Isahluko Sokuqala

Okokuqala ngqa ukuba uWhitney aqabule umfana, kwezwakala sengathi kukhona igagasi elikhulu elimgubuzele. Wezwa kukhona okugijimayo egazini, akaze azi ukuthi konje angenzani noma athini. Ngakho-ke akazange asho lutho, wavele wayekela nje ukuba kwenzeke konke. Kodwa wayengasoze alikhohlwa lelo langa...

Lokhu kwenzeka emidlalweni exube izikole kungoLwesithathu ntambama, isiyophela inyanga kaNhlolanja. UWhitney wayeneminyaka eyishumi nantathu ubudala bakhe esebangeni lesi-7. Kwathi ngosuku lukaValentane, wathola ikhadi livela kuLucky, igeza lomfana lapha - insizwa eyondlekile eyabe isisesikoleni esiphakeme. Njengoba le nsizwa yabe isineminyaka eyishumi nesithupha nje, yayithena yona seyenza ibanga 10, kodwa uWhitney azi ukuthi isebangeni 9, ngoba phela umngani wakhe uLindiwe wayenodadewabo omdala okwakuthiwa nguZola igama lakhe, owayesekilasini elifanayo nelikaLucky.

UWhitney kwakungamkhathazi ukuba uLucky ake aqambe amanga amancane nje njengalana. Phela uLucky kwakungumuntu onezimfihlo ezithile okuyiyona nto eyamheha uWhitney. Wayazi nje, ngokwesibonelo, ukuthi igama lakhe ngempela lo mfana kwakungeyena uLucky, kodwa lo mfana wenqaba ukusho ukuthi yiliphi igama lakhe langempela. Bonke abantu babemazi ngegama likaLucky. Ngakho-ke uWhitney wayede ezicabangela eziphuphela nje ukuthi kazi igama lalo mfana kwakungubani, intombi le-ke ize izakhele amanye nje

amagama eyayiwathanda eyayingase imbize ngawo.

UWhitney wayemthanda yena lo mfana. Kodwa wayengafuni ukumtshela - ngoba wayengasoze akuvuma lokho kule nsizwa - kodwa iqiniso ukuthi wayeyithanda. Ngaphambi kwalokhu uWhitney wayengakaze abathande abafana, kodwa onyakeni owedlule kukhona inguquko eyabe seyenzekile ngaphakathi kuye. Okunye kwakuyikho ukukhula lokhu. Mhlawumbe njalo kwakungenxa yokuthi nalo mfana unothando lukaWhitney. Kwakusobala nje ukuthi lo mfana uyamthanda uWhitney, into eyenza ukuba le ntombazana izizwe ingeyekhethelo futhi iyinhle. Mhlawumbe njalo kwakusho khona ukuthi nayo ngempela yinhle. Kwakuzothi ngelinye ilanga ibe yintokazi enhle ngempela eyayingase ifunwe nayinoma yimuphi umuntu wesilisa.

Ngemuva kosuku lukaValentane uWhitney wayesede ebona uLucky cishe kube yizo zonke izinsuku, uma le ntombazana iya esikoleni noma ibuya khona, nangenkathi yedlula nje esikoleni sikaLucky. Kwase kuze kwaba kabili uLucky ecela le ntombazana ukuba imvumele ayiphelekezele ngenkathi iya ekhaya, kodwa yona yayichaza ukuthi lokho kuzoyifaka ezinkingeni. Uma kwakuba khona ozobabona behambisana wayengase atshele unina. Okubi kakhulu kwakungukuthi, uNkosikazi Pillay wayengase ababone behambisana. UWhitney wayethatha uNkosikazi Pillay njengothisha ophambili nothandekayo, le ntombazana-ke ingafuni ukumphoxa lo thisha.

UWhitney wayengakaze amtshele uLucky ukuthi uzizwa enovadlwana. Unina wayehlale emxwayisa uWhitney ukuba angazitholi eseyedwa nabafana. Kodwa unina wayengakaze

achaze ukuthi ukusho ngani lokhu, kodwa wayehlale ephikelele ngokuthi uWhitney angalokothi ahambe yedwa nomfana kuphela. UWhitney wathatha ngokuthi unina wayezama ukumvikela kotsotsi - noma abafana ababengase benze into embi kuye. Kodwa uLucky wayengenjalo yena - kwakusengathi ungumuntu onobungane futhi onoteku ebe enogazi nje. Nokho umcabango wokuba aze azithole eseyedwa noLucky kwakuba yinto emnandi kodwa emethusayo. UWhitney wayenovadlwana, kodwa elokhu elangazelela ukuba abe nesikhathi esiningana nalo mfana, ezwe nobumnandi bokuba sezingalweni zakhe.

Usuku lwemidlalo kwagcina kuyilona olubanikeza ithuba lokuba ndawonye. Imidlalo yayibanjelwe enkundleni yemidlalo esikoleni esiphakeme sawoLucky, ngoba phela isikole sikaWhitney, saseThembalethu, sasingenazo izimfanelo zakhona ezidingekayo. Inkundlana yabo yemidlalo kwakuyibala nje elihlale linothuli namagoli akhona kuyinto etshekile abazakhele yona nje le ekupheleni kwenkundla. Le nkundla yebhola engatheni kwakuba yinkundla futhi okudlalelwa kuyo ngesikhathi samakhefu, okusho ukuthi kwakucishe kungabi bikho tshani nhlobo kuyo. Esikoleni esiphakeme saseThembalethu kwakukhona utshani enkundleni, kuze kube khona nezindawo zezibukeli eziphakeme ezengame inkundla macala omabili. Isikole sasivalwe masishane ukuze kusheshe kuqalwe imidlalo emini, kanti uLucky wayehlele ukuba ahlangane noWhitney ngemuva kwephaviliyoni ngehora lesibili. Kwathi lapho eseze waphumelela ukunyomuka kubangane bakhe, wafica uLucky sekukudala elindile. Ubuso bukaLucky bavele baqhakaza uma ebona le ntombazana.

"Yiza ngapha," kusho uLucky ngezwi eliphansi. "Ngifuna ukukukhombisa indawo yami engaziwa muntu!"

"Ezinye izimfihlo futhi," kucabanga uWhitney egigitheka, kodwa akazange asho lutho, wavele walandela uLucky besuka kuleyo phaviliyoni beya endlini encane nje eyayibonakala injengesitolumu. Kwakukhona umnyango owodwa kuphela owawuseceleni kwale ndlu.

"Lezi yizinto zokudlala esezephuka," kuchaza uLucky ehosha isikhiye ephakethini lakhe. "Akukho muntu oke afike lapha."

"Usithole kanjani isikhiye?" kubuza uWhitney ngokumangala, ethi qala qala ngovalo.

"Kalula nje. Kukhona into ebekumele ngiyitholele uGoofy - uGoofy Omdala, ngakho ngivele ngafaka ekhanda inombolo kakhiye abenginikeze wona. Ngase ngivele ngiyofuna ukhiye ofanayo kubenzi bokhiye - ngakhipha amarandi amahlanu nje! Kube lula kabi."

"Ngubani uGoofy Omdala?" kubuza uWhitney.

"Ngumqeqeshi kwezemidlalo. Ubuye abe nguthisha ongifundisa isiXhosa, kodwa bonke nje abantu bambiza ngegama likaGoofy, ngoba… phela, nawe ungaziqagelela nje isizathu salokho."

ULucky waqhebeza inkinobho yokukhanyisa kwathi uWhitney walandela ngemuva kwakhe. Intombazana yabona ingxubevange yezinto zokudlala ezazisakazeke yonke indawo - sezephukile, okweqiwayo osekwephukile, amabhola kanobhutshuzwayo angasenamoya kanye nenqwaba yamacansi okujimela ayeseklebhukile. UWhitney wezwa kuxhaphazela isisu senziwa ukuthatheka kwakhe kanye novalo. Akazanga ukuthi

yini okumele ayenze noma ayisho emuva kwalokho.

"Kwenzenjani manje, ntombi? Ubonakala ushaqekile nje. Awufuni yini ukuba nami kule ndawo?" ULucky wajeqeza uWhitney ngenkathi esebuyisela umnyango uvaleka.

"Ngiyathanda. Ukuthi nje… e… sizokwenzenjani uma kufika umuntu asithole silapha?"

"Ungesabi, *baby*. Akukho lutho okumele lukwethuse. Selize lafika ithuba lokuba sibe sodwa ndawonye. Angithi nawe yilokho obuvele ukufuna? Uma bekungenjalo ubungeke ube lapha manje," esho ebamba isandla sale ntombazana eyidonsela eduze kwakhe.

"Yebo, kodwa… "

"Shhh, mntwana." ULucky wabeka umunwe wakhe phezu kwezindebe zentombazana. "Khululeka nje. Ngifuna ukukukhombisa ukuthi ngikuthanda kangakanani."

Isisu sikaWhitney sesiyaphenduka manje, usephefumulela phezulu: Ngabe lo mfana ucabangani kodwa? Intombazana ilangazelela kakhulu ukuqatshulwa - ayikaze iqatshulwe ngumfana. Kanti naye uLucky lo yibhungu elibukekayo, elithandeka kwabaningi. UWhitney naye uyakuthanda ukubonwa ehamba nale nsizwa, nokuba nayo imfune. Wathula du walindela ukubona ukuthi izoqhubeka yenzeni.

ULucky wagoba ngekhanda wabheka ngasentombazaneni, wathinta izindebe zayo ngezakhe. Wezwa umoya womfana uthinta izihlathi zakhe, izindebe zalo mfana zahlangana nezakhe. UWhitney wawuzwa usende wesiqedaphunga sakhe - noma njalo kwakungase kube ngokugcotshwa ngemuva kokushefa? UWhitney wawubamba umoya wakhe okwesikhashana. Ingabe kodwa le nto seyenzeka ngempela? Wayengakaze akuzwe lokhu selokhu azalwa - wezwa sengathi

uyantanta nje. Akezwanga nakuzwa ngenkathi umfana emdudulela emacansini okujima.

Balala phansi ngezinhlangothi, bebhekene. ULucky wayengakakuyeki ukuqabula le ntombazana. Welula ingalo yakhe wayibamba okhalo yabe isizwa isandla sakhe sehlela ngemuva ezinqeni zayo. Inhliziyo yayo yabe isishaya njengesigubhu esingalawulwa umuntu. Yayilokhu icimezile yemukela uthando lwalo mfana wena owabona isiponji simunca amanzi.

UWhitney waqala manje ukuzibuza - ngabe lokhu kuqabulana kuholelaphi? Kodwa ngabe kuzozwakala kanjani nje uma naye uWhitney esethinta uLucky? Uzokwenzenjani uWhitney uma ngabe uLucky esethintathinta umzimba wakhe ngezandla? UWhitney uzokwazi yini ukumisa lo mfana? Wazizwela nje uWhitney ukuthi wayengeke esenza lutho - ukuthintwa yilo mfana kwakuyisimanga uqobo. Le nto wayengakaze ayizwe selokhu azalwa. Kodwa ngabe kwakulungile yini lokhu na? Imicabango yakhe nalokho ayekuzwa emoyeni wakhe kwakugijima kakhulu kwedlula ukushaya kwenhliziyo. Mhlawumbe wayengakayilungeli le nto eyabe seyenzeka. Mhlawumbe kwase kwenzeka isimanga esikhulu, ngokushesha okukhulu, masinyane kakhulu. Nokho uWhitney akashongo lutho.

Dukuduku, nakho sekukhala umnyango usuvuleka. UWhitney wavele wakhamisa, wavuka ngokushesha. ULucky yena kwakusengathi usacambalele, ngenkathi amehlo kaNkosikazi Pillay ebheka yonke indawo kule ndlu.

"Kwenzekani lapha?" UNkosikazi Pillay wabheka uWhitney, wabuye wabheka uLucky, wabuye wabheka uWhitney futhi. "Whitney! Nguwe lo! Yini le?" ebuza ngezwi eliqinile, lizwakala ukumangala. Izwi lakhe lalingasenabo

lobuya bungane, nemfudumalo elaliba nakho ekilasini lesiNgisi. Kodwa uWhitney wayebona ukukhathazeka emehlweni kathisha wakhe.

"Yebo Ma'am… akulutho Ma'am… Ngi… Ngiyaxolisa Ma'am," esholo phansi, izandla zakhe zizama ukwelula ingubo yakhe. Wayengazi uWhitney ukuthi umuntu kungathi bese efudumele kangaka gwiqiqi, useyaqanda mo.

"Besi… ee… besizothatha lokhu okweqiwayo," kuqala uLucky, kodwa uNkosikazi Pillay wamngena emlonyeni.

"Ungangikhohlisi, mfana wami. Lezi zinto kudala zephuka, kanti futhi le ndlu akumele bangene kuyo abafundi. Ngabe usufuna ukuganga ngale ntombazana? Benifuna ukwenzani nina nobabili?"

"Lu-Lu- Lutho Ma'am, si… singabangane nje futhi asenzanga lutho," kungingiza uLucky ekhophoza.

UWhitney akazanga ukuthi kumele abheke kuphi waze wafisa sengathi ngabe umhlaba uyamgwinya ngaleso sikhathi. Kwase kukade kuphelile ukushisa kwangena ukugodola, kodwa futhi manje wayezizwa esefudumele kakhulu engasaqondi noma uNkosikazi Pillay uyazibonela yini ukuthi le ntombazana isinamahloni angakanani. Lokhu kwakuyihlazo elikhulu!