

**Ookatana... Ookatana...
Ookatana !**



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Isilwanyana esihle esigama lingu Lucy

UBelinda wayenesilwanyana esinomahluko. Igama laso yayinguLucy. ULucy wayemhle kakhulu enoboya obumfuma-mfuma obumhlophe, enebala elimnyama empumlweni. Amehlo akhe ayebambe bungwevu naluhla-za engaqhelekanga. Umsila wakhe wawumde.

UBelinda no Lucy babengabahlobo benene. Bekusithi xa uBelinda efika ekhaya ebuya esikolweni, afike uLucy emlindele. Maxa wambi uLucy ebemtsibela uBelinda ngasemva, ezimele ngeepali zesango, kungenjalo agwencele kumthi weJakaranda axhwithe iribhoni yakhe yeenwele xa adlulayo.

Ebesonwaba kakhulu xa eqhutywa ngenqwelana yonopopi kaBelinda enxityiswe impahla yosana. Ecaleni kwakhe bekudla ngokubekwa ubherana owenziwe ngewulu. Ebekuthanda ukubelekwa nguBelinda, kungenjalo ahlale emathangeni akhe xa uBelinda ebukele umabonakude. Ebusuku uLucy ebelala ebhedini azisonge ezingalweni zika Belinda arhone ngathi ngumatshini omncinci.

ULucy wakhula ngokukhawuleza. Ebekuthanda ukutsiba ngefestile ebusuku ayekuziqengqa egadini ekhanyisiweyo.

Ebeleqa izithunzi esitupini akhe nobuhlobo namanye amaqela eekati ezihamba-hambayo emadongeni egadini. Maxa wambi ebeduka de kuvuke iintaka zicule emithini yeeJakaranda.



ULucy uza kuba ngumama

"Akusekudala ube yikati endala ngoku," watsho uBelinda ephulula uboya obuthandekayo bukaLucy.

Isisu sikaLucy sasikhawuleze satyeba kakhulu. "Nkosi yam, akufuneki simnike ukutya okuninzi rhoqo," watsho umama kaBelinda.

"Ndineendaba zakho" watsho uMakhulu kaBelinda.

"ULucy uzakuba namantshontsho. Utata wawo inokuba yenye yezikati zihamba emadongeni."

"Amantshontsho? Yho", uBelinda wabonakala enemincili. Wayelungxamele kakhulu usuku lokuzalwa kwaloo mantshontsho. Wavuya ngakumbi xa ngenye imini ebuya esikolweni efika uLucy ezele amantshontsho amane. Amantshontsho wazalelwa kwityesi yeempahla. ULucy wayehleli ngokuzimisela eyikhotha amantshontsho akhe ngolwimi lwakhe olubomvu.

"Awu! Ayathandeka ke khona", wonke umntu watsho. ULucy wamvumela uBelinda ukuba adlale ngabantwana bakhe. Kwakukho elimhlophe, elimnyama, elinemigcana engwevu, nelimfuma-mfuma elimabalabala ngathi nguLucy.

Ekuqaleni amehlo ezi katana ayevaleke mba, kodwa emva kweentsuku ezine ukuya kwezintlanu aqalisa ukuvuleka. Zakhula kakuhle zondlekile ezokatana.



Zaqala nokonakalisa izinto. Zazinyuka ngeekhetini zitsibele etafileni. Umama wayengayithandi loo nto.

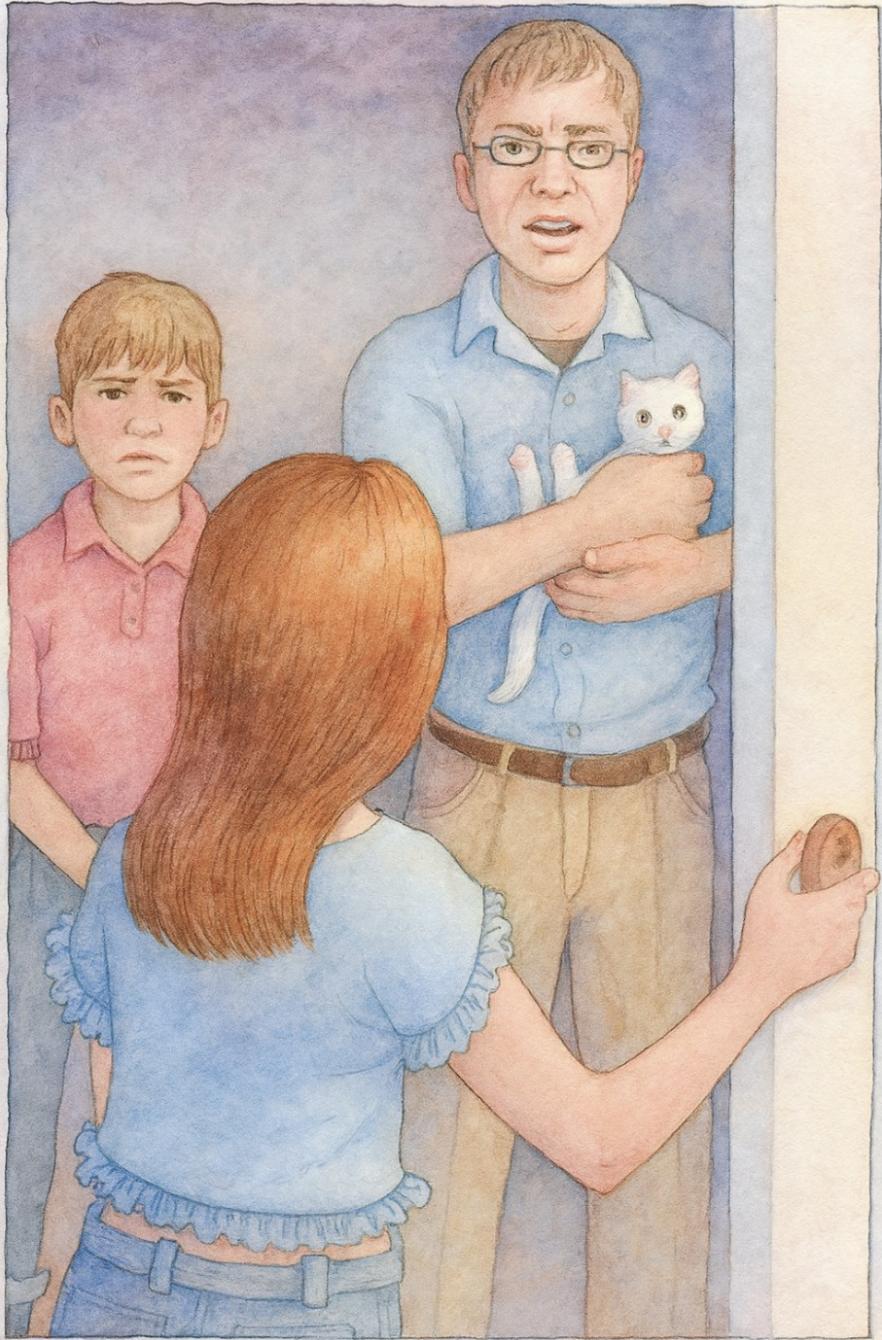
“Asinakuzigcina zonke ezikati.” watsho umama kuBelinda. Kuza kufuneka uzifunele amakhaya.

“Hayi bo! walila uBelinda. Ngabantwana bakaLucy.” Noko kunjalo, wagxininisa umama “likati ezintlanu! unotshe! Watsho. Yaba buhlungu kakhulu intliziyo ka Belinda. Wazithabatha ezo katana wazifaka engobozini. Waya nazo esikolweni ukuze aphisise ngazo. Abantwana abaninzi babeyifuna loo mibundlwana kwakhangeleka kulula kubo ukuwafumanela amakhaya.

Likatana ziyabuyiswa, ezinye ziyalahleka ukanti ezinye ziyafumaneka

Ngobo busuku kwabakho unqonkqozo emnyango. Kwakumi laa nkwenkwe ibithathe ikatana emhlophe. Ecaleni kwayo kwakumi uyise ephethe loo katana esandleni sakhe.

“Asikwazi ukufuya ikati,” watsho utata wenkwenkwana “Sihlala eflethini kumgangatho weshumi. Asinagadi akubikho mntu imini yonke. Asibobomi obulungileyo besilwanyana obo. Bekutheni kungakhange kubekho mntu ondibuzayo ukuba unyana wam angalithabatha na intshontsho lekati kuqala? Akulunganga ukusuka uphise - ngesilwanyana ungazi nokuba linjani ikhaya esiza kufikela kulo.”



Wavakala ngathi unomsindo lo mfo. UBelinda wayithabatha loo katana imhlophe.

“Ndiyaxolisa,” watsho “Andikhange ndiyicinge loo nto.” Waqalisa ukukhathazeka ecinga ngezinye iikatana aphisengazo. Wayenexhala engazi nokuba zizakuphatheka kakuhle na. Ngengomso yayinguMgqibelo. Wagqiba ekubeni atyelele loo makhaya abantwana ababethathe amantshontsho. Intombazana eyayithabathe ikatana emnyama yayikhangeleka ikhathazekile.

“Inja yam iyibulele ikatana,” yatsho. “Andikhange ndicinge ukuba ingayenza into enjalo”.

“Awukhange utsho kum ukuba unenja”, wangxola watsho uBelinda. “Jonga ngoku ikatana yam ifile!”

“Ibingeyo katana yakho leya”, nentombazana yangxola ngomsindo. “Ubundiphile la katana.”

“Asiyokatana yamntu ngoku,” wambomba uBelinda waguquka wahamba. Wayesoyika kakhulu ukuphinda abuze ngeminye imibundlwana yekati kwakhona.

Ukatana onemigcana engwevu ulahlekile.

“Ayiqondakali ke le into,” watsho udade omdala wentwazana ebithathe ikatana. “Silibeke nje egadini suka lathi ngqee ukuhla ngendlela. Belijongeka ngathi liyoyika. Sifune, safuna, sade sancama.”



Akukhange kubekho mntu ucinga ukuba ikatana le imelwe kukugcinwa ngaphakati endaweni ethuleyo de iqhelane nosapho lwayo olutsha. UBelinda wazibukela imoto zibaleka ngamendu aphezulu endleleni exakekileyo. “Kowu, yindawo enobungozi le ingakumbi kwikatana elahlekileyo.”

Akukhange kubekho mntu ucinga ukuba ikatana le imelwe kukugcinwa ngaphakati endaweni ethuleyo de iqhelane nosapho lwayo olutsha.



UBelinda wazibukela imoto zibaleka ngamendu aphezu-
lu endleleni exakekileyo. “Kowu, yindawo enobungozi le
ingakumbi kwikatana elahlekileyo.”

Ekhathazekile entliziyweni wankqonkqoza kumnyango
wendlu yokugqibela. Kwathi cwaka. Wazingisa
wankqonkqoza. Kwakungekho mntu endlwini. Wathi xa
ejika ehamba weva u “miyawu”, omncinane.

Waphosa amehlo, nantso ikatana emnyama namhlophe
enoboya obumfuma-mfuma ithe nca eluphahleni lwend-
lu. Yayibambekile. “Hayi bo! Ukhwele njani apho? ”

“Ndiza kwenza njani ngoku?” Wayengakwazi ukufikelela
kuloo katana ibambeke kalusizana kuloo gathara
imyawuza. Ekugqibeleni uBelinda wafumana ummelwane
onobuntu oweza neleli. Wakhwela elelini wayisindisa
ikatana leyo.

“Yazi! bendingayazi ukuba olusapho lufuye ikatana.”
Watsho ummelwane. Ngeempela veki ludla ngokuphu-
ma luye kwindlu yalo yekhefu. Inokuba bebecinga lekati
iza kukwazi ukuzikhathalela bethu?”

UBelinda wathabatha loo mzinjana wawusondeza kuye.
Wayiva intliziyo yayo ukuba ibetha ngamandla phantsi
kobo boyana buthambileyo. “Ndiya nawe ekhaya
ngoku,” wawusebezela ikatana leyo.

“Ibiyimpazamo enkulu ukukuzisa apha.”



Umakhulu unecebo

Akufika ekhaya uBelinda waxambulisa nomama wakhe. “kufuneka sizigcine ezikatana zombini,” watsho. Amakhaya azo amatsha ebengalunganga. Abanikazi bazo abakhangela bakwazi ukuzikhathalela.

Bathe bayazifuna kanti abazifuni. “Asikwazi ukugcina iikati ezintathu, Belinda,” umama watsho. “Zizakuba nezazo iikatana. Sakuzibhaqa sineekati ezingaphi?, amakhulu!”

Umakhulu wayenecebo.

Inye kuphela into enokwenziwa, kwaye ngesiyicinge kwasekuqaleni.

“Masithathe ezikati sizise kugqirha wezilwanyana azivale. Ngolohlobo aziyikuphinda zibenabantwana. Singakwazi ukuzigcina zontathu xa zingazali”.

“Kuthetha ntoni ukuvala?” wabuza uBelinda. “Ithetha ukuba ugqirha wezilwanyana uzakwenza uqhahlo olungephi akhuphe landawo yenza abantwana,” watsho umakhulu.

“Ukuba kunjalo masimse ngokukhawuleza”. watsho umama. “Asifuni ukuphinda sive amanye amabalana abuhlungu.”

Uqhaqho aluzange lubize kakhulu. Umama kaBelinda wathi bekufanelekile, kupheliswe inkohlakalo efunyanwa zizilwanyana ezingafunwayo.

ULucy neentombi zakhe bahlala ngokonwaba noBelinda.



*Le ncwadi iphuhlisa uthando, ubulungisa nentlonipho ebomioni
ngokusebenzisa ukuFunda, ukuThetha nokuBhala kulungiselelwa
abafundi bamaBanga aPhantsi.*



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