



The Rainbow Cloud

The story of Mkabayi and Mmama

Zanele Dlamini Selina Morulane Sibusiso Mkhwanazi

The Rainbow Cloud

The story of Mkabayi and Mmama

This book belongs to





Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative professionals who volunteer to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. To find out more, and to download beautiful, print-ready books, visit bookdash.org.

The Rainbow Cloud

Illustrated by Selina Morulane

Written by Zanele Dlamini

Designed by Sibusiso Mkhwanazi

Edited by Glynis Lloyd

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Cape Town on 19 November 2016.

ISBN: 978-1-928377-15-3

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

Attribution: You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Notices: You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.

The Rainbow Cloud



Zanele Dlamini

Selina Morulane

Sibusiso Mkhwanazi



A long time ago in the land of the Zulu people, the King Jama ka Ndaba was very powerful, wise, fair and kind.

But he had no children and
he was worried that he would not
have an heir.

He prayed and made offerings to
the gods but nothing happened.





One night while the king was asleep, a witch came in a dream.

“The gods have heard your plea and the queen will bear twins. One will rule the Zulu nation and the other will have magical powers,” the witch said.

Twins Mkabayi and Mmama were born but the queen cried for Mkabayi because the rule said that the first-born twin must be offered to the gods.

Seeing the queen's sadness, the king said, "From today, when twins are born, both babies will live."

The people celebrated but not all were happy with the king's new rule.





The little girls grew beautifully. One day Mkabayi had a stick fight and defeated a boy who bullied children.

“Go away, you cursed girl!”
said the boy.

“Come back, Mkabayi!”

Mkabayi cried and ran into the forest where the frightening ghosts, Hornhead and Longtom lived.



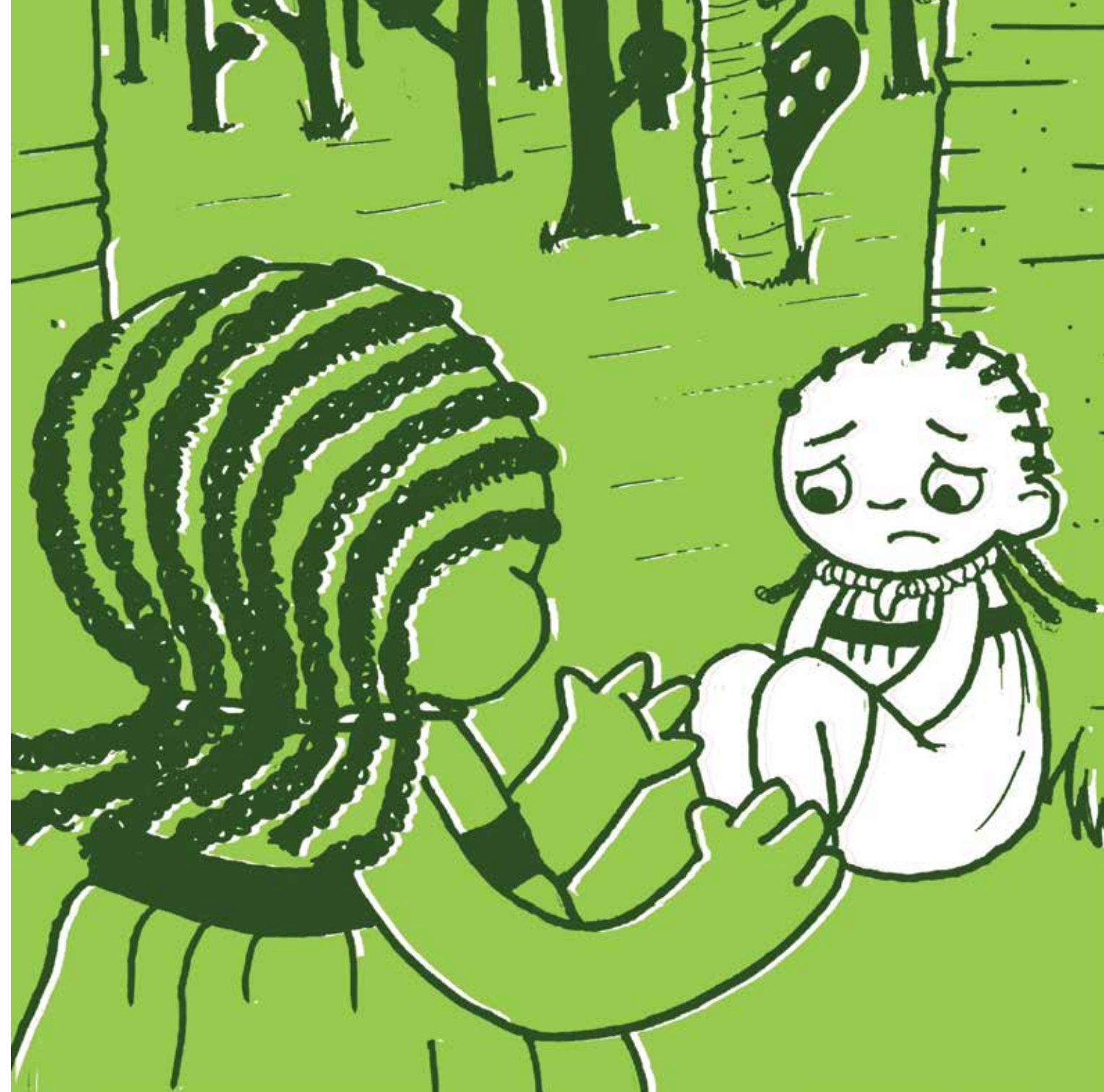


Mmama stood
in silence and closed her eyes.

The magic bond between the twins led
Mmama to her sister.

“No one wants to play with me,
I’m cursed!” cried Mkabayi.

“I want to play with you,”
Mmama said.





“We will have a nice dinner tonight Longtom,” said Hornhead.

Mkabayi picked up a stick.

“You can’t kill ghosts with a stick!”
Longtom laughed.



“How about this?” Mmama said, raising her hand.

Thunder roared and lightning struck the ghosts, while a rainbow cloud protected the girls.

“How did you do that?”
Mkabayi asked.

“The way you beat that boy!”
Mmama said.





The girls went home happy,
knowing that whatever
happened they could protect
each other.

