



Sipho Lesingakalindzeleki

Siswati



Harold Gondwe

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Ibhalwe ngu Harold Gondwe
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Namuhla lusuku Iwekutalwa laMbongeni,
uhlanganisa iminyaka lelishumi, ujabule
kakhulu.

Batali bakhe bamentele umcimbi.
Kutsengwe likhekhe lelihle lelinemfanekiso
webhola.

Kunyenti lokudliwako lokugcwele litafula
Iekudla, emaswidi phela angeke asale
emcimbini welusuku Iwekutalwa.

Umndeni wakhe wamupha tipho,
nebangani bakhe nabo bamupha tipho.

Bonkhe bangani bakhe bebajabulele
lelikhekhe lakhe lebhola, balidla balishiya,
phela belilikhulu.



Ngemuva kwemcimbi umngani wakhe
Mancoba wabonakala ahlebela Mbongeni
endlebeni, wevakala Mbongeni sekatsi
kuMancoba: “Kulungile mngani wami,
ngitawufika uma sesicedze kukhweta
letitulo, ngilekelele phela kute sicedze
masinyane.”

Bakhweta titulo, babutsa nemaphapha
bacedza masinyane.

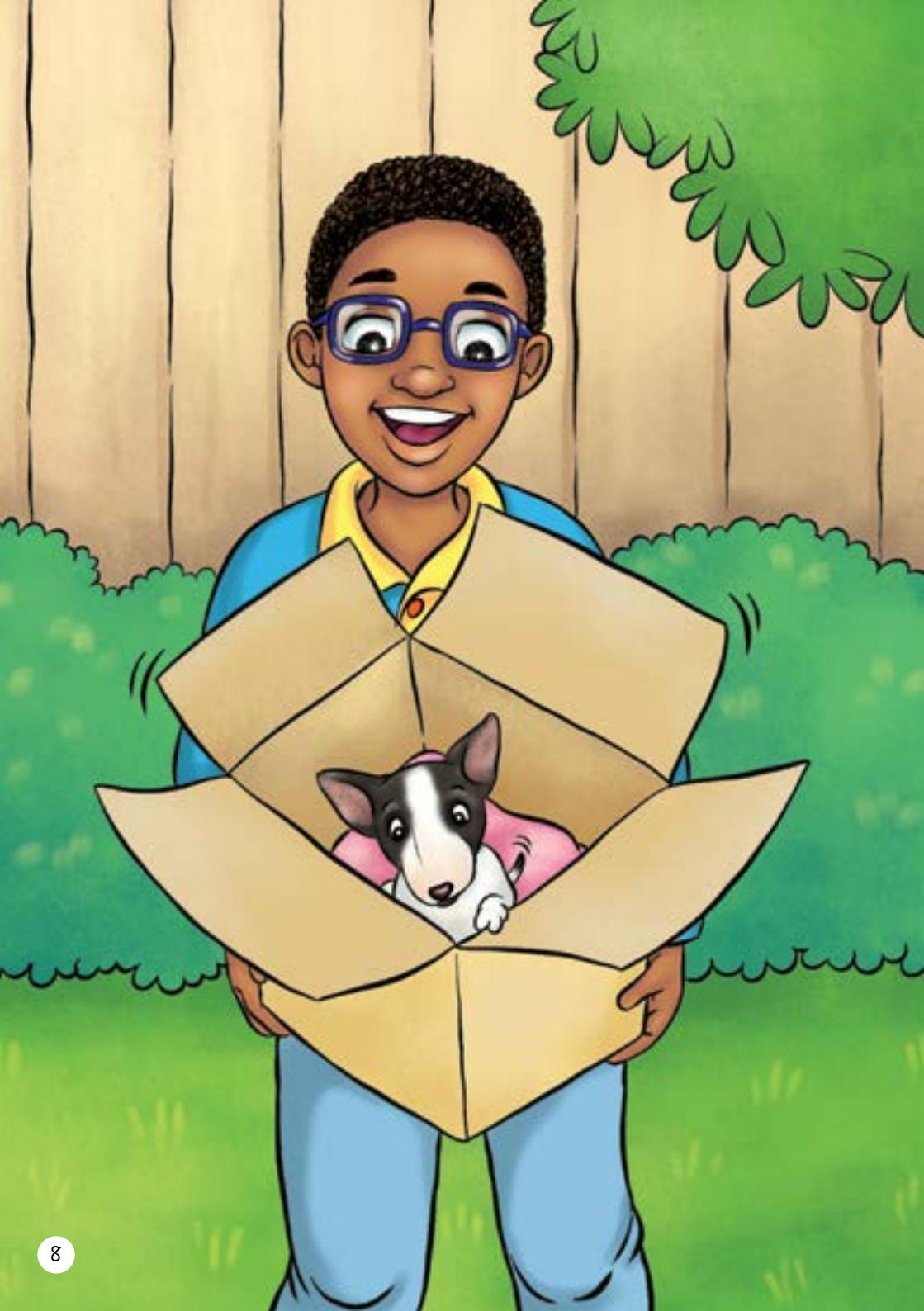
Mbongeni wacela kumake wakhe kutsi
aye ekhaya kabomancoba ayolandza
sipho sakhe.



Make waMbongeni wevakala sekatsi:
“Yini ungaketi nesipho sakho Mancoba?”

“Ngisikhohlwe ngeliphutsa make,” kusho
Mancoba ahleka kancane.

“Usheshe ubuye wena Mbongeni ngoba
ningahlangana nalomngani wakho nidlala
ningacedzi.”



“Mbongeni ngicela ume kancane lapha ngisayolandza lesipho sakho,” kusho Mancoba.

Mbongeni wasala wacabanga kutsi ngabe nhloboni yesipho umngani wakhe lafuna kumupha sona.

Bekasolo amhlola kancane, utse angakalindzeli lutfo nangu Mancoba aphetse libhokisi lelincane, ingabe linani?

“Ngikufisela lusuku loluhle lwekutalwa mnangi wami, nasi sipho sakho ngiyetsema utasijabulela,” asho amoyitela Mancoba aniketa Mbongeni lelibhokisi.

Utse nakatsi uphosa liso lakhe ebhokisini, wangakholwa loku lakubonako, umdlwane wenja.



“Hawu! mngani wami wati ngani kutsi bengisolo nginesifiso sekuba nenja.”

“Bengikuva uma sicoca ngetilwane kutsi uyayitsandza injá, ngikucelele yona kumkhulu wami lonenja lenemidlwane lemíne.”

“Ngiyabonga kakhulu mngani wami,” kusho Mbongeni injabulo ibhalwe emehlwéni akhe.



“Ngingayiphakamisa?” asho ahleka
Mbongeni kodvwa aneluvalo kancane.

“Phela injá yakho, sale sewuyitsatsa mngani
wami, mine sengicedzile umsebenti wami,”
kusho Mancoba.

“Senginalo neligama layo ngitayetsa nyalo,”
kusho Mbongeni sekabambe lelibhokisi.

“Hawu sewuneligama masinyane kangaka,”
kumangala Mancoba.

“Ligama lalenja yami ngu Chicco.”



Wacala Chicco kunyakatisa umsila wakhe ajabulela Mbongeni.

Bekanembala lomhlophe wonkhe umtimba bese lapha ebusweni anelibala lelimnyama.

Wevakala Chicco sekenta umsinjwana.
Mbongeni wangati kutsi kumele
atsini kulenja.

“Kumele uyicocise phela lenja yakho kute ikwetayele kahle,” kusho Mancoba ameluleka ngoba uyambona lomngani wakhe ngatsi usadidekile.

“Sengiyahamba Mancoba ingabe make utawutsini uma angibona sengichamuka nenja.”



Watsi nakafika ekhaya Mbongeni
wahamba wayoyifihla ngemuva kwendlu.

Bekaneluvalo ngoba bekangati kutsi lenja
yakhe utayiphatsa njani.

Weva make wakhe sekambuta kutsi ngabe
sewubuyile yini? Weva ashaywa luvalo,
phela make wakhe bekangayifuni inj
ngoba atsi iyahlupha.

“Yebo make sengibuyile, buya utobona
sipro sami,” kuphendvula Mbongeni.



Wafika make wakhe wanele wabona
inja, wavele wabuta watsi: “Sipho senja?”
wabuta lombuto akhiphe emehlo angaka
ngekumangala.

“Ungisite ke Mbongeni uyinakekele lenja
yakho, angifuni kubona emangcoliso ayo
lapha ebaleni. Siyevana kambe?”

“Ngitayinakekela make ngiyatsembisa,”
kusho Mbongeni abuka phasi.



Busuku bekucala baba matima kuMbongeni
ngoba Chicco wakhala busuku bonkhe,
angafuni kulala yedvwa ngaphandle,
wagcina sekamngenisa endlini.

Chicco wagcina sekatayele kulala endlini
yakhe ngaphandle.

Wacala kukhula wabonakala
sekagijimisana naMbongeni ngaphandle.



Chicco bekadla kudla kwetinja lokufakwa etikoteleni, bekakutsandza kakhulu.
Bebakufaka efriji uma kusele.

Mbongeni wamtsengela nematsambo ekudlala, bekavele amphosele lona bese Chicco uyazuba alibambe.

Uma kufanele ageze Chicco bekabaleka aye kuyobhaca ngemuva kwendlu, bekangevani nemanti.



Ngalelinye lilanga Mbongeni abuya
esikolweni watentela kudla kwasemini.

Ngalokutayelekile wavula efriji watfola
inyama nemsobho wavele wakufutfumeta
kanye neliphalishi, wahlala phansi wadla.

Uele kucedza kudla kwafika make wakhe
wavula efriji wevakala sekatsi:

“Ngabe Chicco sewudlile yini?”



“Cha make bengisadla kucala,” kusho Mbongeni acedzisa lokudla kwakhe.

“Pho ukuphi lomsobho wakhe bewulapha efriji?” aloku acalata ngekhatsi efriji.

Utse asuka make waMbongeni wabona lesitja besinalomso bho waChicco sisesinkini.

“YeMbongeni ufunu kungitjela kutsi nguwe lodle lomsobho waChicco?”



“Make mine bengingati kutsi umsobho waChicco,” buso baMbongeni bese buntjintjile wafisa kuhlanta konkhe lokudla.

“Yehheni! angeke phela uhlante lokudla, lokusalako sekusesiswini njengoba usutsi nje,” usho njalo make waMbongeni, ufile luhleko.

“Manje ngingagula ke?” ngaleso sikhatsi Mbongeni uzama kuhlanta kodvwa nani kuphuma kudla kwaChicco.



Ngaleso sikhatsi Chicco umile lapha
emnyango uyakhonkhotsa, umele
Mbongeni amletsele kudla bese bayodlala
njengasemalangeni.

Wevakala sekatsi Mbongeni: “Ngate
ngasitfolo ke sipho, nyalo sengidle kudla
kwenja ingabe ngitawuphila yini?” bekeva
atenyanya Mbongeni.

Wabuye wantjintja umcondvo wakhe,
watsi “Nangabe Chicco aphila kusho kutsi
angeke ngife.”

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