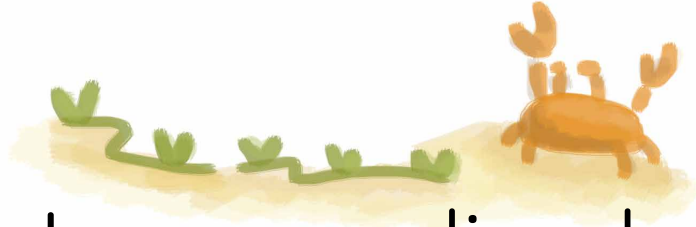


Ibhotwe eliGqibeleleyo
likaNksk Nombombiya

Helen Brain • Celeste Beckerling



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Le ncwadi yeka





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Ibhotwe eliGqibeleleyo likaNksk Nombombiya

(Mrs Penguin's Perfect Palace)

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Ibhotwe eliGqibeleleyo likaNksk Nombombiya



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“Akwaba bendiNENDLU!” watsho uNksk Nombombiya.
“Andithandi ukuhlala enkunkumeni.”



“Nksk Nombombiya Endimthandayo,” watsho
uMnu Nombombiya. “Siza kukwakhela ibhotwe.”



Ngoko ke usapho
lakwaNombombiya
lwaqalisa ngomsebenzi.

“Isanti ilwenza
lurhawuzele ulusu lwam,”
wambombozela uSisi.



“Imilinganiselo
ayichanekanga,”
watsho uBhuti.



“Ndilambile,”
watsho uRhalayo.



Wakhwina uNksk
Nombombiya.
Wonke umsebenzi
wawusenziwa nguye.



Ekugqibeleni ibhotwe
lagqitywa.



Kodwa kwafika iliza lalikhukulisa lemka.
“Siza kuphinda sizame,” watsho
uMnu Nombombiya.



“Yizani bantwana, siza kwakhela uMama indlu enkulu ngamatye.”



Ngoko ke usapho lwakwaNombombiya lwaqalisa ngomsebenzi.



“Ayasinda amatye,”
wambombozela uSisi.



“Ndisalambile,” watsho uRhalayo.



“Imilinganiselo
ayichanekanga,”
watsho uBhuti.



Ekugqibeleni indlu enkulu
yagqitywa ... kodwa
kwafika umoya
wayiphephethekisa
yemka.



Wayekhathazekile uNksk
Nombombiya. “Andizi
kuphinda ndisebenze,”
watsho.



“Siza kuzama kwakhona,” watsho uMnu Nombombiya.

“Andikwazi kucinga nangantoni ngoku,” watsho uSisi.

“Kunzima kakhulu.”

“Asinasamente kwaphela,”
watsho uBhuti. “Akukho
ndlu ifanelekileyo
inokwakhiwa ngaphandle
kwesamente.”



“Ndilambile,” watsho uRhalayo.

Wakhwina uNksk Nombombiya. Wayengasayi
kulifumana ikhaya lakhe.

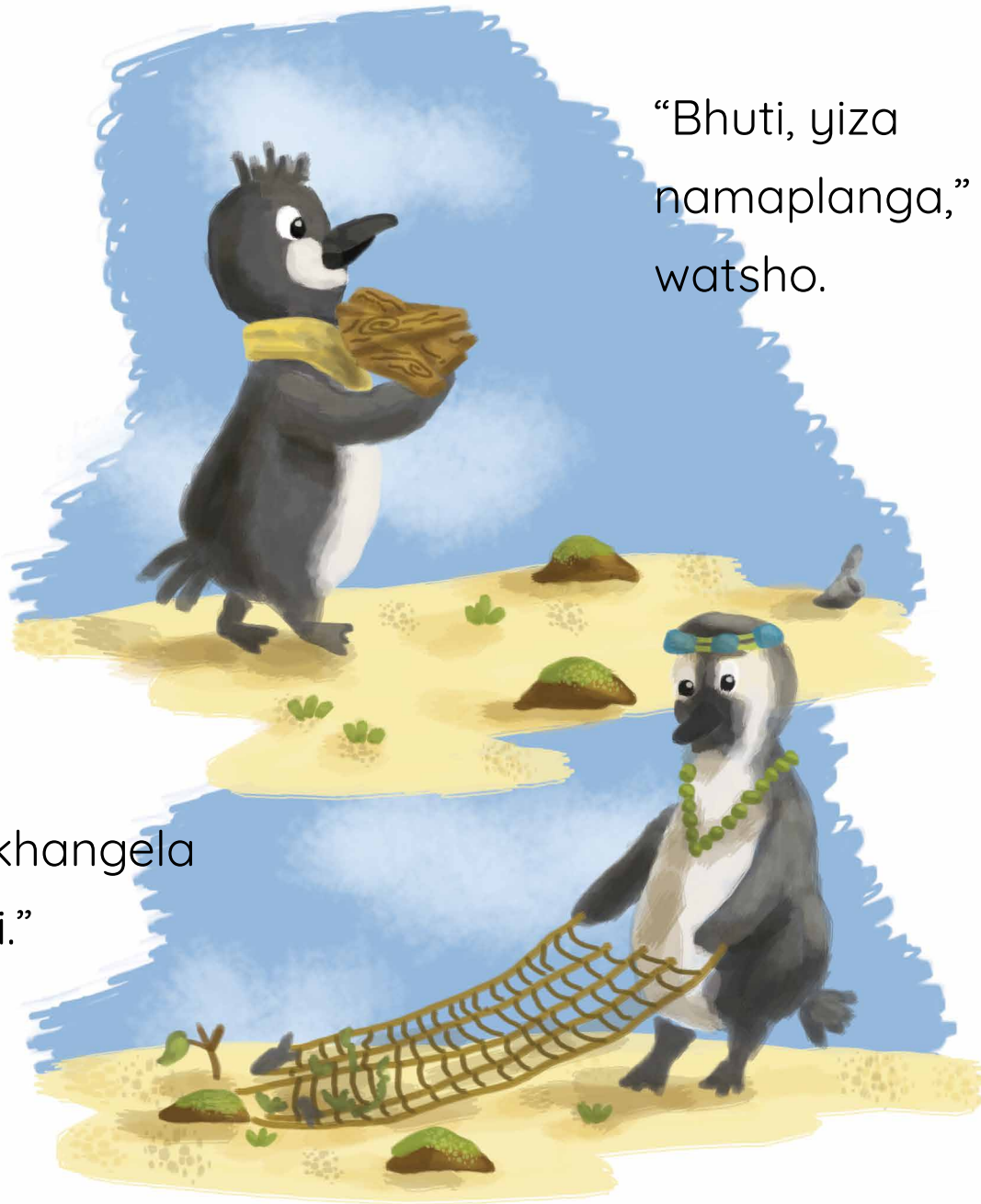


“Khawujonge wonke lo monakalo,” watsho.



Kuthe kanti uNksk Nombombiya unoluvo analo.





“Bhuti, yiza
namaplanga,”
watsho.

“Sisi, khangela
iinethi.”



“Rhalayo, yiza neplastikhi.
Mnu Nombombiya
yiza nehamile.”

Basebenza
imini yonke.



“Ndidiniwe,” utshilo uSisi.

“Qhuba usebenze,” watsho uNksk Nombombiya.

“Imilinganiselo ayichanekanga,” utshilo uBhuti.

“Qhuba usebenze,” watsho uNksk
Nombombiya.

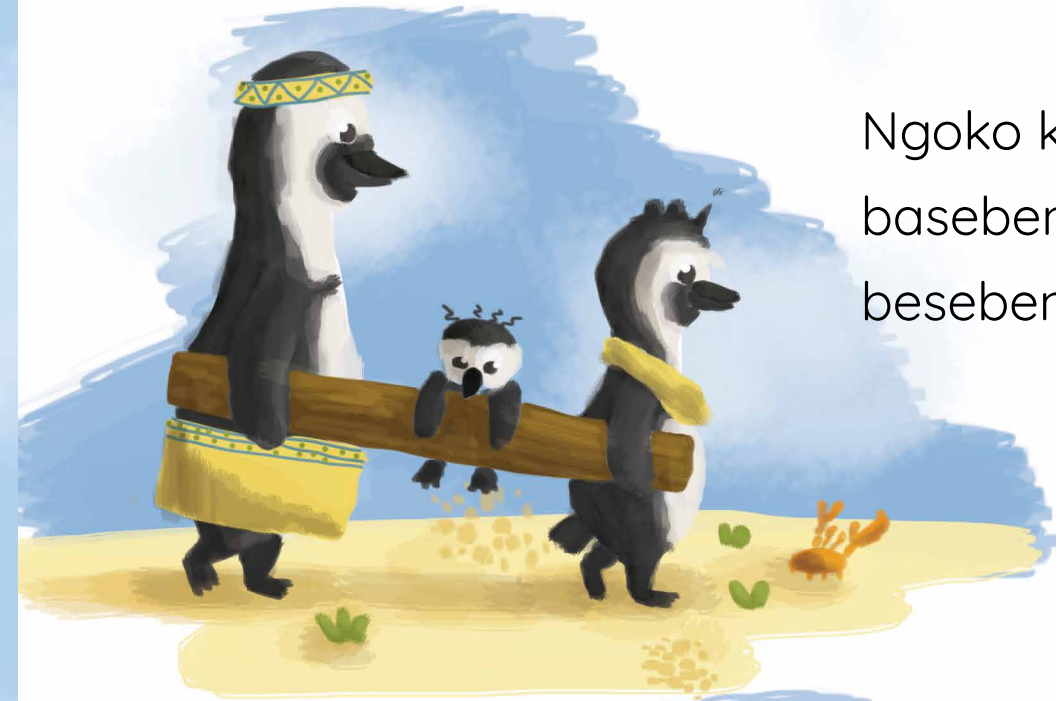


“Ndisalambile,” watsho uRhalayo.

“Qhuba usebenze,” watsho uNksk Nombombiya.



“Kuza kuba kuhle ngenene,” watsho
uMnu Nombombiya.
“Mhle umsebenzi wenu,” watsho
uNksk Nombombiya.



Ngoko ke basebenza,
basebenza baqhuba
besebenza ...

... kwaze
ekugqibeleni
lagqitywa ikhaya.





“Wamkelekile kwibhotwe lakho,” watsho uMnu Nombombiya. UNksk Nombombiya waqhwaba amalungu okuqubha akhe. “Ndiyabulela,” watsho. “Libhotwe eliGqibeleleyo likaNksk Nombombiya.”





