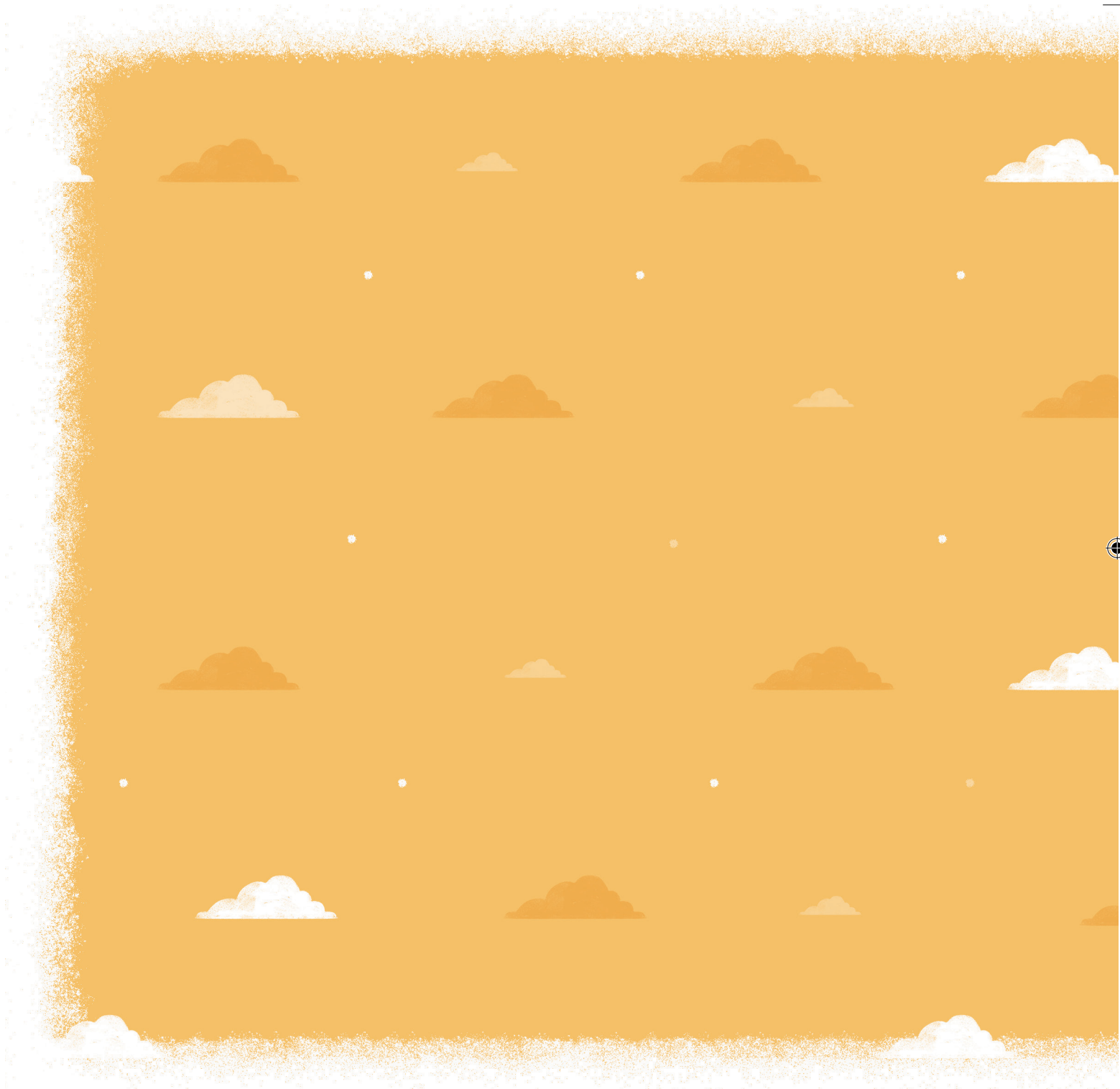


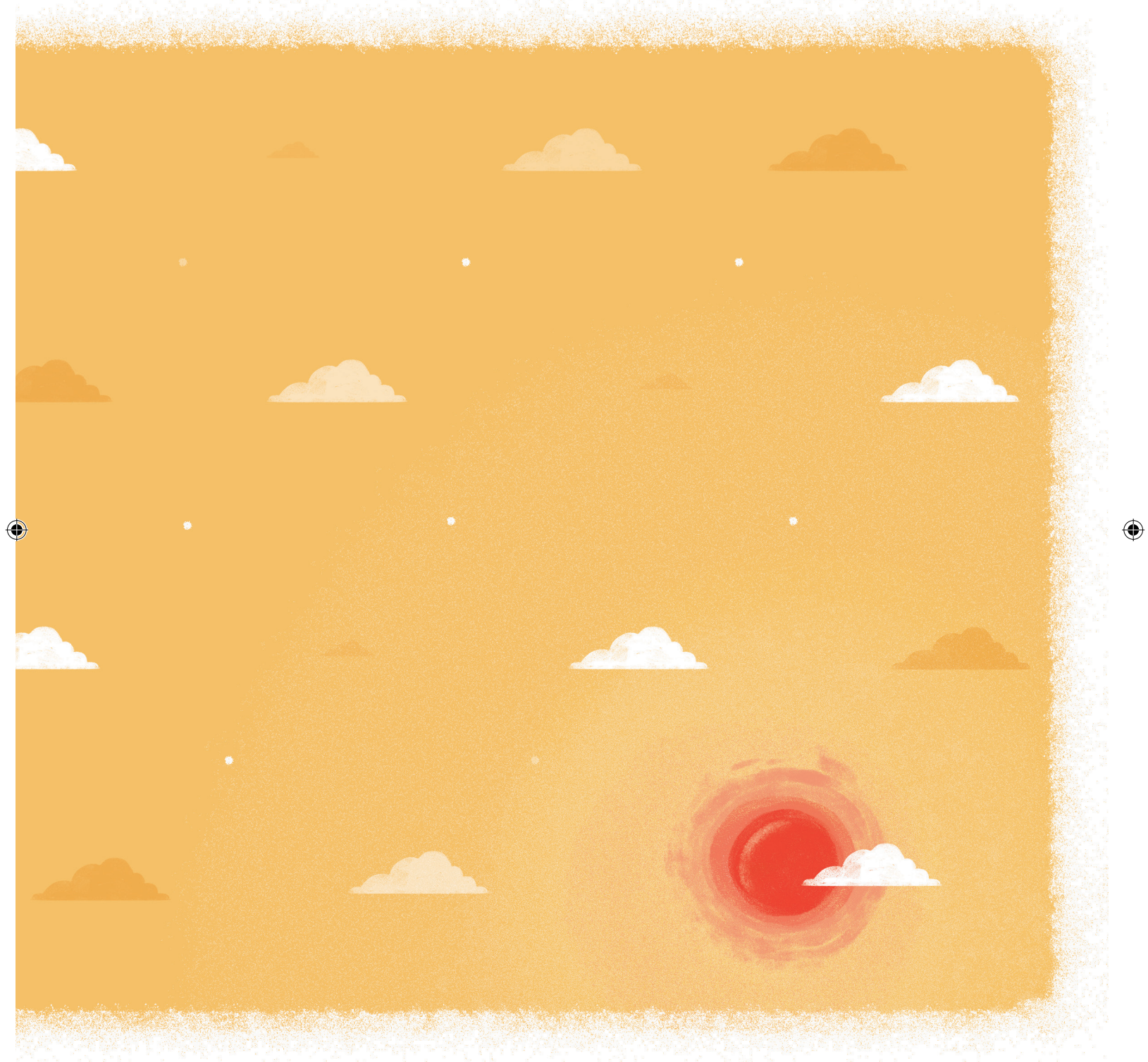


Ingonyamakazi Edinwe Kakhulu

Le ncwadi yeka









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Ingonyamakazi Edinwe Kakhulu

(The Very Tired Lioness)

Illustrated by Imile Wepener

Written by Maren Bodenstein

Designed by Nathan McKay

Edited by Margot Bertelsmann

Translated by Nal'ibali

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 27 October 2018.

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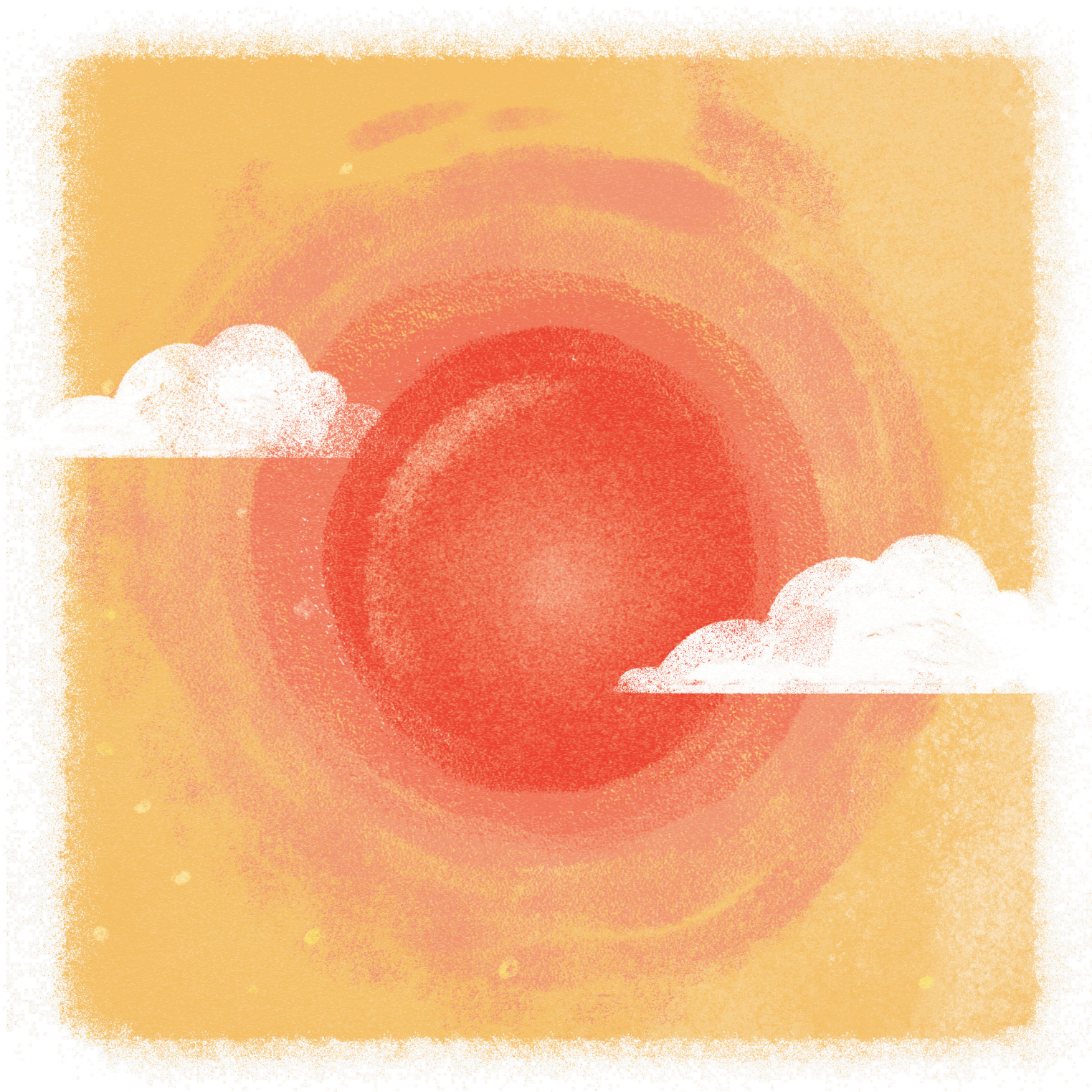
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Kwakukho ingonyamakazi
endala eyayidinwe kakhulu.

Yayidinwe kangangokuba
yayilala imini yonke ...
nobusuku bonke.







“Yiza uze kuzingela nathi,”
babesitsho oodadewabo
neentombi zakhe.

Kodwa ingonyamakazi
yayidinwe kakhulu.





“Yintoni engalunganga kuye?”

zabuza ezinye iimpala ezincinane.

“Ningasondeli kakhulu,” bazilumkisa oonina. **“Hleze anitye.”**

Kodwa ingonyamakazi yayisuka iphekuze ngeendlebe zayo ukuze **igxothe iimpukane.**









Ngenye imini ingonyamakazi
yavuka iziva ngathi kukho
into eyijongileyo.

Yathi yakujonga phezulu, yabona
isidalwa esibilayo nesiingajongeki
kakuhle emthini.

“Ungubani?” yabuza ingonyamakazi.





“Ndililanga. **Ndize kulanda wena,**” saphendula isidalwa.

“**Hamba suka apha,**”
yavungama ingonyamakazi.
“**Ndifuna ukulala.**”







Ithe xa iphinda ivula amehlo ayo kwakhona ingonyamakazi, ilanga labe lisesemthini.

“Awuboni ukuba usenza shushu kwaye sinxanwe?”

“Ixesha liyahamba,”
latsho ilanga.
“Ndilandele.”





Ngoko ingonyamakazi yaphakama
ingangxamanga yalandela ilanga.

“Uzingele kamnandi,” bakhwaza
oodadewabo neentombi zakhe
beyilandela.

“Sawubonana! Sawubonana!”
yantyiloza intaka.









Kodwa ingonyamakazi
yayingeva nto xa
yayinyuka isiya ...

... phezulu naphezulu naphezulu
ingena esibhakabhakeni.



“Yhu, kukude kodwa,”
yatsho ingonyamakazi.









**“Akusekudanga kakhulu noko
ngoku,”** latsho ilanga. **“Uza kuphumla
sakufika apho siya khona.”**





Ngoko ke ingonyamakazi
yaya **kuhlala nelanga.** Imini
yonke ingqengqa icubhukile
ekufudumaleni kwalo.









Kodwa ebusuku, **xa lilele ilanga,**
ijonga ezantsi kwihlabathi elihle
elishiye emva.



