



# Umulwane womgomani



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UMatjhiyana usebenza ngamandla. Usebenza ukusuka ekuseni bekube sebusuku. Nanyana kumakhaza, akambathi afuthumale. Gadesi uyakhohlela. Mgomani omumbi. Ugula khulu.



UMatjhiyana wazingenisela ngelothe. Bekaqaqazela  
begodu athimila. Uyisa. UMatjhiyana ugula khulu.





“Umgomani lo uyingozi, uzongibulala,” kutjho uMatjhiyana. “Ingirhaleli ukudla. Angifisi litho. Umzimba wami ubuthakathaka.”





UJabulani utshwenyekile. "Ubaba akadli nokulala akalali. Uyaphilelwa," kutjho uJabulani. UJabulani uvuka ngesamaririma, waya entaben. Ubuya nenghana. Uzalisela uMatjhiyana? UJabulani uyasibilisa bese usinikela uyise uMatjhiyana. UMatjhiyana waphaya ibhegere bese uphalaza isihlahla.



“Baba awufuni ukuphola? Kubayini uphalaze  
isihlahla? Uzokuphola njani? kutjho uJabulani.





UJabulani uhlala noyise ohlola umndende. Unina usebenza amakwitjhi ngedorobheni, uza ekhaya kanye ngenyanga. UJabulani udosela unina. Umuyelelisa bona athengele uyise umvango womgomani.



UJabulani wagijimela evikilini masinyana bese  
wabuya nomvango womgomani.

Wanike uyise, wayisela bese walala.



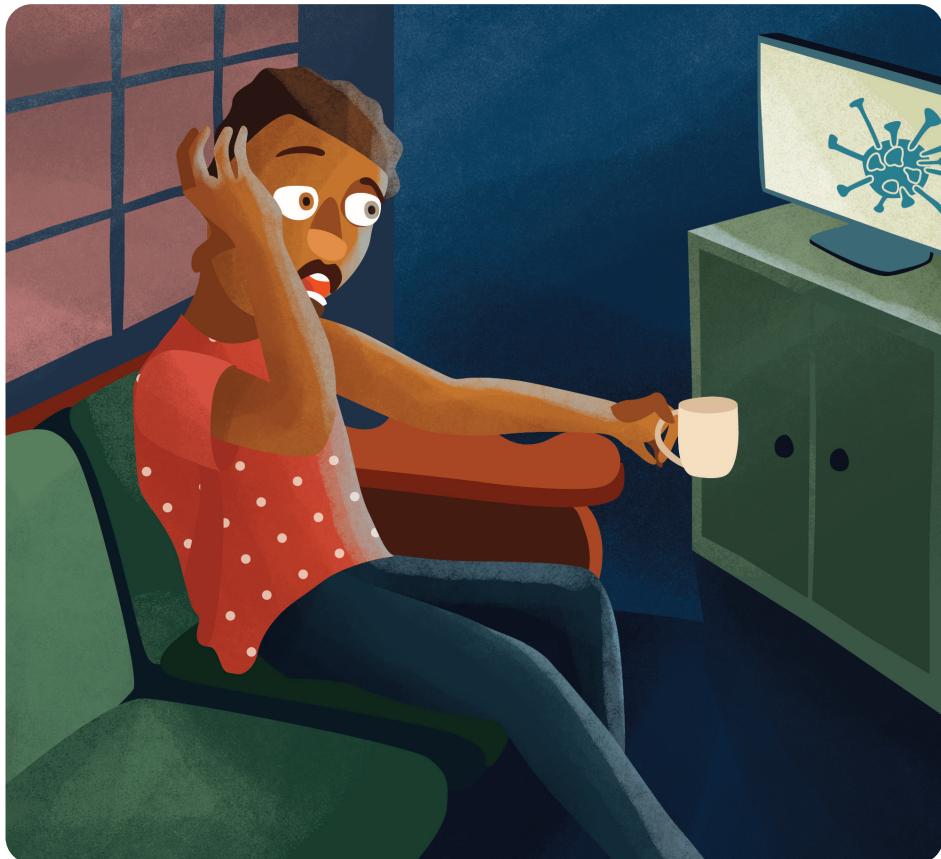


UMatjhiyana waphenduka bese ibodlelo lawa laphuka. Wu, ibhodlelo liphukile! Ngizokuphola njani? Isihlahla lesi siyabiza.



“Baba, ibhodlelo lesihlahla siphukile laphalaza isihlahla,” kutjho uJabulani. “Iyo, ndodana kubebutjhapho,” kuperhendula umdala ngokudana.



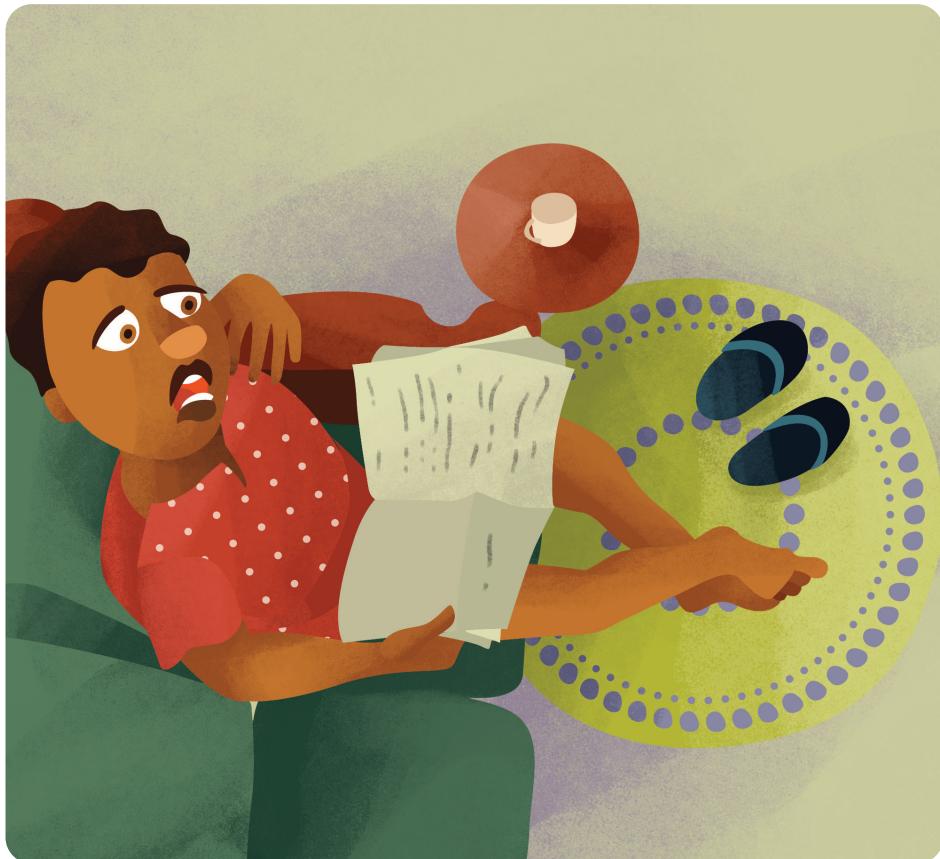


Ntambama uJabulani wahlala yedwa ngelawini lokuphumula abukele umabonisakude. Umkhumbulo wakhe begade ukude acabanga ngokugula kukayise. Itjhejo lakhe larherheka ngesikhathi ezwa ngobulwelwe obuyizongi eendabeni. Bebakhuluma nge-COVID-19 ebulele abantu abanengi iphasi mazombe. Wathukwa.



Ibhodlelo lesihlahla liphukile. Umgomani gadesi sele uqinisa ngamandla. Umzimba kaMatjhiyana uyahlohlonya woke. UJabulani wacabanga ngomgomani oyingozi. “Gadesi ngikusa emtholapilo bayokupopola,” kutjho uJabulani. UMatjhiyana ahlahle amehlo, wathintitha ihloko wathi, “Angiyi lapho.”





Ekuseni uJabulani waya evikilini ukuyokuthenga iphephandaba ngokwenjwayelo. Ikhasi lokuthoma belitlolwe iCOVID-19 bulwelwe obuyingozi ngamaledere anzima khulu.

Nakafikako, wahlalaphasi bese wafunda iindaba le ngokuqophelela. Ihlathulula amatshwayo nokuthi abantu kumele bahlole.



UJabulani gadesi utshwenyekile. Waya ngelawini likayise, wamuqala arabhalele embedeni atluwisa. Umdala wathimula bewakhohlela okungapheliko. Wathatha iphephandaba walibeka phambi kukayise bona afunde. UMatjhiyana wafunda, waqala indodana yakhe bese ayifulathela.



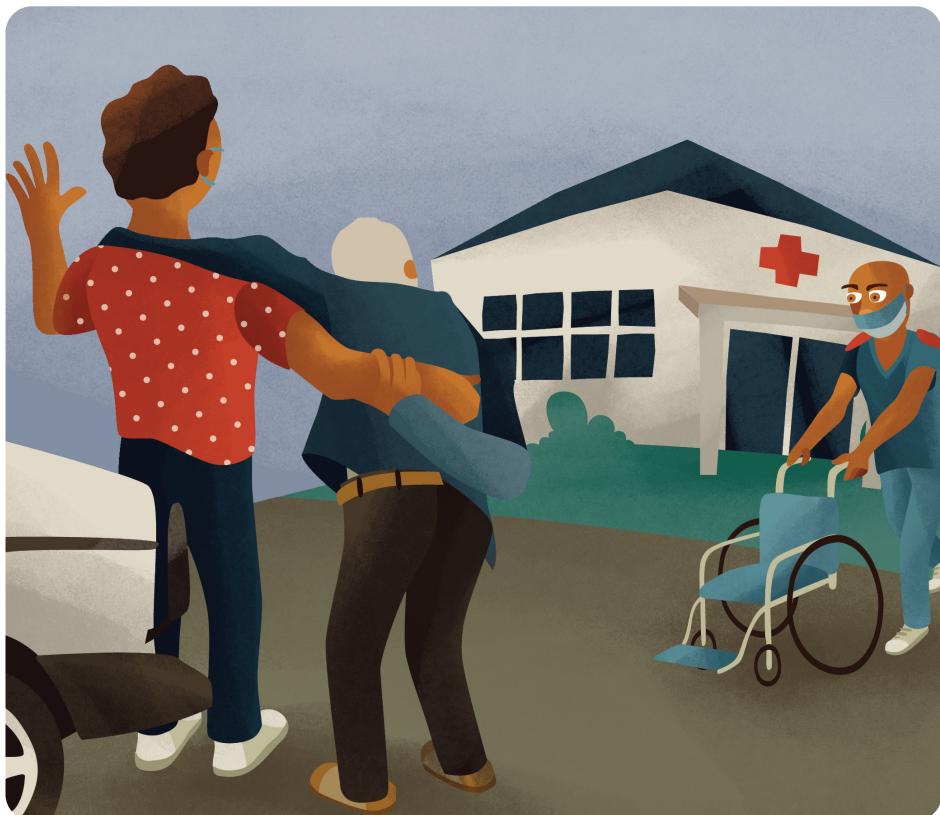


UMatjhiyana waphilelwa ilanga loke. UJabulani urhabhela uyise. “Baba ngiyakurabhela, asiye emtholapilo. Ngiyakurabhela.” UMatjhiyana waqala phasi.



uJabulani wasiza uyise ukusukuma, watotobela ekoloyini bese watjhayela balibangisa emtholapilo.

“Sizani, ngiyanibawa sizani!” urhwelela uJabulani. Abahlengikazi baletha isithulo samavilo. Bamusa ngelawini lokuhlola.





UMatjhiyana wahlolwa ngudorhodera. UMatjhiyana nendodana yakhe babahlolela iCOVID-19.  
Bamunikela inhlahla nemilayelo yokobana azisele njani. Begodu bamujova. UMatjhiyana walala.



Abahlengikazi bakhumbuza uJabulani mayelana nezamaphilo eziphephileko ngeenkathi zeCOVID-19:

- Hlamba izandla qobe ngamanzi nesibha.
- Tjheja bona kunebaga elaneleko.
- Mbatha isikhndeli nawuya endaweni zomphakathi.
- Nawuthimulakonofana ukhohlela sebenzisa ithitjhunoofanauhlohllelele endololwaneni yakho.





Umgomani walatjhwa bese uMatjhiyana wamathoma ukukhanuka ukudla. Gadesi sele akunambitha ukudla. Akasaphilela angalali. UJabulani noyise babuyela emutholapilo ukuyokuthatha imiphumela yeCOVID-19. Ngetjhudu, imiphumela yabuya inganawo umulwana. Bazizwa bakhululekile.



UMatjhiyana noJabulani bathokoza udonhodera nabahlengikazi bese babuyela ekhaya. Ukusuka ngalelo langauMatjhiyana waqinisekisa bona wembatha izambatho ezifuthumeleko nakumakhaza. Bekangasafuni ukubanjwa mgomani godu. Wahlamba izandla zaqobe ngamanzi nesibha. Waqinisekisa ukumbatha isikhaneli ngasosoke isikhathi ukuziveke kuCOVID-19 neminye imihlobo yeemgomani.

