



UTumi usehlakaniphile
ngemikhaza

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UTumi wayehlala eduze kwamathafa.
Umngane wakhe omkhulu
kwakunguSimba,inja ensundu
eyayithanda ukugingqa otshanini obude
ngemuva kwegceke labo.

Ngelinye ilanga, uTumi wayephonsa
ibhola letenisi kuSimba. Njengoba
ayesenwaya intamo yakhe, iminwe
yakhe yazwa okuthile okuncane
nokuqinile.

“Ag, yisinambuzane siphile lesi?”
wakhononda.





Waqhelisa uboya
bakhe waze wabona
isinambuzane
esincane esinsundu
esasinamathele
esikhunjeni sakhe,
sinemilenze egwegwile.

“Mamaaa!” UTumi
wamemeza. “Kukhona
okuthile kuSimba!”



Umama weza egijima ephuma
ekhishini, esula izandla zakhe
ngendwangu yakhe.

“Sho, ntombazane yami, lokho
umkhaza” washo. “Hayi
nje noma yimuphi umkhaza,
umkhaza wenja. Uluma futhi
uphuze igazi. Ngezinye izikhathi
imikhaza ithwala amagciwane
angenza izinja nabantu bagule.”

An illustration of two young girls and a dog in a garden. The girl on the left has a red headwrap and a white shirt, looking towards the dog. The girl on the right has braided hair with colorful beads and a blue shirt, also looking at the dog. A brown dog with a red collar is in the center, looking up at the girl on the left. In the background, there is a large spiderweb on a tree branch with a spider on it, and a lush green garden under a blue sky with clouds.

“Njengesicabucabu?”
UTumi wabuza.
“Cishe”, uMama
wamomotheka.
“Imikhaza inemilenze
eyisishiyagalombili
njengezicabucabu,
kodwa azakhi ulwembu.
Izicabucabu zona
zinemilenze emide kakhulu,
futhi imikhaza ithanda
ukucasha lapho kufudumele
khona.”

An illustration of a woman and a young girl sitting in the back of a car. The woman, on the left, has dark skin and is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and an orange headwrap. She is looking towards the right with a gentle smile. The young girl, on the right, also has dark skin and is wearing a light blue t-shirt. She has her hair styled in small braids adorned with colorful beads. She is holding a medium-sized brown dog with a red collar and a gold buckle. The dog is looking up at the girl with its tongue out. In the background, other passengers are visible in the car, and the windows show a bright, sunny day with green trees outside.

Bathatha uSimba
Bamusa kudokotela
wezilwane
wendawo ngetekisi.



Udokotela wezilwane,
uDkt. Darshana, wagqoka
amagilavu.
“Wenze kahle, Tumi,” washo
ngomusa.
Wabonisa uTumi ishadi lenja.
UDkt. Darshana wathi,
“Imikhaza icasha ezindaweni
ezifudumele”, “ngaphakathi
ezindlebeni, ngaphansi
kwekholi, ngaphansi
kwemilenze, naphakathi
kwezinzwane. Yingakho
kufanele uhlole uSimba
ngemva kokuba esehlathini.”

Ngesidlawu, uDkt. Darshana
wawukhipha ngobumnene
umkhaza.

“Ngikutholile! Siwudonsa
siqondise ngaphandle, ungasonti,
futhi asiwucindezeli umkhaza.”

Wawufaka esitsheni esincane
wasivala. “Uma kwenzeka
uthola umkhaza, biza umuntu
omdala.”

UDkt Darshana wageza leyo
ndawo. “Ekhaya, kufanele
ugeze uSimba njalo ngemithi
esusa imikhaza, futhi ugcine
indlu yakhe ihlanzekile. Lokho
kusiza ekuvimbeleni imikhaza.”



Endleleni ebuyayo, uTumi wabuka
emathafeni.

“Mama, kuthiwani ngami? Ingabe
imikhaza ingaluma nezingane?”

“Yebo,” kusho uMama.

“Zingakwazi! Imikhaza ithanda
ukucasha ezinweleni zethu,
ngemuva kwezindlebe zethu,
ngaphansi kwezingalo zethu
nangemuva kwamadolo ethu.

Uma kwenzeka ulunywa, bheka
indawo ebomvu noma emnyama,
ukuqubuka, imfiva, noma uzizwe
ukhathele kakhulu. Khumbula njalo
ukutshela umuntu omdala.”





Ngaleyo ntambama,
uThabo no-Aliya beza
bezodlala.

“Masihambe siyodlala
endle!” UThabo
washo.

“Mana”, kusho uTumi, izandla
zisezingeni.

“Okokuqala, imithetho
ngemikhaza. Uma kungenzeka
futhi kungashisi kakhulu,
sigqoka izingubo ezinde
otshanini obude, futhi lapho
sibuya, sihlola imizimba yethu
noSimba.”

“Futhi uma sibona umkhaza,”
kwengeza uTumi, “asizikhiphi
ngokwethu. Sibiza umuntu
omdala. Akukho ukucindezela.
Akukho ukusonteka.”





After their adventure, they all stood in a row while Mamma checked them, giggling as she shook out their hair.

“No ticks today,” Mamma said. “But I’m proud of you for being careful.”

Ngemva kohambo lwabo olunemincili, bonke bema emgqeni ngesikhathi uMama ebabheka, ehleka njengoba ezinyakazisa izinwele.

“Ayikho imikhaza namuhla”, kusho uMama. “Kodwa ngiyaziqhenya ngani ngokuthi niqaphile.”

Ngalobo busuku, uTumi wahlala eduze kwendlu kaSimba. Inyanga yayikhanya phezu kwegceke, nezintethwa zazikhala.

“Imikhaza mincane”, washo ngezwi eliphansi, “kodwa thina sihlakaniphe kakhulu. Siyahlola, sigcine izinto zihlanzekile, futhi sitshele abantu abadala.”

USimba wanyakazisa umsila wakhe futhi wakhotha isandla sakhe.

UTumi wamomotheka. Wayezizwa enjengeqhawe, hhayi ngekhephu, kodwa ngensipho nangolwazi.

“Ukusukela manje” uqhubeke, washo ngezwi eliphansi, “leli gceke lingelethu, hhayi lemikhaza.”

