



(imageless edition)

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💬 Kiswahili / English  
📖 Level 3



Siku niliyo ondoka nyumbani kuelekea jijini  
The day I left home for the city



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Siku niliyo ondoka nyumbani kuelekea  
jijini / The day I left home for the city

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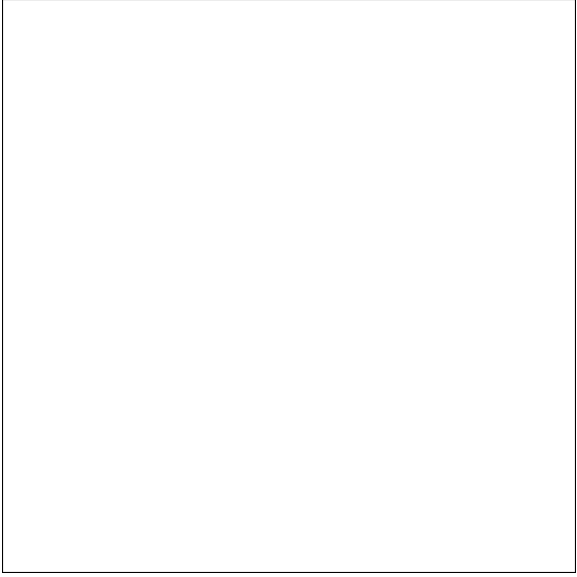
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Kituo kidogo cha mabasi kijijini mwetu kilijaa shughuli za watu na mabasi. Basi nyingi zilikuwa zimejaza mizigo. Chini, palikuwa na mizigo zaidi ya kupakia. Kondakta waliita majina tofauti ya mahali basi zilielekea.

...

The small bus stop in my village was busy with people and overloaded buses. On the ground were even more things to load. Touts were shouting the names where their buses were going.



“Kwenda jijini! Kwenda jijini! Kwenda magharibi!”  
Nilisikia kondakta akita kwa sauti. Ile ndiyo basi  
niliyohitaji kupanda kwa usafiri wangu.

...

“City! City! Going west!” I heard a tout shouting. That  
was the bus I needed to catch.



Basi la kwenda jijini lilikuwa karibu kujaa, lakini watu zaidi walijishughulisha kutaka kupanda. Baadhi yao walipakia mizigo chini ya basi. Wengine waliweka katika sehemu ya juu.

...

The city bus was almost full, but more people were still pushing to get on. Some packed their luggage under the bus. Others put theirs on the racks inside.



Basi la kurudi lilikuwa linajaa upesi. Muda mfupi baadaye, lingeanza safari ya kwenda mashariki. Jambo la maana kwangu wakati huo lilikuwa kuanza kutafuta nyumba ya mjomba wangu.

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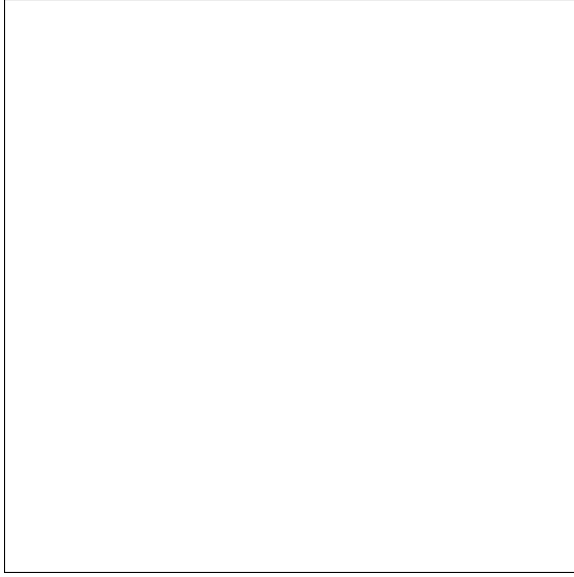
The return bus was filling up quickly. Soon it would make its way back east. The most important thing for me now, was to start looking for my uncle's house.



Abiria wapya walishika tiketi zao huku wakitafuta mahali pa kuka. Wanawake walokuwa na watoto wodogo waliwatayarisha kwa safari hiyo ndefu.

...

New passengers clutched their tickets as they looked for somewhere to sit in the crowded bus. Women with young children made them comfortable for the long journey.



Bada ya saa tisa, niliamshwa kwa kelele za kuita abiria waliokwenda katika kijiji changu. Nilichukwa mfuko wangu mdogo na kuruka nje ya basi.

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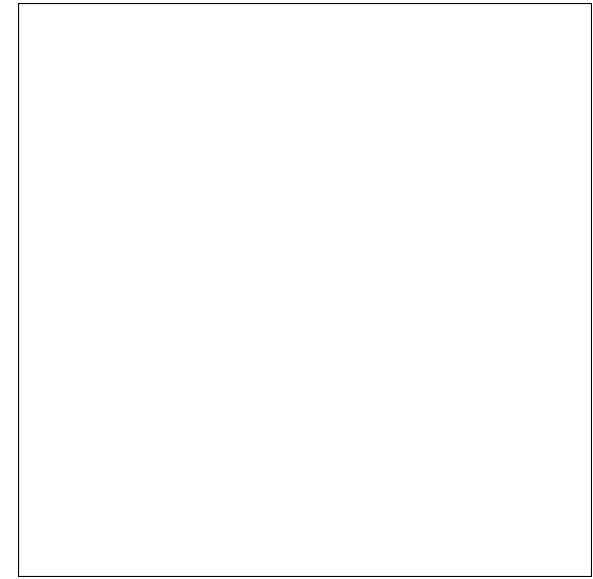
Nine hours later, I woke up with loud banging and calling for passengers going back to my village. I grabbed my small bag and jumped out of the bus.



Nilipenyeza ndani nikakaa karibu na dirisha. Mtu aliyeketi karibu nami alishika mfuko wa plastiki wa kijani kibichi. Alivaa viatu vilivyozeeka, koti kuuu na alionekana kuwa na wasiwasi.

...

I squeezed in next to a window. The person sitting next to me was holding tightly to a green plastic bag. He wore old sandals, a worn out coat, and he looked nervous.



Njiani, nilikariri jina la mahali mjomba wangu alipoishi katika jiji kubwa. Nilikuwa bado nafikiria wakati nilipopatwa na usingizi.

...

On the way, I memorised the name of the place where my uncle lived in the big city. I was still mumbling it when I fell asleep.



Niliangalia nje na kutambua kwamba nilikuwa naondoka  
kijijini mwangu, mahali ambapo nililelewa. Nilikuwa  
naenda katika jiji kubwa.

...

I looked outside the bus and realised that I was leaving  
my village, the place where I had grown up. I was going  
to the big city.



Lakini mawazo yangu yalirejea nyumbani. Je, mamangu  
atakuwa salama? Je, sungura wangu wataleta hela  
zozote? Je, ndugu yangu atakumbuka kunyunyizia maji  
miche ya miti yangu?

...

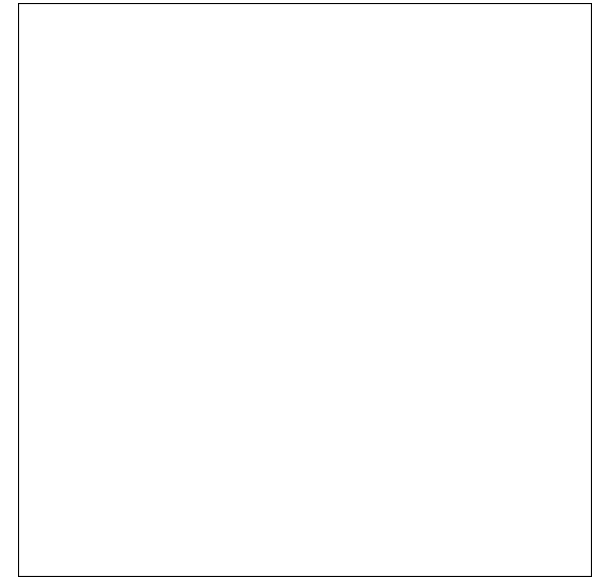
But my mind drifted back home. Will my mother be safe?  
Will my rabbits fetch any money? Will my brother  
remember to water my tree seedlings?



Upakiaji mizigo ulikamilika na abiria wakawa wameketi. Wachuuzi walizidi kusukumana kutaka kuingia ndani ya basi ili wauze bidhaa zao. Kila mmoja alitaja kwa sauti majina ya bidhaa alivyokuwa anauza. Maneno yao yalinifurahisha.

...

The loading was completed and all passengers were seated. Hawkers still pushed their way into the bus to sell their goods to the passengers. Everyone was shouting the names of what was available for sale. The words sounded funny to me.

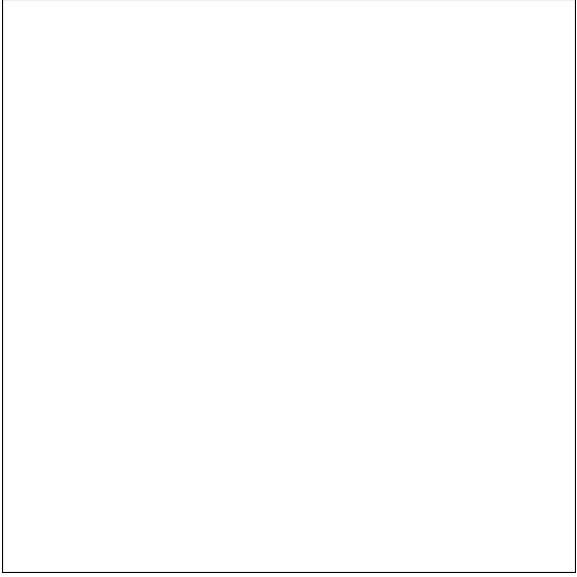


Safari ilipoendelea, joto lilikuwa jingi ndani ya basi. Niliyafumba macho yangu nikuuia kulala.

...

As the journey progressed, the inside of the bus got very hot. I closed my eyes hoping to sleep.

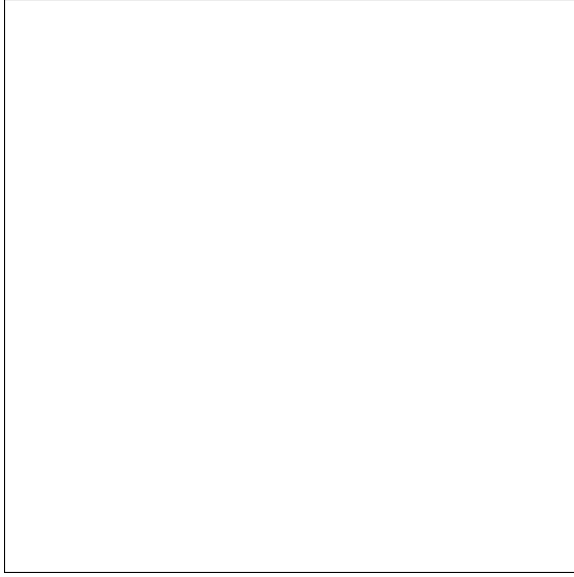




Baadh! ya abiria walinunua vinywaji. Wengine  
wakanunua vitafunwa vidogo na kuanza kutafuna.  
Wasiokuwa na fedha, kama mimi, walitazama tu.

...

A few passengers bought drinks, others bought small  
snacks and began to chew. Those who did not have any  
money, like me, just watched.



Basi lilipoondoka kituoni, nilichungulia dirishani.  
Nilijuliza endapo ningerudi na kwenda kijijini kwangu  
tena.

...

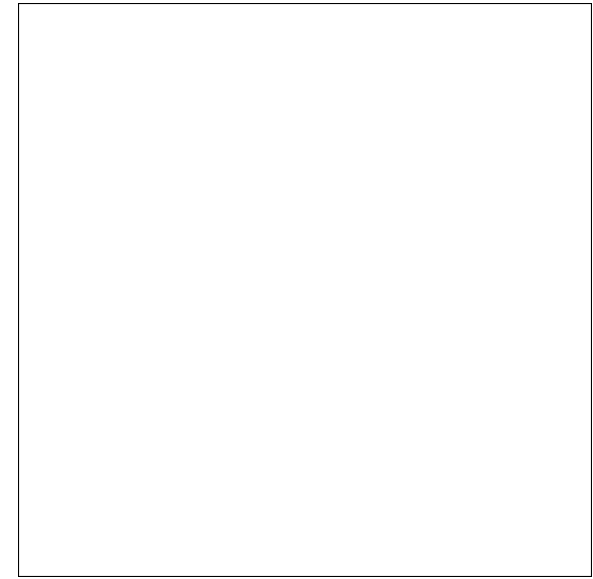
As the bus left the bus stop, I stared out of the window. I  
wondered if I would ever go back to my village again.



Shughuli hizi zilikatizwa kwa mlio wa honi ya basi, ishara kwamba tulikuwa tayari kuondoka. Kondakta aliwataka wachuuzi kuondoka ndani ya basi.

...

These activities were interrupted by the hooting of the bus, a sign that we were ready to leave. The tout yelled at the hawkers to get out.



Wachuuzi walisukumana huku wakitafuta njia ya kushuka. Wengine wao waliwarudisha abiria chenji zao. Wengine walifanya juhudi za mwisho kuuza bidhaa zao.

...

Hawkers pushed each other to make their way out of the bus. Some gave back change to the travellers. Others made last minute attempts to sell more items.