያም ዉሻው ኖዚቤሌ እንዳታለለችው ገባው። ስለዚህ ወደ መንደሩ እየተሯተሯጠ ፈለጋት። የኖዚቤሌ ወንድሞች ግን ትላልቅ ዱላዎች ይዘው እየጠበቁት ነበር። ውሻው ተመልሶ ሮጠ፤ ከዚያም በኋላ በመንደሩ በጭራሽ ታይቶ አያውቅም።

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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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