Izimpahla zinkulu kimi!

Sipho R. Kekezwa

Kusasa yilanga likaLuvo lokuqala esikoleni.

“Ungithengele izimpahla zesikole, mama?” wabuza ngenshisakalo.

“Uma uqeda ukudla, ungazibheka izimpahla zakho zesikole,” kusho umama ekhomba inyanda yezimpahla ezigoqwe kahle zabekwa etafuleni eliseduze. ULuvo wagwinya ukudla, engaboni nokuthi kunezaqathe angazithandi esitsheni sakhe.

Eseqedile ukudla, ULuvo wagxuma esihlalweni sakhe waqala ukuphequlula izimpahla.

“Ziphi izimpahla zami?” wabuza ephakamisa izimpahla ngayinye.

Zonke izimpahla zesikole zazibukeka zizinkulu kakhulu kuye futhi zingekho zintsha.
“Linganisa,” kuncenga umama ngobuso obumamathekayo.

Uma ephuma ekamelweni ayelinganisela kulo izimpahla zakhe ezintsha, umfowabo, uZolile, wahleka.

Ubaba wakhe wamamatheka ngemuva kwephepha ayelifunda.

"Izimpahla zinkulu kimi!" washo ngezwi elincane eligcwele izinyembezi.

"Ungakhathazeki sithandwa sami. Ngizozilungisa. Kusasa uzoba muhle."

ULuvo wayengamzwisisi umama wakhe, ngoba kwakunzima nokuhamba ngazo.

ULuvo wanquma ukuthi angeke aye esikoleni.

Walala inhliziyo yakhe ibuhlungu enombono ohlukile ngelanga lakhe lokuqala esikoleni.

Wayesacabanga ngalokhu, uma ezumeka elala.

“Bafana, lo ugqoke izimpahla zikababa wakhe,” kusho omunye umfana omdala esikoleni etshela abangane bakhe, ekhomba uLuvo.

“Ihembe lakhe sengathi yilokwe,” kusho omunye.

“Mabhulukwana!” kungenela owesithathu. ULuvo wakhona ukubamba izinyembezi zakhe, ngenkathi ezinye izingane esikoleni zimbhekile.

ULuvo wabaleka, ezama ukucashela lesithungu sabafana esasihlekisa ngaye.

Uma ezama ukubaleka, izicathulo zakhe ezinkulu zamgila wawa, isicathulo sakhe esisodwa sandiza emoyeni ngaphambi kokuthi siwele phansi.

"Ngiyekeni! Ngiyekeni!" wamemeza.

Yilokho kuphela akhone ukukusho uma ekhala.

"Luvo! Luvo vuka!"

ULuvo wayezwa izwi likamama wakhe.

Wavula amehlo akhe agcwele izinyembezi.

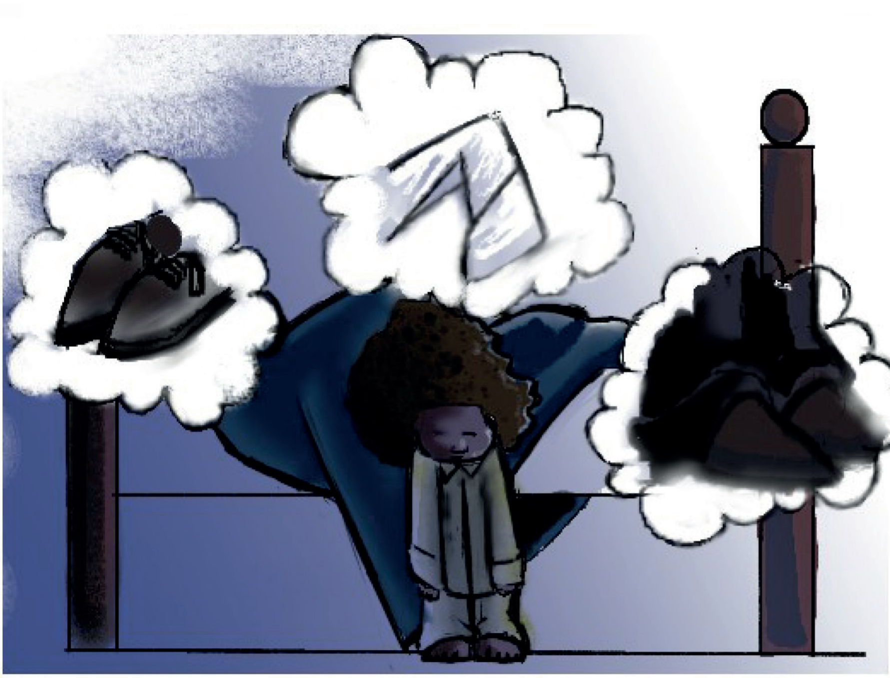
"Luvo, vuka! Kusile!"

Nangempela kwakungumama wakhe.

ULuvo wavuka embhedeni wakhe waqalaza.

Wayengekho esikoleni…

Wakhululeka ukuthi wayengekho esikoleni.



Wabe esekhumbula ibhulukwe likaZolile!

Wakhumbula ihembe elide!

Izicathulo…!

“Ngi… Ngiphethwe ikhanda,” washo ezimboza futhi.

“Luvo ngane yami, vuka,” kusho umama ngothando, azi ukuthi yini emhluphayo.

“Bheka izimpahla zakho zesikole. Ngizilungisile.” Engakavuki, wahlola ngaphansi kwezingubo. Esihlalweni esiseduze nombhede wakhe, kwakunezimpahla zesikole ezazibonakala zimlingana.

ULuvo wayezijabulele kakhulu izimpahla zakhe zesikole kangangokuthi wayengafuni umama wakhe amsize ngokumgqokisa, njengoba ehlala enza.

ULuvo wabheka phansi, wakhala.

Uma ebheka phezulu, umama wakhe wayephethe ibhokisi.

Ukumamatheka okwaba khona ebusweni kwakun-gaphezu kwezinyembezi ayezama ukuzibamba.

"Ungithengele izicathulo, mama?"

"Yebo Luvo," kuphendula umama kaLuvo.

ULuvo wanga umama wakhe kakhulu.

"Ngiyabonga, mama."

Konke kwakukuhle ngelanga likaLuvo lokuqala esikoleni.

Wayejabulile.