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Bimbo asino / Donkey Child

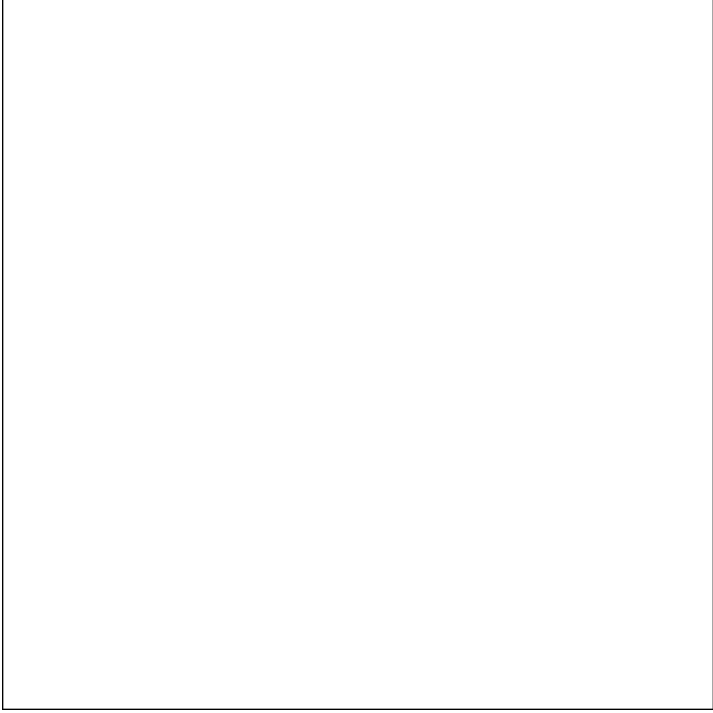
Written by: Lindiwe Matshikiza
Illustrated by: Meghan Judge
Translated by: (it) Laura Pighini

This story originates from the African Storybook (africanstorybook.org) and is brought to you by Storybooks Canada in an effort to provide children's stories in Canada's many languages.



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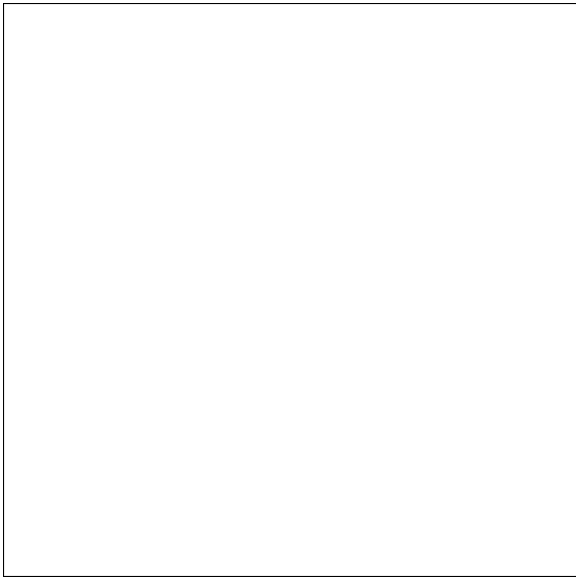
Bimbo asino
Donkey Child



 Lindiwe Matshikiza
 Meghan Judge
 Laura Pighini
 Italian / English
 Level 3

(imageless edition)

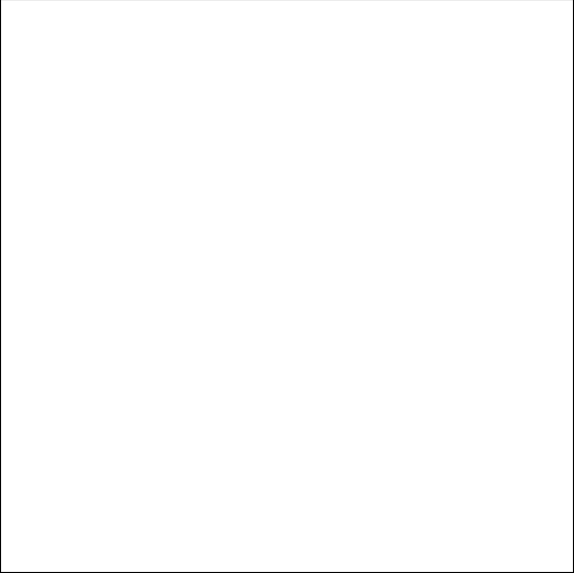




Fu una piccola bimba a vedere per prima la misteriosa figura in lontananza.

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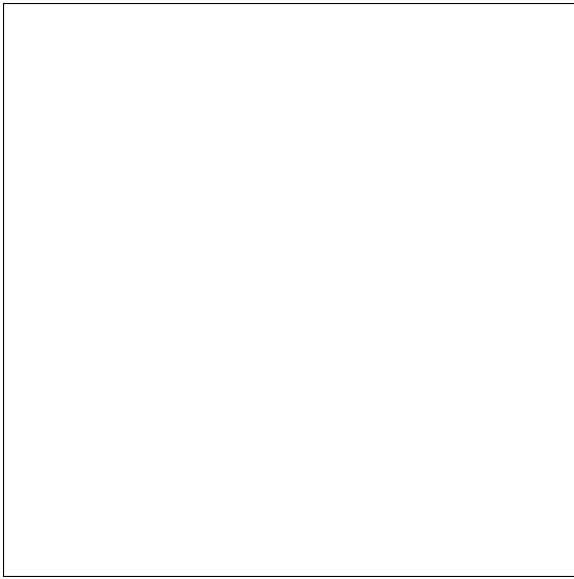
It was a little girl who first saw the mysterious shape in the distance.



Man mano che la figura si avvicinava, vide che si trattava
di una donna molto incinta.

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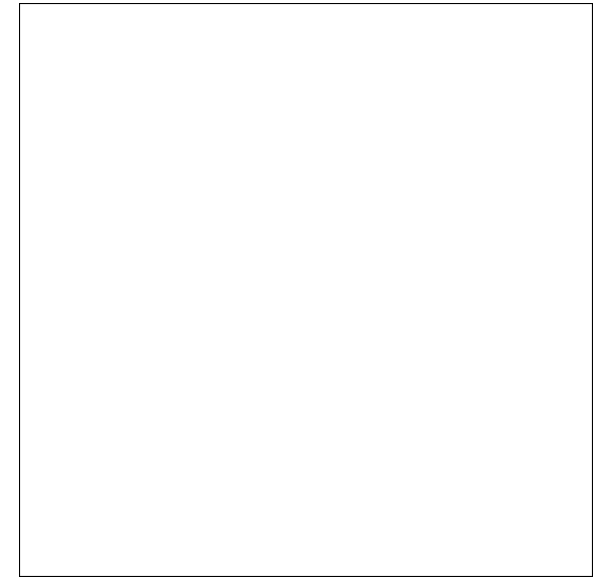
As the shape moved closer, she saw that it was a heavily
pregnant woman.



Timida ma coraggiosa, la bimba si avvicinò alla donna.
“Dobbiamo tenerla con noi,” decise la gente della piccola
bimba. “Terremo lei e il suo bimbo al sicuro.”

...

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.”



Il bambino asino e sua madre crebbero insieme e
trovarono tanti modi per vivere l’uno affianco all’altro.
Lentamente, intorno a loro, altre famiglie cominciarono
a sistemarsi.

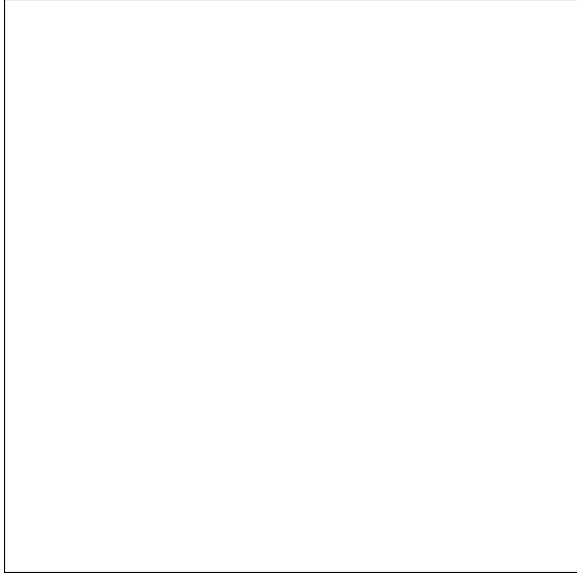
...

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.

Il bimbo stava arrivando. "Spingi!" "Portate delle coperte!" "Acqua!" "SPINGIII!!!"

...

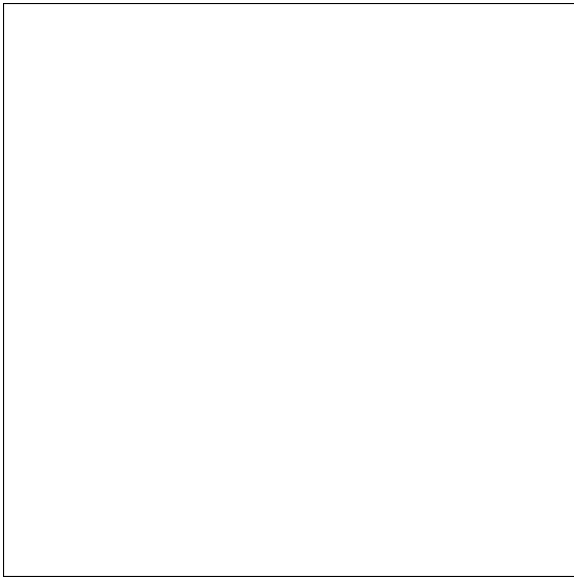
The child was soon on its way. "Push!" "Bring blankets!"
"Water!" "Puuuuusssshhh!!!"



Asino trovò sua madre, da sola che piangeva la scomparsa di suo figlio. Si fissarono a vicenda a lungo. E poi si abbracciarono molto forte.

...

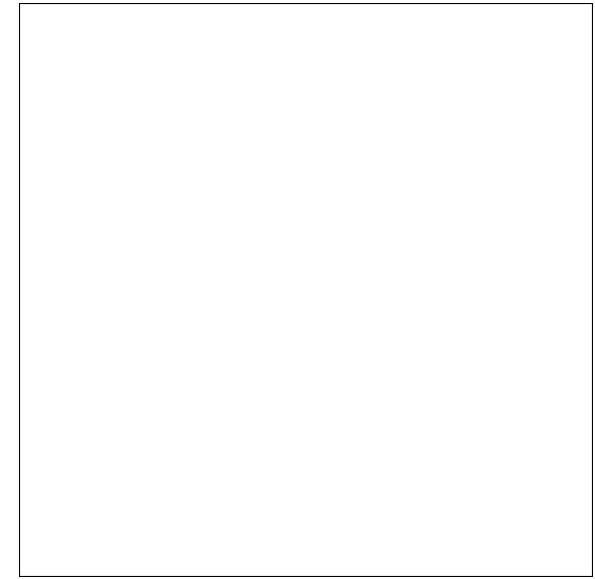
Donkey found his mother, alone and mourning her lost child. They stared at each other for a long time. And then hugged each other very hard.



Ma quando videro il bimbo tutti fecero un salto indietro scioccati. “Un asino?!?”

...

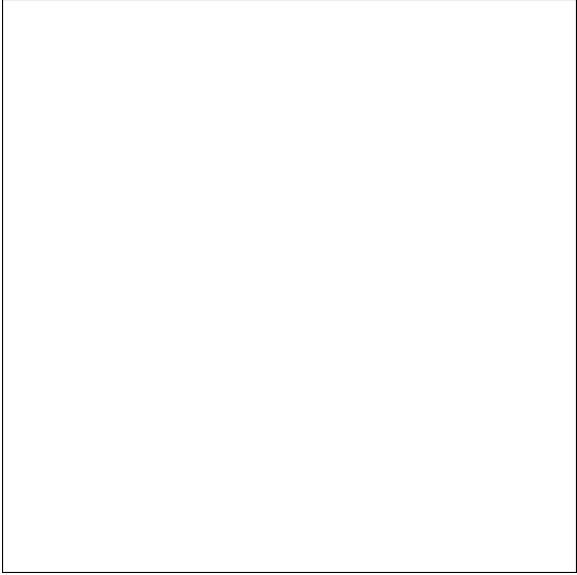
But when they saw the baby, everyone jumped back in shock. “A donkey?!?”



Asino finalmente capì cosa doveva fare.

...

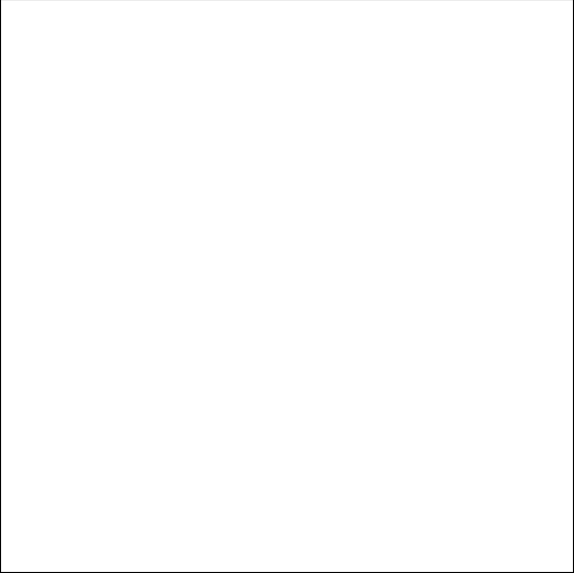
Donkey finally knew what to do.



...Le nuvole erano sparite insieme al suo amico, il vecchio.

...

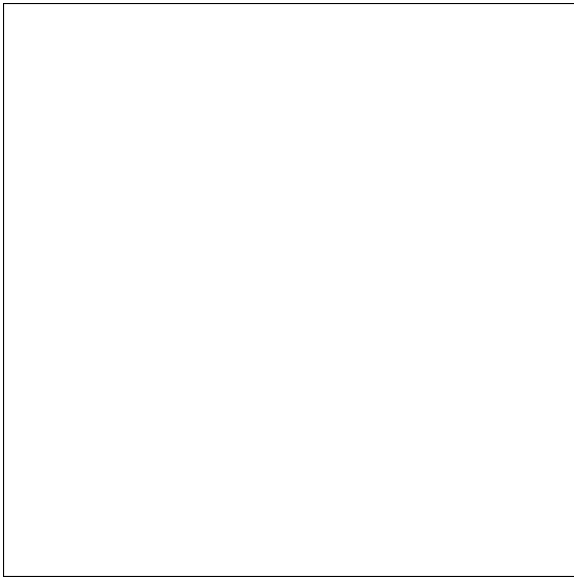
... the clouds had disappeared along with his friend, the old man.



Tutti cominciarono a discutere. "Avevamo detto che li avremmo tenuti al sicuro e questo è quello che faremo!" Dissero alcuni. "Ma ci porteranno sfortunati!" Dissero altri.

...

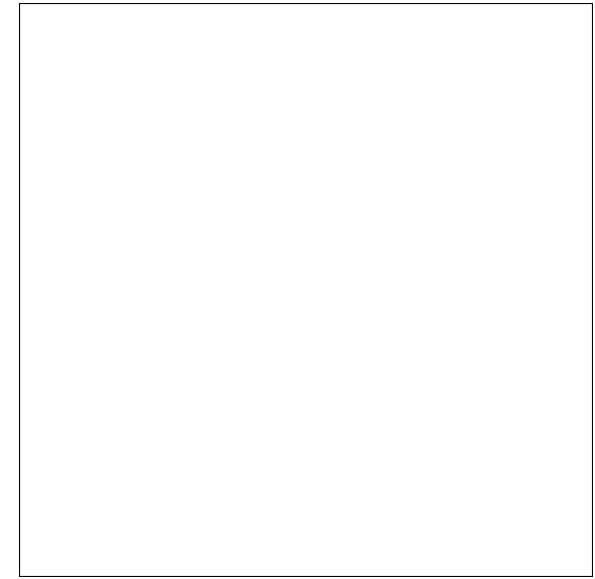
Everyone began to argue. "We said we would keep mother and child safe, and that's what we'll do," said some. "But they will bring us bad luck!" said others.



Al che, la donna si ritrovò da sola di nuovo. Si chiese cosa fare con questo strano bimbo. Si chiese cosa fare con se stessa.

...

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

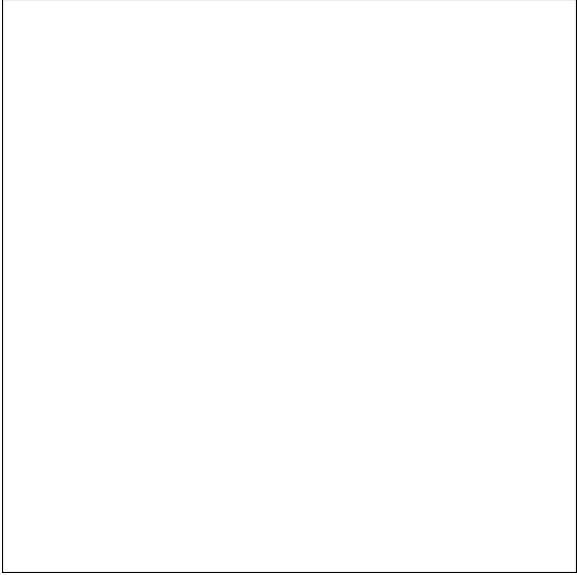


Al di sopra delle nuvole si addormentarono. Asino sognò che sua madre era ammalata e lo chiamava. E quando si svegliò..

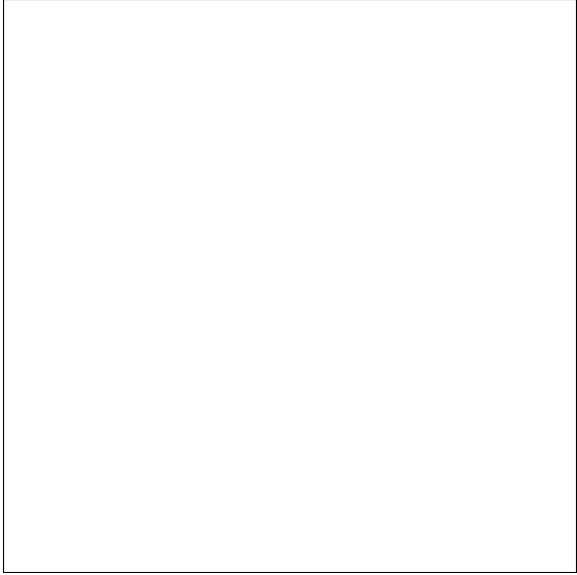
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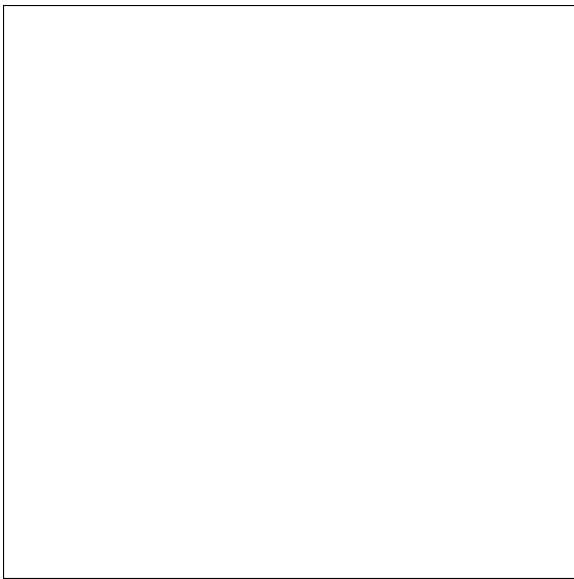
High up amongst the clouds they fell asleep. Donkey dreamed that his mother was sick and calling to him. And when he woke up...

Una mattina, il vecchio chiese a Asino di portarlo in cima ad una montagna.
...
One morning, the old man asked Donkey to carry him to the top of a mountain.



Ma alla fine dovette accettare che quello era suo figlio e che lei era sua madre.
...
But finally she had to accept that he was her child and she was his mother.

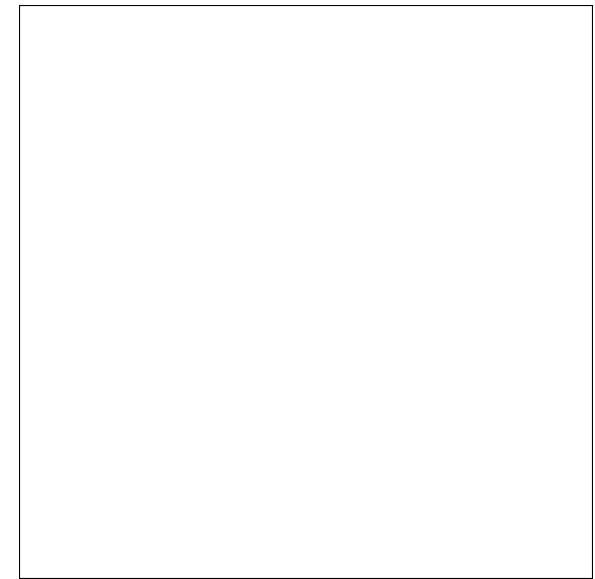




Ora, se il bimbo fosse rimasto di quella stessa piccola taglia, tutto sarebbe stato diverso. Ma il bimbo asino crebbe e crebbe finché non poté più stare sulle spalle della mamma. E per quanto lei ci provasse, non poteva comportarsi come un essere umano. Sua madre era spesso stanca e frustrata. A volte gli faceva fare lavori da bestia.

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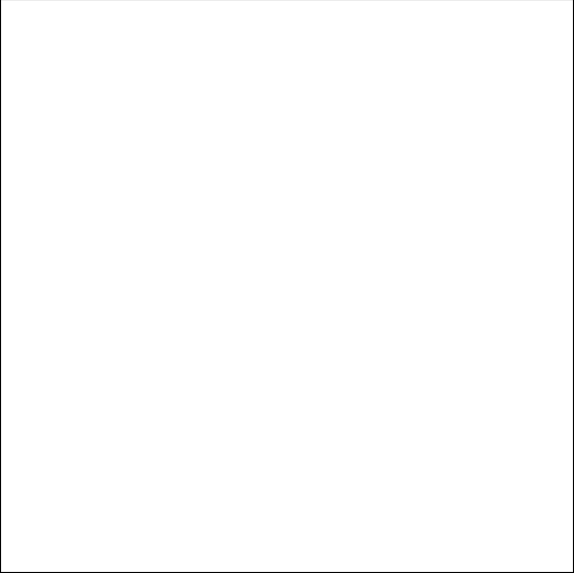
Now, if the child had stayed that same, small size, everything might have been different. But the donkey child grew and grew until he could no longer fit on his mother's back. And no matter how hard he tried, he could not behave like a human being. His mother was often tired and frustrated. Sometimes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



Asino andò a vivere con il vecchio che gli insegnò tanti modi diversi per sopravvivere. Asino ascoltava e imparava e lo stesso valeva per il vecchio. Si aiutavano vicenda e ridevano insieme.

...

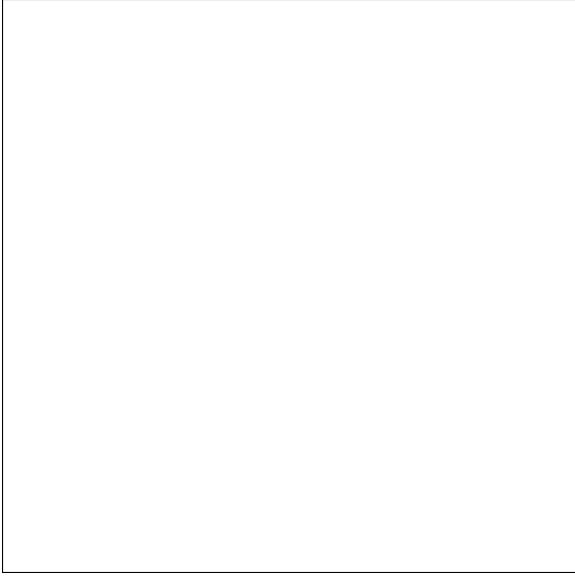
Donkey went to stay with the old man, who taught him many different ways to survive. Donkey listened and learned, and so did the old man. They helped each other, and they laughed together.



Confusione e rabbia crebbero dentro Asino. Non poteva fare questo, non poteva fare quello. Non poteva essere così e non poteva essere così. Un giorno si arrabbiò così tanto che scalcio al suolo sua madre.

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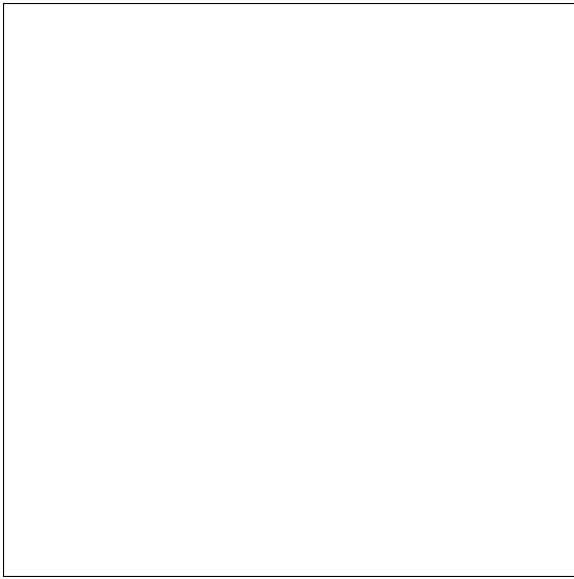
Confusion and anger built up inside Donkey. He couldn't do this and he couldn't do that. He couldn't be like this and he couldn't be like that. He became so angry that, one day, he kicked his mother to the ground.



Asino si sveglia trovando uno strano vecchio a osservarlo. Asino lo guardò negli occhi e cominciò a sentire un barlume di speranza.

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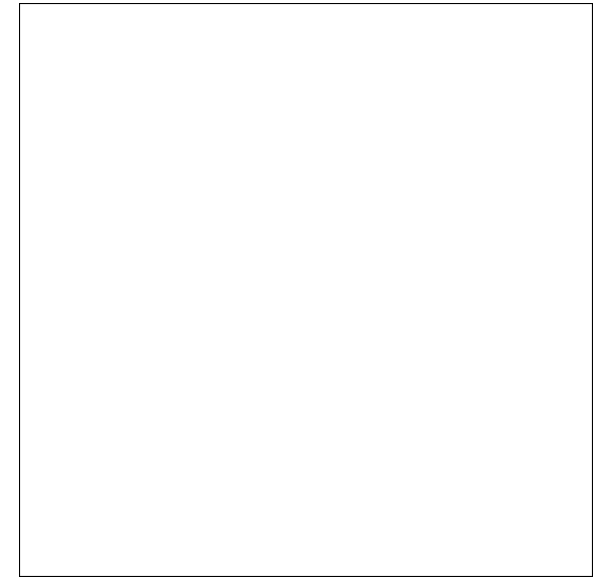
Donkey woke up to find a strange old man staring down at him. He looked into the old man's eyes and started to feel a twinkle of hope.



Asino si vergognò. Cominciò a correre via il più veloce e lontano che poté.

...

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



Quando smise di correre, era notte e Asino si era perso. "Hi-ho?" tagliò nell'oscurità. "Hi-ho?" rispose l'eco. Era da solo. Acciambellatosi su se stesso si addormentò in un sonno profondo e tormentato.

...

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.