Ibhola elahlekileyo

NguRuth Legae

Iyekile ukuna. UNamkho kunye nodade wabo omncinci uSiviwe bonwabile. Bakujonge ngamehlo abomvu ukudlala ibhola ekhatywayo ngaphandle. Inja yabo uPapi, ithanda ukudlala nabo ibhola. Bakhangela ibhola kodwa abayifumani.

Ibhola ilahlekile. UNamkho nodade wabo omncinci uSiviwe, bamangalisiwe. UPapi inja yabo, ibajongile. Abayazi ukuba baqale ngaphi ukukhangela.

“Siza kujonga phi?” wabuza uSiviwe.

Bajonga emgqomeni wenkunkuma, kodwa yayingekho. UPapi uyabalandela ukhangela ibhola. Ibhola ayifumaneki ndawo.

UPapi uzama ukutsiba ucingo lukammelwane ukuya kukhangela ibhola. UNamkho kunye nodade wabo omncinci uSiviwe, bayambiza, “Buya!”

Ibhola ayifumaneki ndawo.

UPapi ubuyela emva. USiviwe wacinga icebo. “Ndiza kujonga phantsi kwemoto.”

Ibhola ayifumaneki ndawo!

USiviwe urhubuluza phantsi kwemoto ukhangela ibhola. UNamkho noPapi abamboni. Uyakhasa ubuya umva. Iimpahla zakhe zigcwele ludaka. Akonwabanga.

UPapi uyachwechwa azama ukutsiba ucingo ukuya kwiyadi yommelwane. USiviwe noNamkho bayambiza kwakhona, “Buya Papi, uza kwenzakala.” UPapi uyabuya. Udinwe kakhulu.

Ibhola ayifumaneki ndawo!

UNamkho noSiviwe nabo badiniwe. Bahlala phantsi kwi-veranda noPapi. UNamkho ubiza uyise, “Tata! Tata! Ibhola ilahlekile.”

UTata wabo ukhangela ibhola emgqomeni wenkukuma. UPapi uyamlandela. Ubonakala ediniwe kwaye ulwimi lwakhe lungaphandle.

Inyaniso kukuba ibhola ilahlekile. UPapi unecebo. Wabaleka kangangoko wayenako. Watsiba ucingo lommelwane. UNamkho noSiviwe zange bamqaphele.

NguTata wabo kuphela owambona etsiba ucingo. UNamkho ubuza uTata wakhe, “Uphi uPapi?”

“Utsibe ucingo waya kwindlu yommelwane.” “Masimlandele, Namkho,” wacebisa njalo uSiviwe.

UNamkho noSiviwe balandela uPapi baya kwindlu yommelwane. UPapi ume ecaleni kwebhola. Uyakhonkotha, Hawu!, Hawu!

Yekee! Nantsiya ibhola! UPapi uyifumene. UPapi uphethe ibhola ngomlomo babuyela ekhaya. USiviwe uphulula uPapi emqolo evuyisana naye.

Emva kwexesha uNamkho wakhwaza uTata wabo. “UPapi uyifumene ibhola.”

“Uyifumene phi ibhola?” wabuza utata wabo.

“Uyifumene eyadini yommelwane,” waphendula uNamkho. UPapi yinja ekrelekrele ngokwenene.

Utata wabo wavuyisana nabo. Bobathathu baqalisa ukudlala ibhola ekhatywayo. Badlala kunye de badinwa.