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Lindiwe Matshikiza

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Skrevet av: Lindiwe Matshikiza

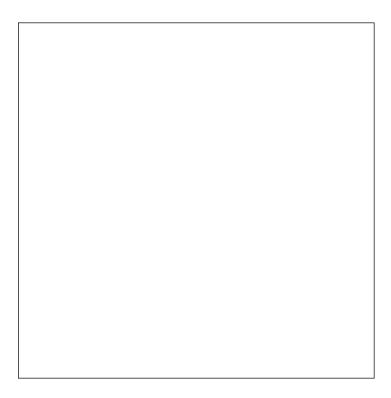
Donkey Child

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Donkey Child



It was a little girl who first saw the mysterious shape in the distance.

As the shape moved closer, she saw that it was a heavily pregnant woman.



Shy but brave, the little girl moved nearer to the woman. "We must keep her with us," the little girl's people decided. "We'll keep her and her child safe."

The donkey child and his mother have grown together and found many ways of living side by side. Slowly, all around them, other families have started to settle.

Jonkey found his mother, alone and nourning her lost child. They stared at sach other for a long time. And then nugged each other very hard.	"Bring	hild was soon on its way. "Push!' g blankets!" "Water!" uuusssshhh!!!"	

ς



But when they saw the baby, everyone jumped back in shock. "A donkey?!"

Donkey finally knew what to do.

e clouds had disappeared along with riend, the old man.	wonld ke	egan to argue. "We said w mother and child safe, an we'll do," said some. "But bad luck!" said others.	, and But they

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And so the woman found herself alone again. She wondered what to do with this awkward child. She wondered what to do with herself.

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High up amongst the clouds they fell asleep. Donkey dreamed that his mother was sick and calling to him. And when he woke up...

But finally she had to accept that he was her child and she was his mother.	One morning, the old man asked Donkey to carry him to the top of a mountain.
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Now, if the child had stayed that same, small size, everything might have been different. But the donkey child grew and grew until he could no longer fit on his mother's back. And no matter how hard he tried, he could not behave like a human being. His mother was often tired and frustrated. Sometimes she made him do work meant for animals.

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Donkey went to stay with the old man, who taught him many different ways to survive. Donkey listened and learned, and so did the old man. They helped each other, and they laughed together.

gninsts sm blo	ey woke up to find a strange old i og down at him. He looked into th an's eyes and started to feel a le of hope.	od ei cor and	usion and anger bu key. He couldn't do an't do that. He cou ne couldn't be like y that, one day, he	this and he Ildn't be like this :hat. He became so

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to the ground.



Donkey was filled with shame. He started to run away as far and fast as he could.

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By the time he stopped running, it was night, and Donkey was lost. "Hee haw?" he whispered to the darkness. "Hee Haw?" it echoed back. He was alone. Curling himself into a tight ball, he fell into a deep and troubled sleep.