

TINYEMBETI TENDVODZA

A Siswati Novel

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JJ Ncongwane

SETFULO

Lencwadzi ngiyetfula kumkani, Sibongile.

EMAVI EMBHALI

Lenzaba isuka nje enhloko yami, kute umuntfu lengimatiko
lengicondzise kuye ngaletigigaba letenteka kulenzaba.

Nangabe kwentekile kwacondzana neligama lemuntfu
lophilako kumbe longasekho, ngiyacolisa bengikacondzisi
kuye.

Ngiyakholwa kutsi nitayijabulela nizuze lokutsite kuze
nihlomele likusasa ngobe phela vele likusasa alatiwa.

SEHLUKO 1

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Kukhona lokumshisako Tengetile. Akahlaliseki lapha endlini kuyabonakala kutsi usenkingeni. Uyasukuma aphindze ahlale phasi. Asukume ahambahambe yonkhe indlu. Aphakamise emehlo abuke sitfombe semshado wadzadzewabo nemyeni wakhe lesiphanyekwe lapha elubondzeni. Acondze esibukweni atibuke, abambe sisu alinge kusipotjota. Yintfo latayitsini nje yona le? Lenzaba seyimudle yedvwa lesidze sikhatsi. Nermalanga akakemi ayahamba. Utayitekela bani nje lensambatseka lemvelele? Nasekhaya kubo solo akayitsi vu lenzaba. NaKhumalo uyesaba kumtjela lenzaba leseymvelele. Angisayiteki nekuyiteka-ke phela yekutjela Sobahle dzadzewabo, umkaKhumalo. Lelinye libito laSobahle nguDesiree. Batali bakhe batsandza leli laDesiree kantsi yena utsandza lelaSobahle. Utamcala ngakuphi loyo ngobe utamudla luhlata? Futsi angamtsela nangemafutsa labilako nakangayiva nje lenzaba yabo banaKhumalo. Impela yantjintja imphilo yaTengetile. Akazange asaba nguloya Tengetile logcwele imphilo nemdlandla kanye nenshisekelo. Samshukashuka satelo waze wehla nasemtimbeni. Emehlo akhe bekakadze angasahlangani newadzadzewabo. Ingani ngisho nekuhlala nje ndzawonye babukele mabonakudze bekakadze angasakwenti. Bekasahlala njalo aguje ngale ekamelweni lakhe. Nekuya ekhaya kubo sewuyesaba ngobe akati kutsi utawungena ngaliphi. Kantsi nekuchubeka ahlale lapha kadzadzewabo sekuyingoti. Wati kahle kamhlophe nje naye Tengetile kutsi nayingafika etindlebeni taSobahle lenzaba, impela kungacitseka tishibo. Phela Sobahle bekakadze anesikhwele lesibi kabi. Ngalelinye lilanga Tengetile washaya lucingo washayela khona lapha kadzadzewabo. Lolo lucingo lwabanjwa nguye Sobahle. Kutsite

lapho nakeva Sobahle kutsi liphimbo lemuntfu lomsikati, wantjintja livi masinyane walibhodlisa lafana nelendvodza. Tengetile yena vele wacabanga kutsi ukhuluma naSolly indvodza yadzadzewabo.

“Cha mkhwenyewetfu, ngifuna dzadze Sobahle.” Kuphendvula Tengetile acabanga vele kutsi ukhuluma naKhumalo kantsi nguSobahle. Utsite nakeva Sobahle kutsi lentfombatana ifuna yena, wase uyatikhwehlelisa wantjintja livi futsi, wakhuluma ngelivi lakhe leletayelekile.

“Hawu! Uyati livi lakho langiphica-ke lamuhla dzadze yini ndzaba? Uyati ngitsi mine ngikhuluma naKhumalo phela...” Kusho Tengetile ngekumangala.

“Kantsi hhayi ngimi mntfwanamake, intfo nje kutsi ngifuna kungenwa ngumkhuhlane kantsi naku futsi kusesekuseni, livi lami lisabhodla.” Kusho yena njalo Sobahle, asho asenga letemitsi nje.

Phela lokuntjintja leliphimbo lakhe akhulumise kwendvodza, bekacabanga kutsi yintfombi yaSolly leleshaya lolucingo, atitjela kutsi itawukhuluma tonkhe tindzaba tekutsandzana kwayo naSolly. Emakhatsato abuyela emhlantsini naseva kutsi kantsi nguTengetile lolokhulumako. Phela naye Sobahle lamphica livi laTengetile lamuhla. Mhlawumbe ngulokutsi, emcabangweni wakhe bekacabanga kutsi ngulenye yetintfombi taSolly. Bekagadvwe kanjalo-ke Solly. Kudzela lowatiko kutsi kube vele bekuyintfombi yakhe leyo ngabe kwentekani? Ngito-ke tintfo lebetimenta ashaywe luvalo Tengetile ngaloko losekwentekile. Khona nje bantfu batawutsini nasebeva lelihlahazo leselentekile kulomuti waKhumalo? Impela ingoto seyengce indlela.

Phela, Tengetile lo ngudzadzewaboSobahle lomncane. Sewukhulile yena ngobe uneminyaka lelishumi nemfica budzala. Situbutubane nje sentfombatana lesitsandzekako nalesitfobile. Ukhutsele futsi anjalo nje. Akasibeki phasi sibunu. Yintfutfwane

lucobo lwayo. Ngiko lokukhutsala kwakhe kanye nekutfobeka lokwenta dzadzewabo lomkhulu kutsi amcele kutsi atomsalela nemntfwana ngesikhatsi yena asemsebentini esikolweni. Phela Sobahle ufundzisa lapha esikolweni salabancane lesatiwa ngekutsi kuseBhudlweni. Tengetile sewuneminyaka lemibili asicedzile sikolo kepha ngenca yekuswelakala kwemisebenti, usahleti lapha ekhaya kubo elokishini eSweetville C. Wacelwa nguye Sobahle kutsi atomgadzela luswane lwakhe ngobe naku yena uyasebenta. Lenye inkinga yaTengetile kutsi batali bakhe bebete imali yekumchubekisa kutsi ayewufundzela umsebenti. Buka-ke Tengetile wacedza libanga lelishumi nakubili solo atiphetse kahle. Akazange alingise lelinyenti lemantfombatana lelibontsanga yakhe lapha elokishini, latsi angakacedzi libanga lelishumi nakubili abe asashaya ngamunye kumbe ngababili bantfwana. Phela kulamalanga sekwabaligugu lelikhulu kutfola umntfwana. Sekwabayindlangako. Kwemantfombatanyana nje kutsi nakufuna imali, kutiyekelele kwemitse kutfole umntfwana. Phela kwemitsa kulula kabi! Noko singawasola singawasoli lamantfombatanyana. Phela vele umbuso ubeke imali nekhondomu watsi abakhetse. Ukhona yini umuntfu lophile kahle lapha enhloko longakhetsa ikhondomu ayekele imali? Ingani ngisho nome ngabe bekubekwe imali lenguR20 nekhondomu. Vele bantfwana batawukhetsa le-R20 kunalekhondomu. Nalelizinga lebugebengu lelenyuke kangaka alimangalisi. Labantfwana bakhuliswa bantfwana. Umntfwana wake wamkhulisa yini lomunye umntfwana? Lapha emmangweni sekugcwele bantfwana bebantfwana! Sive sakusasa sitawukwakhiwa bantfwana labakhuliswe bantfwana! Sive sakusasa sisetandleni tebantfwana loku sikhuluma nje! Phela kukhulisa umntfwana akusiyo insangu yona ibhenywa natilima.

Tengetile bekatiphetse kahle, futsi bekangasilo lihatsa. Phela Tengetile ute ufika lapha kaKhumalo ngenca yadzadzewabo Sobahle, lobekasolo abelesela indvodza yakhe lenguKhumalo.

“Mine ngibona kutsi kuncono ngiye ekhaya kitsi ngiyowucela Tengetile kutsi atongigadzela luswane lwami.” Kusho Sobahle ngesikhatsi atetfwele sisu sesibili.

“Kenje emalanga akho ekungena endlini asasondzele?” Kubuta Khumalo kunkhosikati yakhe, Sobahle.

“Yebo, dokotela utsite ngeke iphele lenyanga letawusuka.”

“Hawu! Umuntfu sewutaphumula-ke kulokutefelwa nguwe. Ewu, besengifile.” Phela vele solo atetfwele nje Sobahle kotsiwa lukhuni lweludvungamanti lapha kaKhumalo kulamalanga.

“Kepha ngibona kutsi Tengetile asale eta vele kuyo lenyanga lesetulu ngobe mine angisakhoni nje kwenta lutfo.” Kusho Sobahle vele asafuce sisu asinwayela lapha ekudzeni. Lesisu sakhe besimvilaphisa kabi LaMbhokane. Bekaphike kulala nje. Kwala nome seabmctwayisa emtfolamphilo kutsi angabotsandza kulala kepha abohambahamba nje ashukumise umtimba ngoba kuyasita loko ngesikhatsi umuntfu asateta.

“Utsini dokotela utsi uyandza yini umuti weMantungwa nome uyafa?” Kubuta Solly ngekumamatseka kancane. Phela mankunzini yena ufisa kutsi umkakhe atfole umfana khona kutewuvuka sibongo sakaKhumalo. Phela Solly nguye yedwa umfana kabo. Utalwa nemantfombatana lamatsatfu kabo ungunjanzana yena. Noko uyise akasekho emhlabeni kepha unina Lozinja usekhona. Nabodzadzewabo labatsatfu nguMasesi wekucala bese kuta Bitiwe sekugcina Ncenekile. Kute namunye kulamantfombatana akaKhumalo lowaba nenhlanhla yekutfole umendvo. Lowacishe wawutfole umendvo nguye Bitiwe. Befika bakaMdluli ngesheya kweMgubudla batewuva emanti. Bebebe kutewuphamba umlilo. Bafike bashiya tinkhomo letintsatfu temaphepha betsembisa kutsi batawubuya. Inkhomo yinye bakaKhumalo bebakadze bayibite inkhulungwane. Lokusho kutsi bakaMdluli bashiya tinkhulungwane letintsatfu. BakaKhumalo abazange babatjela nelukhalo lwemntfwana.

Bagcina ngaletso tinkhomo, abazange basaphindza babuye laba basemini. Kutsi kwase kwentekani emva kwaloko, impela kudzela lowatiko. Uyise waSolly bekunguMzaca Khumalo. Bekakhe lapha ngephasi kwaMbilanyoni. Emva kwekushona kwakhe, bantfwabakhe babona kutsi kuncono basuke le emapulazini batewuhlala lapha elokishini eSweetville. Ngenca yebukhulu balelilokishi, kwadzingeka kutsi lehlukaniswe ngekutsi libitwe ngaboSweetville A, B, C njalo njalo.

Bitiwe-ke yena watitsatsela indlu ye-RDP, uhlala khona kantsi boMasesi naNcenekile bahlala nenina khona lapha eSweetville B mshiya lowa. Linyenti lebantfu lelihlahla kuletindlu teRDP (Reconstruction And Development Programme), lokutindlu bantfu labakhelwa tona ngumbuso baphiwe mahhala hha, ngulabasikatinakhona labasebancane ngeminyaka. Linyenti labo alisebenti futsi lite emadvodza. Noko tona tilusito sibili letindlu. Lokubana nje kutsi linyenti lebantfu lelihlahla lapha kuletindlu alishiyi emphahleni! Kufanele phela abasebenti labantfu kantsi indlu ifuna imphahla. Kwakha likhaya kuyabita ngobe kufuneka tintfo talapha endlini kanye neludaladi lwekulibiyela. Utatitfolaphi tonkhe leto tintfo umuntfu longasebenti? Phela kufuneka nekudla lapha endlini, utawudlani lomuntfu?

Ngenca yekuhlanganisa tinhlanga letinyenti letehlukene, lilokishi laseSweetville selinemasiko lamanyenti lahlukene ekwenta tintfo. Asewubuke nje naSolly ngesikhatsi alobola intfombi yakhe Sobahle, bamlobolisa ngendlela leyehlukile kunalena yena layetaye. Ngelilanga lemalobolo, nguye cobo lwakhe Makinobho Mbhokane bekakadze akhuluma. Unina waSobahle uLaMlotjwa, bekakadze ahleti ngale ekhishini. Bekameme nje kuphela umnakabo lomncane Ncabaniso kutsi atewukumlalelisa. Ngelilanga kutewulotjolwa Sobahle, kutsiwa Mbhokane watsenga nalu luhlobo lolujikako lwesitulo, wahlala kuso. Watsi Naseva kutsi sebakhona laba bemi, wajika ngalesihlalo sakhe wafulatsela wabheka le. Bayangena nje

labantfu bayabingelela, yena akababuki nekubabuka utibhekele le. Nasebafuna kucala inkhulumo bakaKhumalo, Makinobho Mbhokane solo ubafulatsele ubheke le. Kwadzimate kwasita umnakabo lomncane, Ncabaniso, lowabeluleka ngekutsi kufute bente njani.

“Cha, ngeke kulunge nine bakaKhumalo kutsi nicale inkhulumo umnumzane walapha ekhaya anifulatsele ngalendlela. Mjikiseni boMntungwa anibuke.” Kusho yena njalo Ncabaniso umnakaboMbhokane lomncane.

Nemambala-ke asuke Sentji asukume alungiselele kubamba leso sihlalo lahleti kuso Mbhokane asijikise sibuke ngalapha kuhleti khona bonkhe bantfu.

“Hhayi wentani manje ja?” Kwekhuta yena njalo Ncabaniso ngelivi lelikhulu naleligcizelelako. Mbhokane bekasolo atibindzele nje atibhekele le.

“Cha phela babe angitsi ngiyamjikisa...”

“Nemambala awuwati emasiko. Utawuhlrawuliswa inkhomo ngiyakutjela. Wake wakubonaphi wena kutsi umnumzane welikhaya ujikiswa ngaleyo ndlela? Uyedzelela yini?” Sekusho Ncabaniso acondzise kuSentji. Nemambala-ke vele nalabo labahamba naye bamekhute batsi akahlale phasi.

“Cha babe sicela kutsi usewete ngobe asati, kwenta kwetintfo kuyashiyana.” Sekusho Solomon. Ingani phela bonkhe bangani baSolly bebakhona ngesikhatsi kulotjolwa Sobahle Mbhokane.

“Niyahlupha nine bantfu besikompulazi ngalokungati emasiko esintfu. Lalelani lapha-ke nginitjele kutsi kufute nente njani,” Kusho Ncabaniso atsi kudvonsa sikhwehlela kancane aphindze futsi achubeke atsi, “Umnumzane walapha ekhaya ujikiswa ngelikhulu lemarandi.”