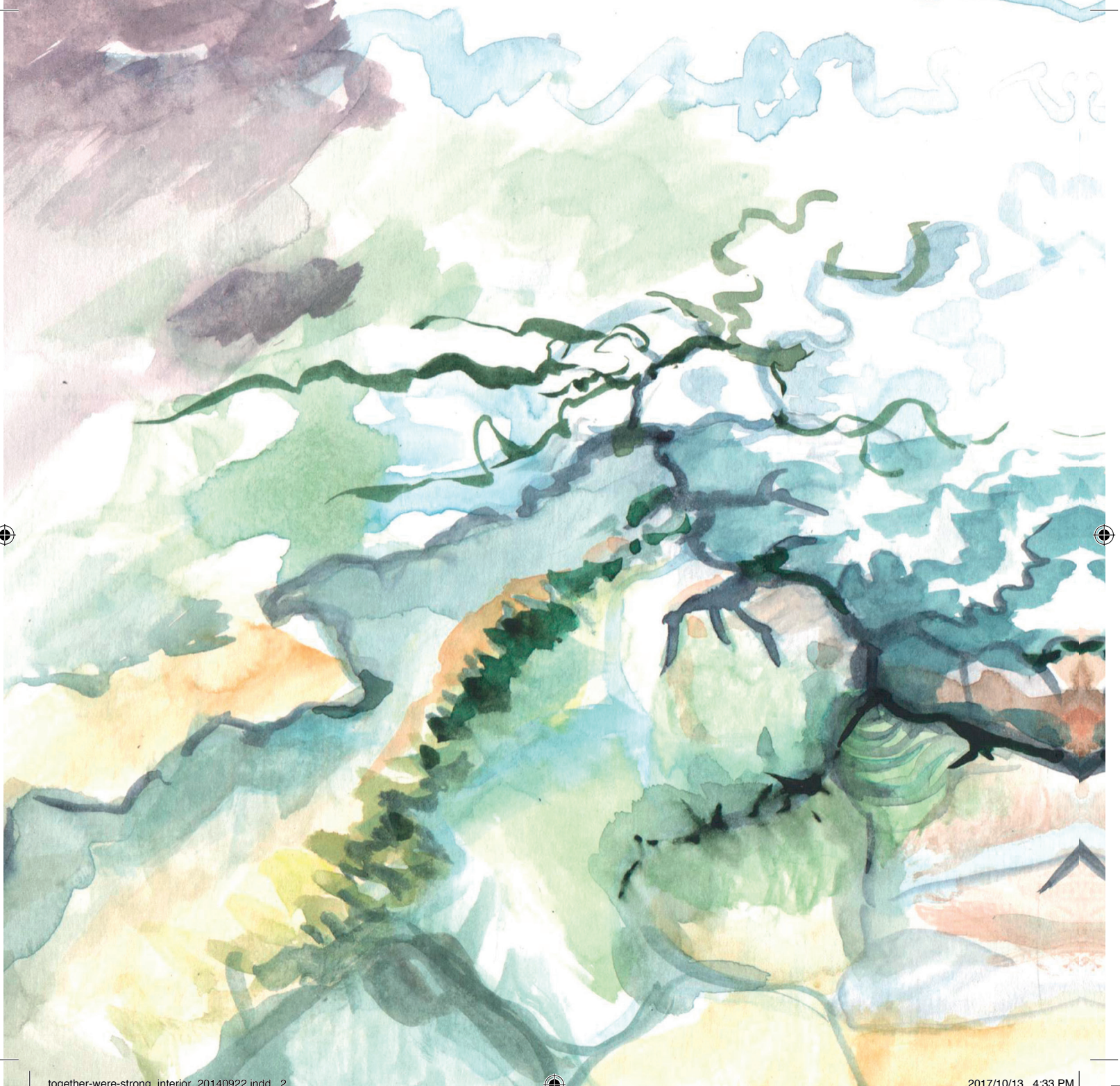


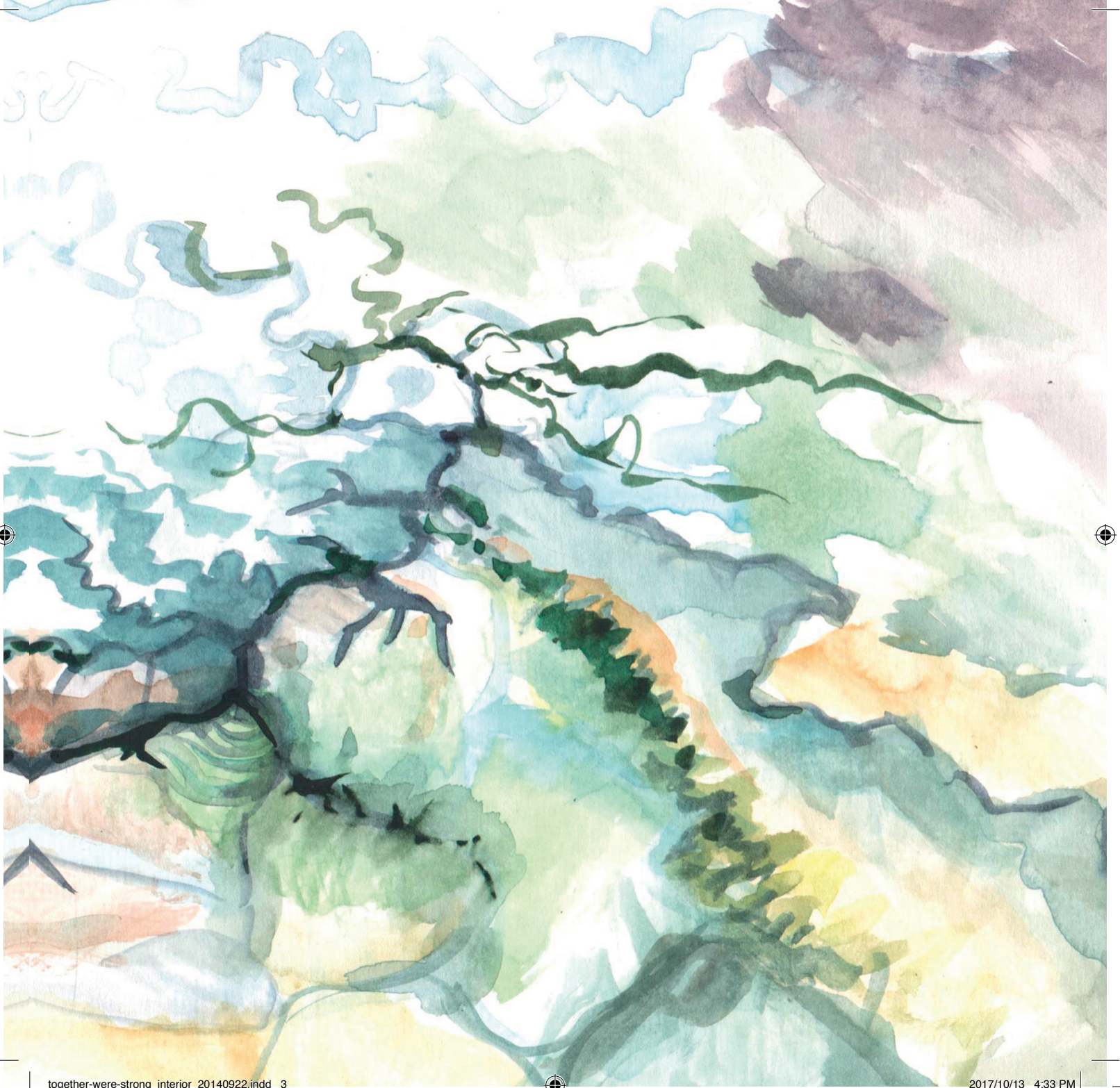


SINAMANDLA UMA SINDA WONYE

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Sinamandla uma sindawonye: Indaba ka-Albertina Sisulu

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ISBN: 978-1-928377-05-4

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SINAMANDLA UMA SINDAWONYE

Indaba ka-Albertina Sisulu



Liesl Jobson ♦ Alice Toich ♦ Nazli Jacobs





Ngobunye ubusika obunolaka babebaningi abantu abagulayo ezweni. Zazivutha bhe izihlathi zikamama uMonikazi. Kwehla umjuluko emzimbeni wakhe. Wayefuna ukubeka utshani obubanda njengeqhwa ebusweni bakhe ukuze abupholise. Ngaphansi kwengubo yakhe yokulala wayebambe isisu sakhe eculela ingane engaphakathi kwakhe, “Qina, mntwana. Abubude ubusika. Yiba nesibindi, mntwana. Sinamandla uma sindawonye!”

Sakhala isisu sakhe ngesikhathi ukukhahlela kwengane ngamandla kumvusa ebusuku. Wadla inyama ebisele ebhodweni, elambele ukuphila. Ngobunye ubusuku obabukhanya ngokugqamile inyanga yayinkudlwana, ithande ukukhuluphala futhi iphinki ngokwedlulele. Waphefumulela phezulu. Ingane yayisikulungele ukuza emhlabeni.

O-anti ababesegunjini lokubelethisa bamhlikihla emhlane base befudumeza amanzi. Lapho uMonikazi esegone indodakazi yakhe enhle ezingalweni zakhe, wayazi ukuthi yayiyintombazanyana ekhethekile, eyayizozilwela. Yaze yayisibusiso bo! Waqamba indodakazi yakhe ngokuthi uNontsikelelo. Wayezoba unina wezibusiso zonke.



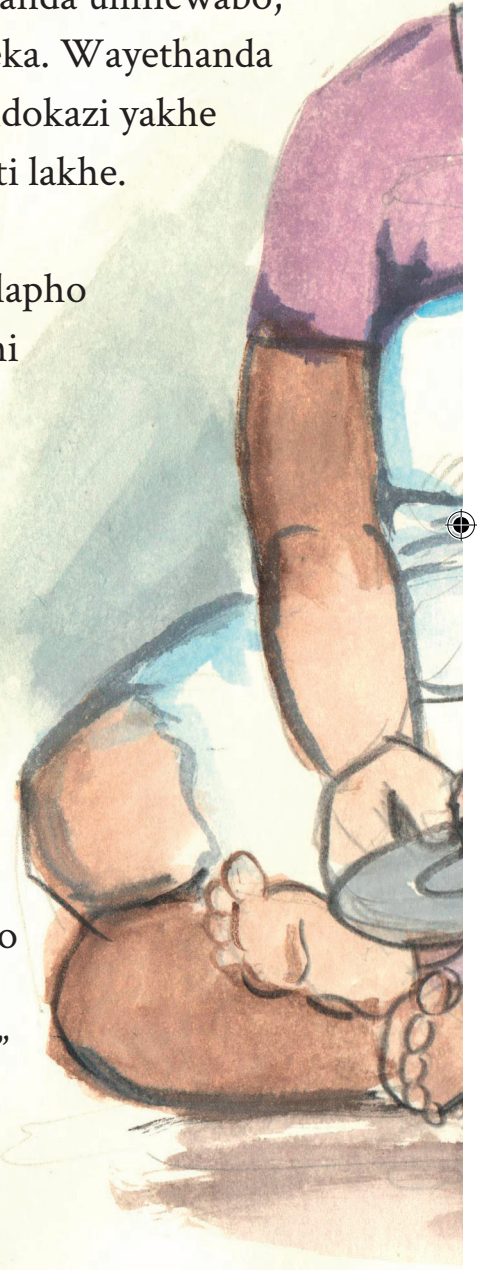




UNontsikelelo wayemuhle futhi enamandla, esho ngamehlwana amancane angathi ayizinkinobho ezimnyama. Wayemthanda umnewabo, uMcengi. Wayemhleleka, kwasabalala kanjalo-ke ukuhleka. Wayethanda ukudla inyama engakaphumi namazinyo. U-anti oyintandokazi yakhe wayehlala ebekela uNtsiki inyama encane eceleni nepuleti lakhe.

UMcengi wayexosha izinkukhu ezaziqhanda engadini lapho uMama uMonikazi ayetshale khona isipinashi nesikwashi ukuze ondle umndeni wakhe. UNtsiki wagijima emva kwakhe lapho imilenze yakhe seyithe ukuqina.

UMama uMonikazi waba nengane yomfana, uVelaphi, kanye nenye, uQudalele. Ekugcineni, uNtsiki waba nodadewabo, uNomyaleko. Inganyana enguNtsiki yayisonga amanabukeni futhi iwasha nezingubo zengane. Wayeshanela indlu futhi ekhwezela nomlilo. Wayequkula umfowabo uma ekhala abuye amkitaze aze ahleke. UNtsiki wafundisa abafowabo kanye nodadewabo ukuthi bacule bathi, “Qina, mntwana. Abubude ubusika. Yiba nesibindi, mntwana. Sinamandla uma sindawonye!”







UQingqiwe, umkhulu wakhe, wayekhulisa amahhashi.
Ayelithanda kakhulu kwakunguShishi, ihhashi lensikazi
elicwazimulayo elimnyama. Lapho uNtsiki esekhule
ngokwanele, wayemkhweza esihlalweni sehhashi phambi
kwakhe. Wayemsingatha ngezingalo zakhe ezinamandla.
Wayechushisa amatomu phakathi kweminwe yakhe.

Wamfundisa ukukhulumela phansi noShishi kanye
nokumhlaza ngebhulashi elinamazinyo aqinile. Lapho uNtsiki
ephulula isikhumba esikhazimulayo likaShishi, wamhlebelala
wathi, “Uyisilwane esihle ukudlula zonke. Ngiyabonga
ngokungivumela ukuthi ngigibele emhlane wakho.”

Lapho ubaba kaNtsiki, uBonilizwe, ebuyela ekhaya evela
ezimayini ngoKhisimusi, wayegibela emhlane obanzi kaShishi.
Wahamba egibele wayomhlangabeza esitobhini sebhasi.
UNtsiki wahlala wamude eqonde thwi. Amadolo akhe ayeqine
ngqi. Wabamba amatomu ngeminwe ethambile.

UBonilizwe wayeziqhenya ngendodakazi yakhe.
Ukumamatheka okukhulu ngendlela uNtsiki angakaze ayibona
kwagcwala ubuso bukayise.







Ngosuku lwakhe lomkhosi wokuzalwa wesithupha uNtsiki waya esikoleni.

“Kumele ukhethe igama lesiNgesi,” kusho uthisha, kodwa uNtsiki wayethanda igama lakhe.

“Kungani ngidinga igama elisha?” kubuza yena. Uthisha wabuyisa izinhlonzi wase efunda amagama kakhulu: “Adah, Agnes, Albertina, Anna.”

Achaza ukuthini? UNtsiki wathanda kakhulu igama elide. Al-ber-ti-na! Leli igama lalinesigqi. Al-ber-ti-na! Igama lalinomgqumo. Kwakungadlalelwa egameni elithi Albertina.







Umama ka-Albertina wayegula isikhathi esiningi ngakho wayedinga ukuthi u-Albertina anakekele ikhaya. Ngonyaka wokugcina wasemabangeni aphansi, u-Albertina wayeyingane endala kunazo zonke esikoleni. Wakhethwa ukuthi abe yintombazane eyinhloko, kanti wayegqoka ibheji lakhe ngokuziqhenya.

Umngani wakhe omkhulu, uBetty, wamtshela ngomncintiswano, ethi, “Kumele ufake isicelo, mngani wami ohlakaniphile.” “Uyini umklomelo?” kubuza u-Albertina, eya ngokufuna ukwazi. “Umfundaze wokuya esikoleni samabanga aphezulu!” kusho uBetty. “Kumele ufake isicelo. Uzophumelela noma kanjani.”

U-Albertina wayefunda kuze kuphele ikhandlela. Wayezijwayeza izibalo. Wayezijwayeza ukupela amagama. Walola ipensela lakhe wase ecwebezalisa kakhulu izicathulo zakhe.

Ekuseni ngosuku lomncintiswano, wadlulisa uShishi exhaphozini lakhe. Ihhashi lakhala lase ligxoba phansi ngezinyawo.







Saqala isivivinyo. Kwaqhaq hazela izandla ku-Albertina. Zazidida izibalo. Koma umlomo wakhe. Isandla sakhe esasibambe ipensela saba nenkwantshu kodwa waqhubeka.

“Usebenzile, Albertina!” kusho uthisha ekugcineni.

Kamuva kwafika isikhulu esiqavile sase sibizela eshashalazini abafundi ababili ababashaye bonke emakhanda. “Usebenzile Albertina ngokuthola zonke izibalo,” kusho sona, “kodwa umdala kakhulu ukuthi kungaba nguwe ophumelele. Umfundaze utholwe ngu- ...”

U-Albertina wazama ukungakhali. “Alikho iqiniso kulokhu,” kumemeza uBetty, egxuma ngokuthukuthela. “Bekungekho lokhu emithethweni!” U-Albertina uzoya kanjani manje esikoleni samabanga aphezulu? Wahamba ehudula izinyawo waze wayofika ekhaya.

Uthisha ka-Albertina wabhalela iphephandaba mayelana nesinqumo esingenabo ubulungiswa. UBrother Joe wasemishini yamaKhatholika wafunda le ndaba edla isidlo sakhe sasekuseni. Washaya ngamandla iqanda lakhe elibilisiwe. Wase edudulela iphephandaba kuFather Bernard. Naye akazange ayithande neze le ndaba.







Ngokushesha nje kwase kukhona
umfundaze ka-Albertina!

IMariazell eseduze kwaseMatatiele yayikude kakhulu
naseXolobe, kodwa kwahlokoma umuzi wonke.
Intombazane yabo yayiya esikoleni samabanga
aphezulu. Yayizobenza baziqhenye. Benza idili
elingefaniswe nalutho. Abesimame bagaya utshwala
bamabele base bebasa nemililo. Bahlinza izinkukhu
base begoqoza amabhodwe anenyama. U-Albertina
wahleka kwaze kwaba buhlungu ubuso bakhe.

Wapakisha isudukesi lakhe elinsundu wase epholisha
izicathulo zakhe futhi. Ngaphambi kokuhamba
ngebhasi elibheke eMatatiele, wavalelisa kuShishi.
U-Albertina waphulula isikhumba sehhashi kanye
nomhlwenga walo oyimicu. Wase elihlebelala
yonke imibuzo yakhe endlebeni yalo esasilika,
“Kuzokwenzekani uma ngilahleka? Ngabe ngizothola
abangani abasha? Ngabe ngisazohlala ngihlakaniphile
noma ngikude kangaka nekhaya?” UShishi wakhala
wase egxoba phansi ngonyawo.



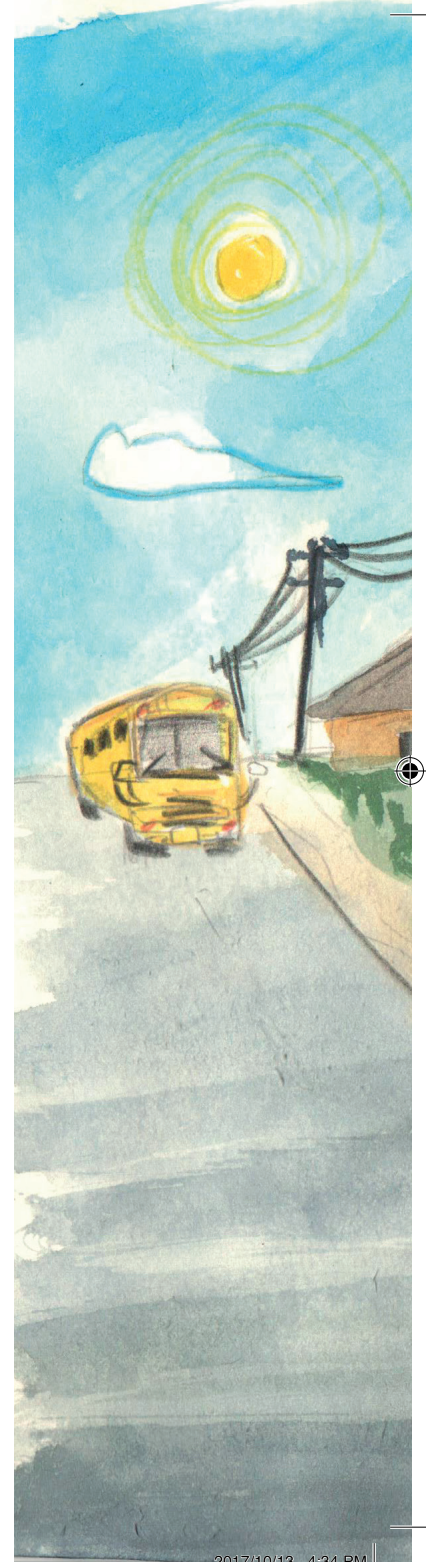




Isikole sasingena lingakaphumi ilanga. Amantombazane ayegeza ngokushesha emanzini abandayo bese eshanela emadomethri ngaphambi kweNkonzo yeMisa. Iphalishi elinobisi lalihlale lingenele, isitshulu sasinganambitheki njengaleso sika-Anti ekhaya. Kodwa u-Albertina watadisha ngokuzimisela. Wayedlala ibhola lomnqakiswano ntambama uma libalele.

Ngesikhathi sakhe samaholidi ezikole u-Albertina wayesebenza eMishini. Wayehlikihla bese ekhuhla ebhodini lokuwasha likathayela. Wayebilisa amashidi kobhavu bethusi bese ewakhama ngesikhathi (wringer). Wayelima ngegeja alungise ingadi yesikole. Kodwa u-Albertina wayewukhumbula umndeni wakhe. Ubani owayexoxela abafowabo kanye nodadewabo izindaba ezihlekisayo? Ubani owayesula amehlo abo uma bekhala? Ubani owayebakitaza baze bahleke? U-Albertina wayezithanda izindela ezazimfundisa. Ngabe naye wayezoba yisistela?

“Kodwa izindela aziholi lutho,” kusho uFather Bernard.
“Mhlawumbe kumele ube ngumhlengikazi? Uzohola ngesikhathi ufunda.”







U-Albertina wathatha isitimela esiya eGoli. Wathenga umfaniswano omuhle omhlophe, izicathulo ezi-navy kanye ne-fountain pen ebomvu ecwebezelayo. Kwakufika abantu abagulayo esibhedlela usuku lonke. U-Albertina wayebahlanza izilonda ngeminwe enokucophelela. Wayebaphatha kamnene abantu asebekhulile. Lapho izingane zikhala, wayecula athi, “Qina, mntwana. Abubude ubusika. Yiba nesibindi, mntwana. Sinamandla uma sindawonye!”

Ngobunye ubusuku u-Albertina wayesebenza kuze kuse. Wayebuka phandle ngefasitela bese ecabanga ngomndeni wakhe wonke. Ngabe zazilambile izingane? Ngabe ziyile esikoleni? Ubani owayegibela uShishi? Wayekhumbula isipinashi esiluhlaza okotshani okufiphele. Wayekhumbula iphunga lomhlabathi. Kwakungekho zivande zemifino lapha. Kwakungekho nandawo yehhashi.

U-Albertina wayengayi nhlobo emadilini. Wayonga yonke imali anayo. Uma engasebenzi, wayefunda ukudlala ibhola lomphebezo. Shwi! Pha! Eshaya ibhola leqa inethi. Wayehlala efisa sengathi angaba nemali ethe xaxa angayithumela ekhaya.







UWalter Sisulu wayeyindoda enesibindi futhi ehlakaniphile eyayiphupha ngenkululeko yeNingizimu Afrika.

Ukumamatheka kwakhe kakhulu kwamenza wanakwa u-Albertina. Babehamba ndawonye behla emigwaqweni yedolobha. Isandla sika-Albertina esithambile sasihlala engalweni yomyeni wakhe. UWalter wayefuna ukuthi u-Albertina abe ngumama wezingane zakhe. Amaribhini agqamile ahlobisa iBantu Men's Social Centre ngosuku lwabo lomshado. Ingubo ka-Albertina yayinemikhono emide nomsila we-lace oyikazelayo. Abangani babo abaningi balubusisa usuku lwabo olukhethekile.

U-Albertina watshala izimbali engadini yakhe encane. Kungakapheli nonyaka, kwase kuzelwe uMax. U-Albertina wayesengumama. Ngelinye ilanga, abantu babezombiza ngomama wesizwe. UMax wayenamehlwana kanina amnyama afana nezinkinobho kanye nesilevu esisandilinga njengesikayise. Wayeyithemba lekusasa labo. U-Albertina wayefuna ukulwela iNingizimu Afrika entsha, ukuze uMax akhululeke. Uma ekhala, wayemculela iculo elithi, “Qina, mntwana. Abubude ubusika. Yiba nesibindi, mntwana. Sinamandla uma sindawonye!”





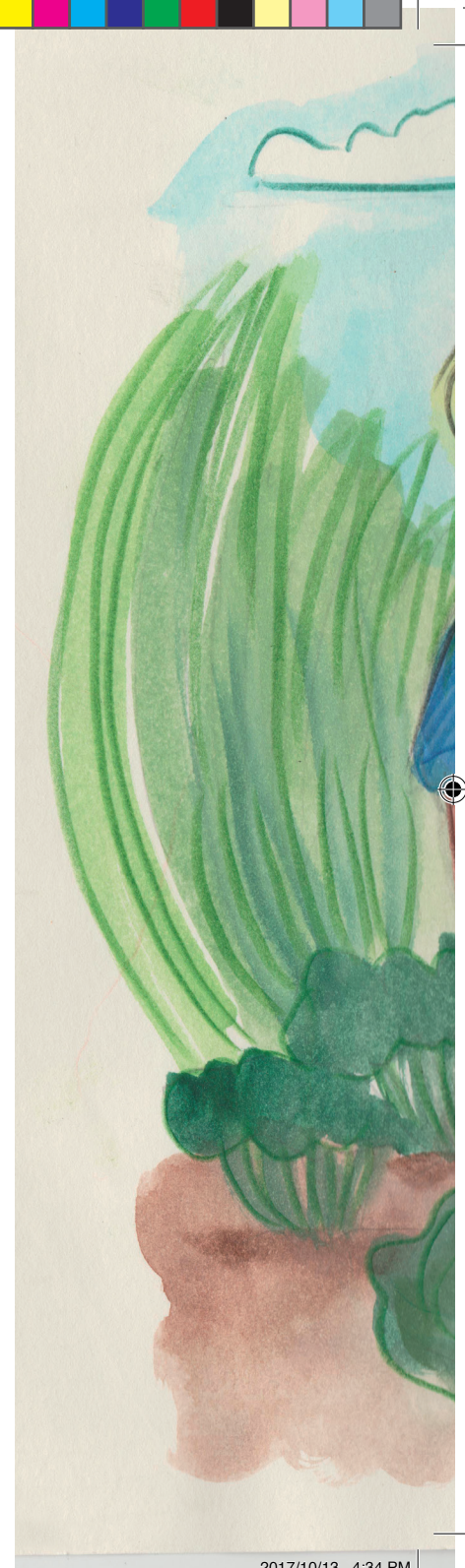


Amaphoyisa afika phakathi nobusuku, ashaya isicabha. U-Albertina wawathethisa amadoda ayelimaza indlu yakhe.

“Naze nedelela bo,” kusho yena, “ningena nodaka endlini yami!”

Ekuseni, izimbali zika-Albertina zazilele phansi lapho babenyathele khona. Wakhumbula ngesikhathi ayejaha ngaso izinkukhu esivandeni sakhe le eXolobe wase ezimisela ukutshala futhi engadini yakhe. Wayazi ukuthi umhlaba uzolunga futhi.

Wayeseka umyeni wakhe owayegcina izimfihlo eziningi futhi owahlale ecashela amaphoyisa.







U-Albertina wahlanganyela nabanye abantu besifazane wase esebenzisana nabo ukuze kuhlelwe ukhukhulelangoqo wesiteleka esasibheke ePitoli. Abesifazane babala ukuphatha ipasi. Bacula bethi, “Wathint’ abafazi; wathint’ imbokodo!”

UWalter wabe eseboshwa kwase kulandela iminyaka eminingi enzima. Waboshelwa eRobben Island iminyaka engamashumi amabili anesithupha. No-Albertina, wathunyelwa kaningi ejele. Isikhathi esiningi wayesuke esaba. Isikhathi esiningi wayeba nesizungu.

Kodwa nangobusuku obumnyama bhuqe, wayeyibona inyanga esasiliva ngefasitela lakhe lasejele. Wayecula iculo elaliculwa nguMama uMonikazi ngaphambi kokuba azalwe, “Qina, mntwana. Abubude ubusika. Yiba nesibindi, mntwana. Sinamandla uma sindawonye!”

