



**Lilin nia oan sira**

**Children of wax**

 Southern African Folktale

 Wiehan de Jager

 Aurelio da Costa

 2

 Tetun tet / English en



Iha tempu uluk, moris família ida-ne'ebé kontente.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.



Sira nunca baku malu. Sira ajuda sira nia inan-  
aman sira iha uma no iha to'os.

...

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



Maibé sira hetan bandu atu labele la'o besik  
ahi.

...

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Sira tenke halo sira nia servisu tomak iha iha  
kalan. Tanba sira halo husi lilin.

...

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



Maibé labarik mane sira ne'e ida hakarak  
tebes atu sai durante loron.

...

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



Loron ida ninia dejezu makaas tebes. Nia maun-alin sira bandu nia...

...

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



Maibé sira nia esforsu tarde liu! Nia nabeen  
iha loron manas.

...

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





Lilin oan sira ne'e triste tebes haree sira nia  
maun-alin nabeen.

...

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



Maibé sira halo planu. Sira halo forma foun  
husi lilin isin ne'ebé nabeen tiha-ona sai manu  
ida.

...

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



Sira foti sira nia maun-alin ne'ebé sai ona  
manu ba iha foho aas ida.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high  
mountain.



Bainhira laron matan sa'e, nia semo dook  
hakfuik iha laron matan dadeer.

...

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




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