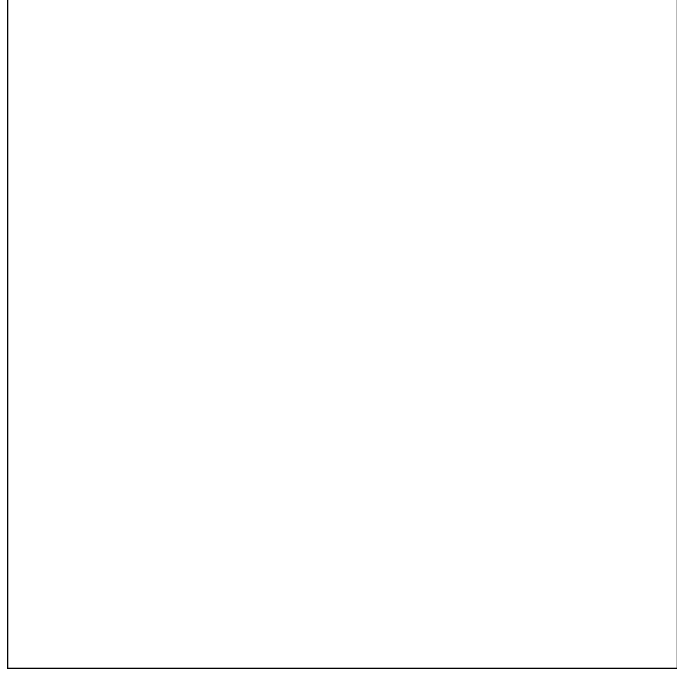




# Mtoto Punda



✎ Lindiwe Matshikiza

🔊 Meghan Judge

📄 Monica Shank Lauwo, Lauwo George

😊 Kiswahili

📖 Level 3

(imageless edition)



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## Mtoto Punda

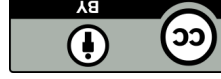
Written by: Lindiwe Matshikiza

Illustrated by: Meghan Judge

Translated by: Monica Shank Lauwo, Lauwo

George

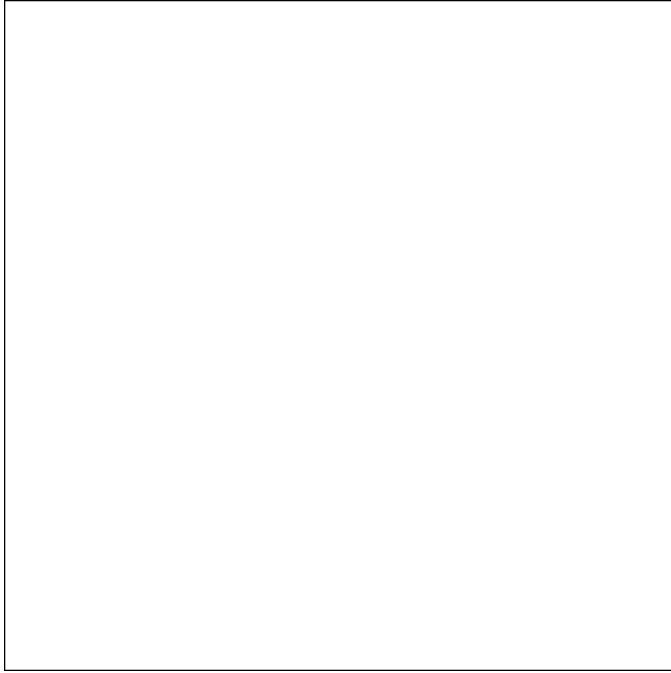
This story originates from the African Storybook ([africanstorybook.org](http://africanstorybook.org)) and is brought to you by Storybooks Canada in an effort to provide children's stories in Canada's many languages.



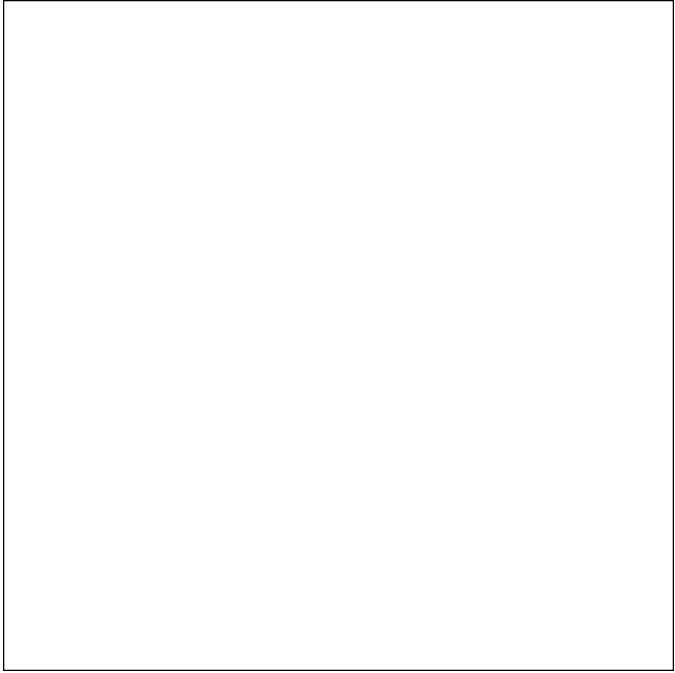
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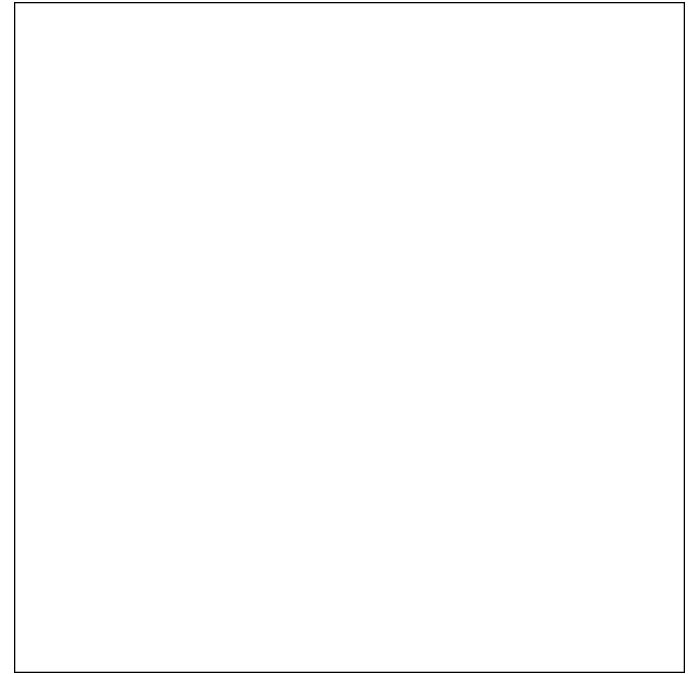
Ilikuwa ni msichana mdogo aliyekuwa wa kwanza kuona umbo la ajabu kwa mbali.



Kadiri umbo lilipokaribia, aliona kwamba  
lilikuwa ni mwanamke mwenye ujuzito  
mkubwa.

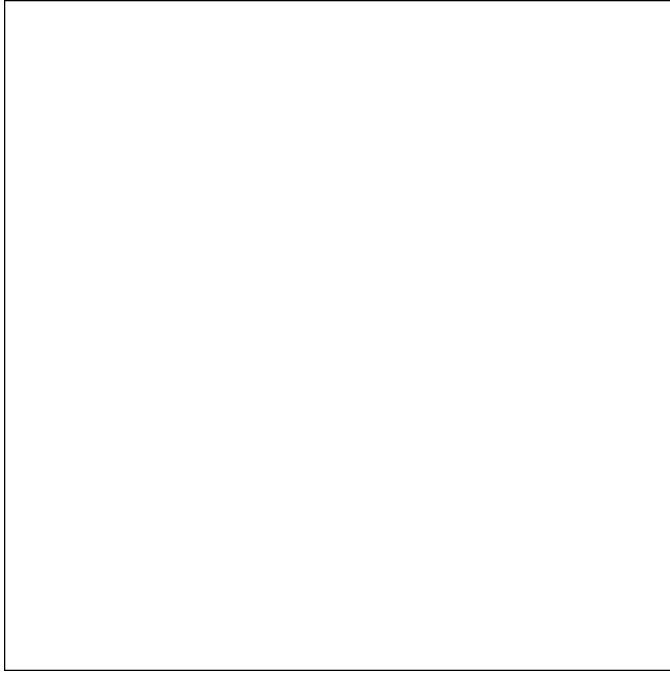


Kwa upole na ujasiri, msichana alimsogelea mwanamke yule. “Lazima tumhifadhi,” watu wa msichana yule walisema. “Tutawaweka yeye na mtoto wake salama.”

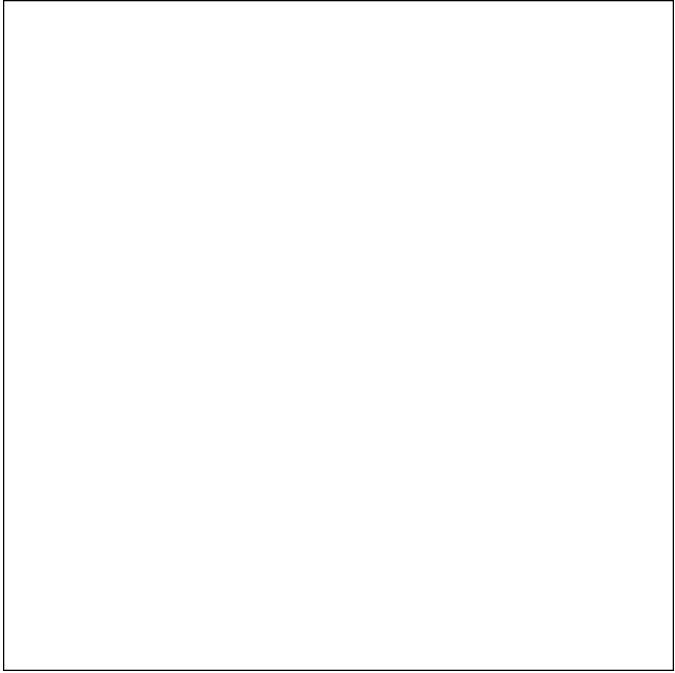


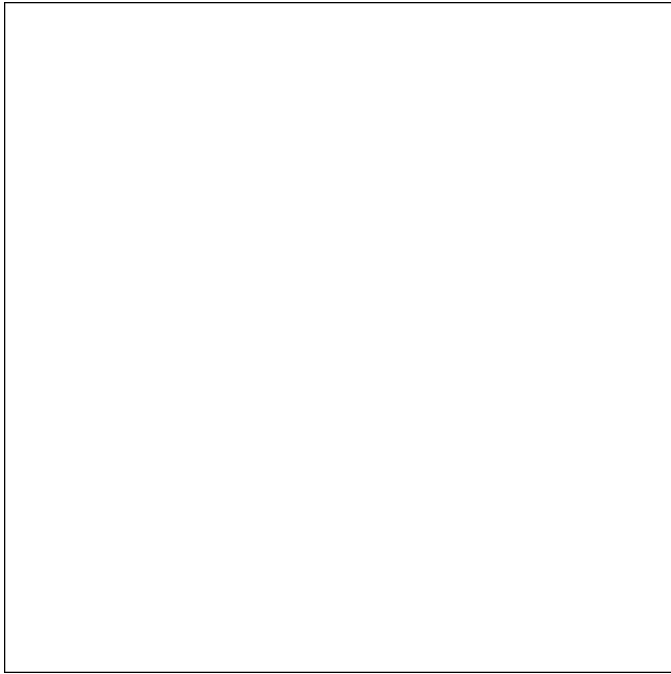
Mtoto Punda na mama yake wamekuwa kitu kimoja na kuishi kwa ushirikiano. Taratibu, familia nyingine zimeanza kuhamia na kushi miongoni mwao.

Punda alimkuta mama yake akiwa peke yake huku akimwomboleza mwanaye aliyeptea. Wakaangaliana kwa muda mrefu. Na kisha wakakumbatiana kwa hisia.

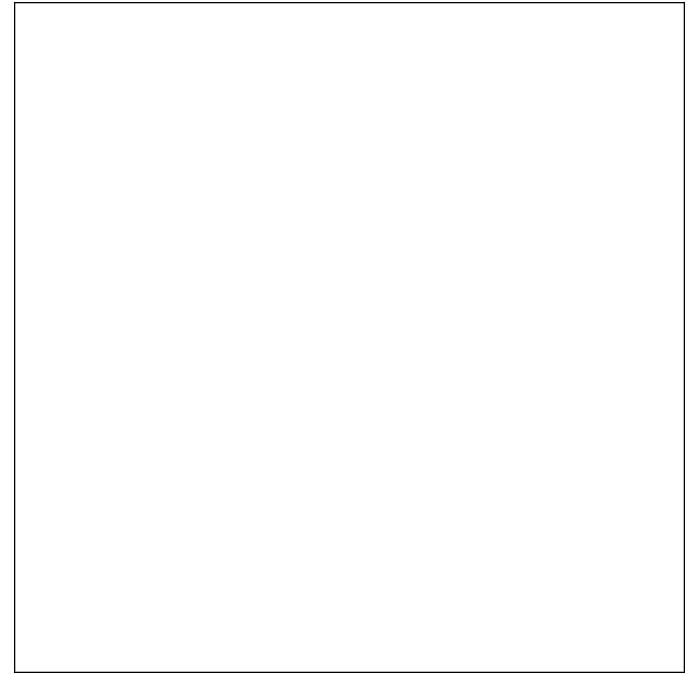


Mtoto alikuwa njiani kuzaliwa si muda mrefu. "Sukuma!" "Leteni mablanketi!" "Maji!" "Suukuuuuaaai!"

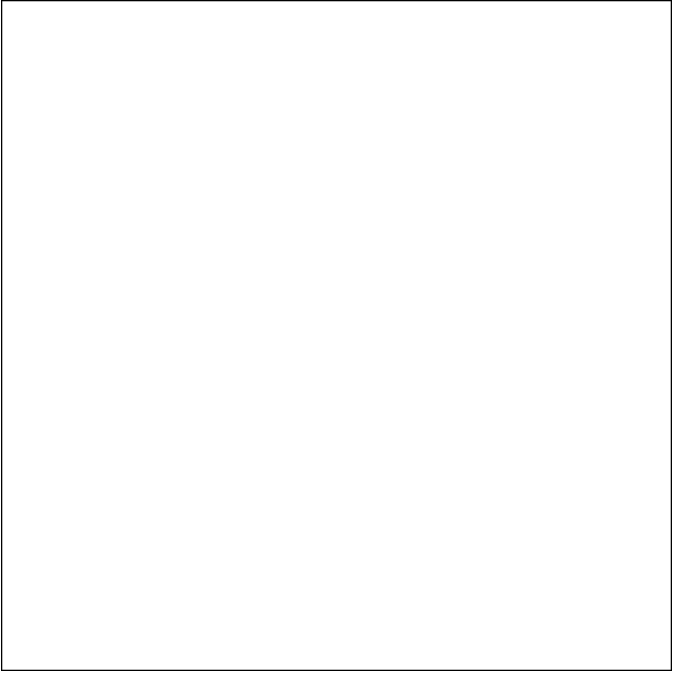




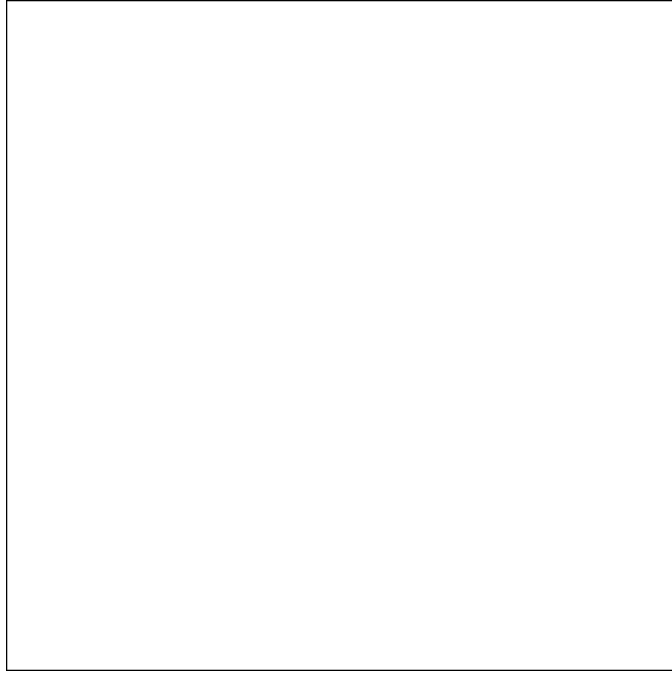
Lakini walipomwona mtoto, wote waliruka kwa mshtuko. "Punda?!"



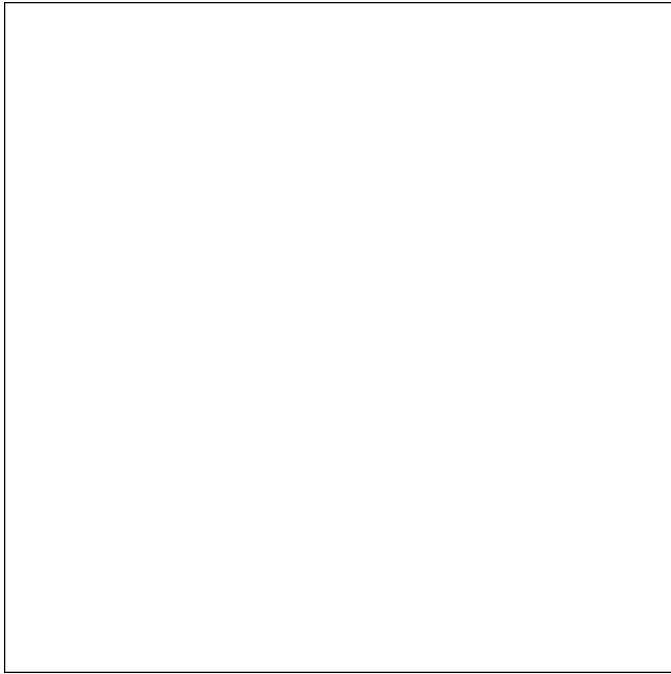
Hatimaye, Punda alijua alichotakiwa kufanya.



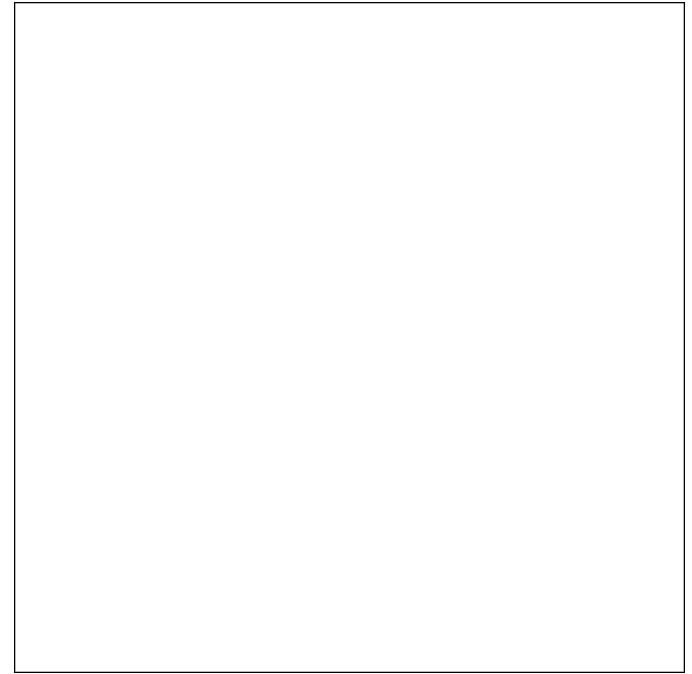
Wakaanza kubishana. "Tulisema  
tutawaweka mama na mtoto salama, na  
hivyo ndivyo tutakavyofanya," baadhi  
wakasema. "Lakini watatuletea mkosi!"  
wengine wakadai.



...mawingu yalikuwa yametoweka pamoja  
na rafiki yake, yule mzee.



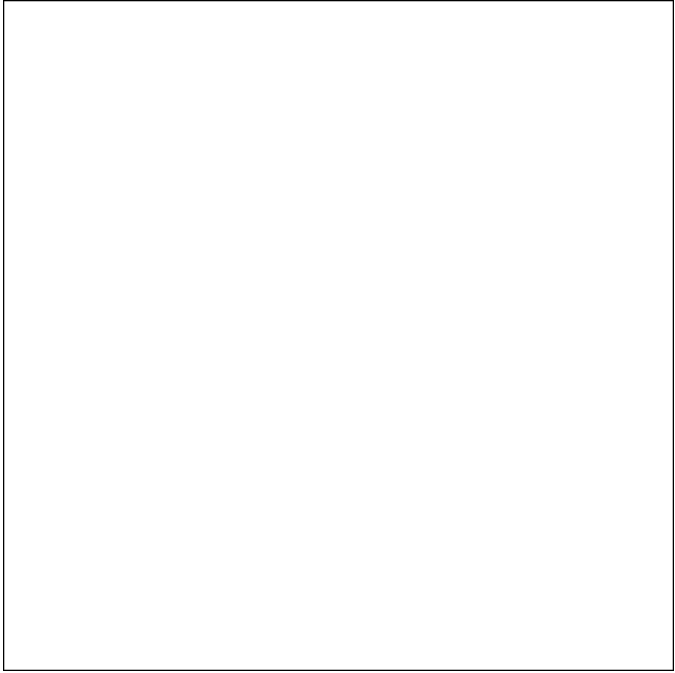
Kwa hiyo mwanamke yule alijikuta yuko peke yake kwa mara nyingine tena. Akajiuliza atafanya nini na mtoto huyo wa ajabu. Akajiuliza atafanya nini na yeye mwenyewe.



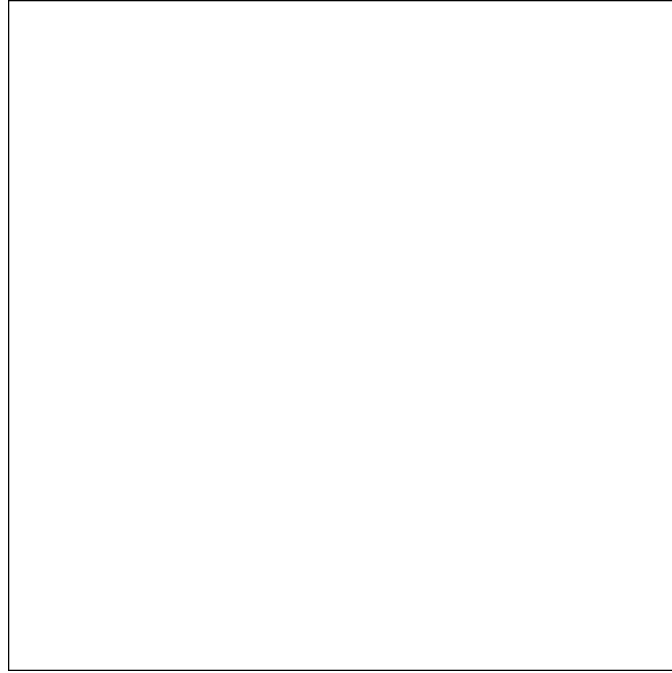
Walipofika juu kwenye mawingu, walipatwa na usingizi. Punda akaota kuwa mama yake alikuwa mgonjwa na alimhitaji. Na alipoamka...

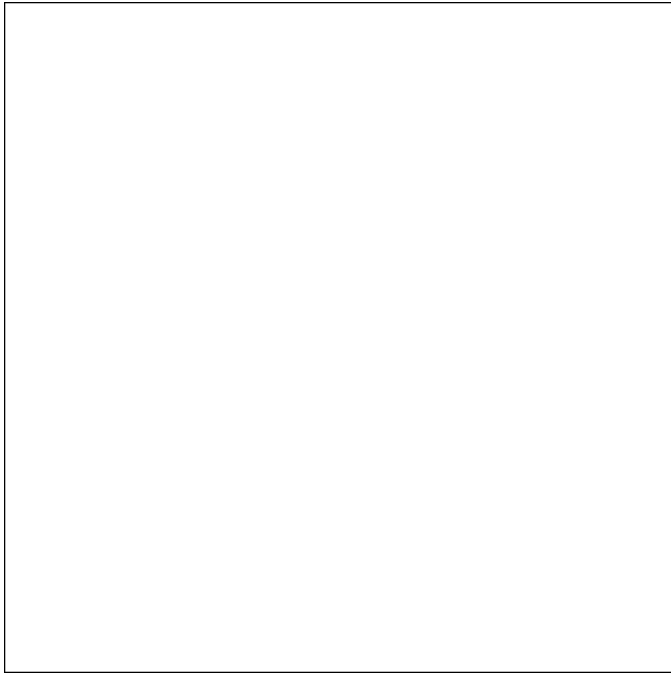


Lakini hatimaye alikubali kwamba huyo ni mwanaye na yeye ni mama yake.

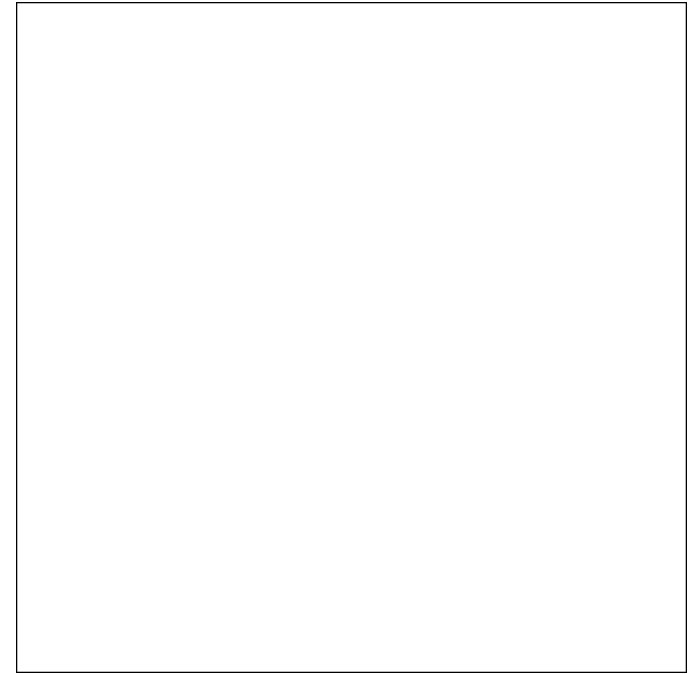


Asubuhi moja, mzee alimwomba Punda ambebe hadi kwenye kilele cha mlima.

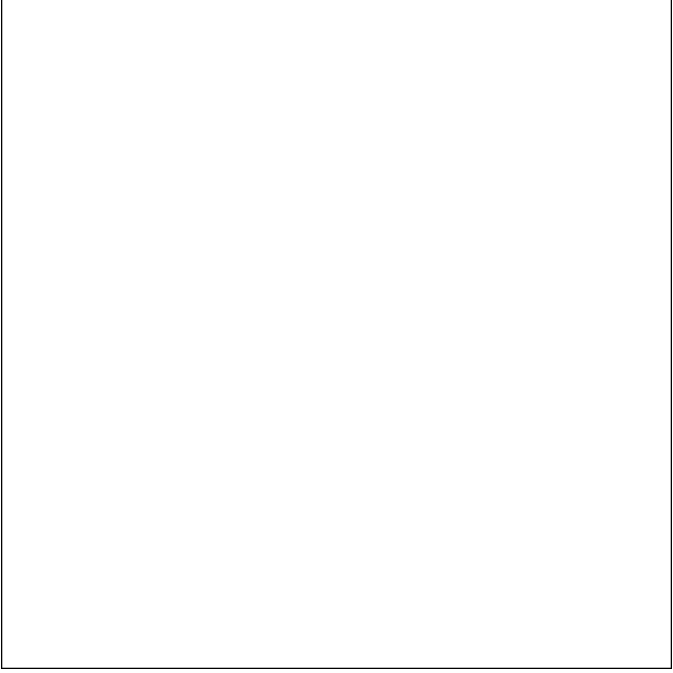




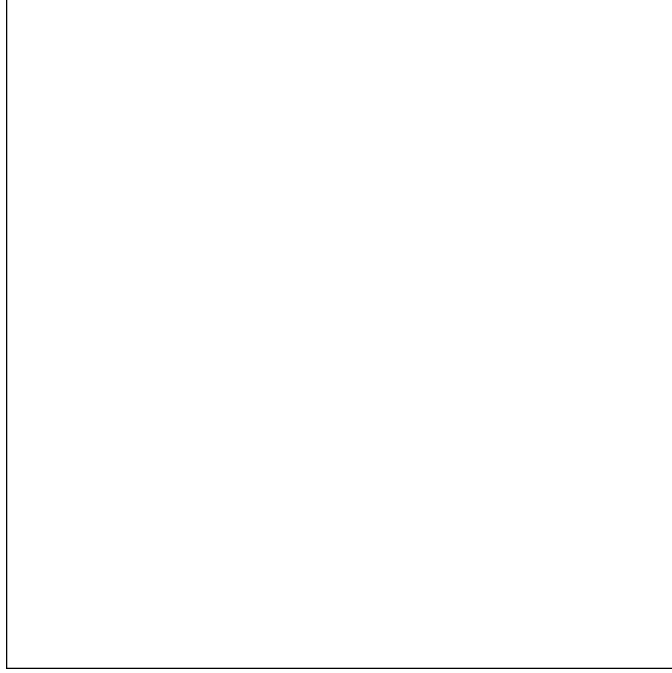
Endapo mtoto huyo angebaki kuwa vilevile, na umbo dogo, labda kila kitu kingekuwa tofauti. Lakini mtoto Punda aliendelea kukua na kukua mpaka hakuweza kutoshea tena mgongoni mwa mama yake. Pamoja na kujaribu kwa bidii, hakuweza kuwa na tabia za kibinadamu. Mara nyingi mama yake alichoka na kuvunjika moyo. Wakati mwingine alimlazimisha kufanya kazi walizostahili wanyama.



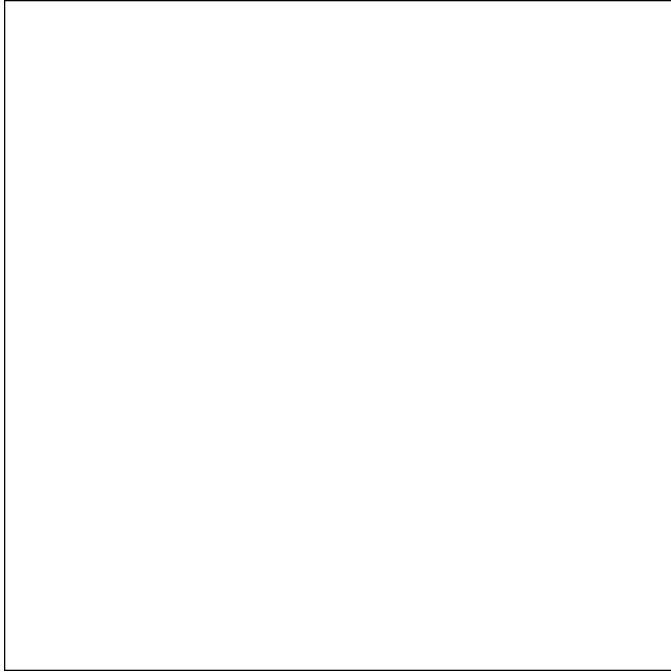
Punda alienda kuishi na mzee yule, na mzee alimfundisha mbinu nyingi za kuishi. Punda alisikiliza na kujifunza, na mzee vivyo hivyo pia. Walisaidiana na kucheka pamoja.



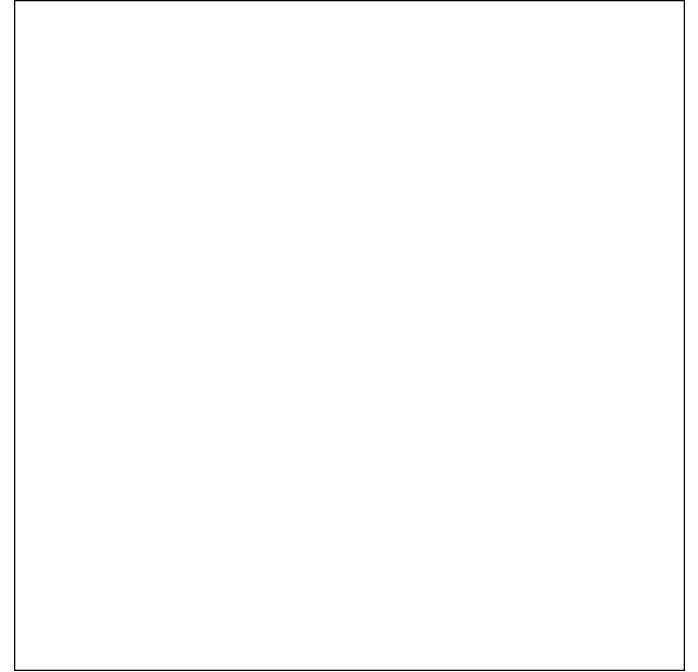
kuchanganyikiwa na hasira vilianza  
kujengeka ndani mwa Punda. Alishindwa  
kufanya hivi wala vile. Alishindwa kuwa  
hivi wala vile. Alipatwa na hasira sana kiasi  
kwamba, siku moja, alimpiga teke mama  
yake mpaka akaanguka chini.



Punda aliamka na kumkuta mzee mmoja  
wa ajabu akimtazama. Akamwangaalia  
mzee yule machoni na akaanza kuhisi  
ishara ya matumaini.



Punda alijawa na aibu. Akaanza kukimbilia mbali kwa haraka kadiri awezavyo.



Wakati aliposimama, ilikuwa ni usiku, na alikuwa amepotea. "Hee haw?" alinong'ona gizani. "Hee haw?" giza likatoa mwanngwi. Alikuwa mwenyewe. Alijikunyata katika umbo dogo, akalala fofofu usingizi wa mang'amung'amu.