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Ang mga saging ni Lola / Grandma's bananas

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Ang mga saging ni Lola

Grandma's bananas

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Tagalog / English
Level 4

(imageless edition)

Puno ng batad, dawa, at kamoteng-kahoy ang kahanga-hangang hardin ni Lola. Pero natatangi ang kanyang mga saging. Hindi man niya ito sabihin, alam kong ako ang paboritong apo ni Lola kahit na marami siyang apo. Madalas niya akong inaanyayahan sa kanyang buhay. Marami siyang ibinihaging maliliit na sikreto sa akin. Pero mayroon siyang isang sikretong hindi ibinahagi sa akin: kung saan siya nagpapahinog ng mga saging.

...

Grandma's garden was wonderful, full of sorghum, millet, and cassava. But best of all were the bananas. Although Grandma had many grandchildren, I secretly knew that I was her favourite. She invited me often to her house. She also told me little secrets. But there was one secret she did not share with me: where she ripened bananas.

Kinagabihan, tinawag ako ni Nanay, Tatay, at ni Lola. Alam ko kung bakit. Sa pagtulog ko, alam kong hindi na ako magnanakaw muli, hindi kay Lola, hindi sa aking mga magulang, at siguradong hindi kaninuman.

...

Later that evening I was called by my mother and father, and Grandma. I knew why. That night as I lay down to sleep, I knew I could never steal again, not from grandma, not from my parents, and certainly not from anyone else.

Maagang gumising si Lola kinabukasan para magtinda sa palengke. Lagi niyang dala ang mga hinog na saging at kamoteng-kahoy para itinda doon. Hindi ako nagmadaling dalawin siya noong araw na iyon. Pero hindi ko na siya maaaring iwasan pa.

...

The following day was market day. Grandma woke up early. She always took ripe bananas and cassava to sell at the market. I did not hurry to visit her that day. But I could not avoid her for long.

Isang araw, may nakita akong dayaming basket na inaarawan sa labas ng bahay ni Lola. Nang tinanong ko siya kung para saan iyon, ang tanging sagot na nakuha ko ay, “Iyan ang aking mahiwagang basket.” Sa tabi ng basket ay mga dahon ng saging na paminsan-minsan ay binabaliktad ni lola. Nag-usisa ako. “Para saan ang mga dahon, Lola?” tanong ko. Ang tanging sagot na nakuha ko ay, “Iyan ang aking mga mahiwagang dahon.”

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One day I saw a big straw basket placed in the sun outside Grandma’s house. When I asked what it was for, the only answer I got was, “It’s my magic basket.” Next to the basket, there were several banana leaves that Grandma turned from time to time. I was curious. “What are the leaves for, Grandma?” I asked. The only answer I got was, “They are my magic leaves.”

Nakakawiling panoorin si Lola, ang mga saging, ang mga dahon nito, at ang malaking dayaming basket. Pero may ipinabilin sa akin si Lola para kay Nanay. “Lola, sige na ho, hayaan ninyo ho akong panoorin kayong maghanda...” “Huwag matigas ang ulo, apo, gawin mo na lang ang sinabi ko,” pilit niya. Tumakbo ako paalis.

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It was so interesting watching Grandma, the bananas, the banana leaves and the big straw basket. But Grandma sent me off to my mother on an errand. “Grandma, please, let me watch as you prepare...” “Don’t be stubborn, child, do as you are told,” she insisted. I took off running.

Kinabukasan, nang namimitas ng gulay si Lola sa bakuran, pumuslit ako sa kuwarto at sinilip ang mga saging. Hindi ko mapigilan ang sarili ko na kumupit ng isang kumpol ng apat na saging. Habang lumalakad ako ng patiyad palabas ng pinto, narinig ko ang ubo ni Lola sa labas. Itinago ko ang mga saging habang naglalakad, hanggang sa malampasan ko siya.

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The following day, when grandma was in the garden picking vegetables, I sneaked in and peered at the bananas. Nearly all were ripe. I couldn’t help taking a bunch of four. As I tiptoed towards the door, I heard grandma coughing outside. I just managed to hide the bananas under my dress and walked past her.

Sumunod na araw, nang dumalaw si Lola kay Nanay, nagmadali akong pumunta sa kanyang bahay para tingnan ulit ang mga saging. Mayroong isang kumpol na napakahinog. Kumuha ako ng isa at itinago ito sa aking bestida. Matapos takpan ang basket, nagtungo ako sa likod ng bahay at kinain ito. Iyon ang pinakamatamis na saging na aking natikman.

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The following day when grandma came to visit my mother, I rushed to her house to check the bananas once more. There was a bunch of very ripe ones. I picked one and hid it in my dress. After covering the basket again, I went behind the house and quickly ate it. It was the sweetest banana I had ever tasted.

Nang bumalik ako, nakaupo si Lola sa labas pero wala ang basket o ang mga saging. “Lola, nasaan po ang basket, ang mga saging, at nasaan po ang...” Pero ang tanging sagot niya ay, “Nandoon sa aking mahiwagang taguan.” Nalungkot ako!

...

When I returned, Grandma was sitting outside but with neither the basket nor the bananas. “Grandma, where is the basket, where are all the bananas, and where...” But the only answer I got was, “They are in my magic place.” It was so disappointing!

Makalipas ang dalawang araw, inutusan ako ni Lola na kunin ang kanyang tungkod mula sa kanyang silid-tulugan. Bumungad sa akin ang mabangong amoy ng mga nahihinog na saging sa oras na buksan ko ang pinto. Sa looban nito ay ang malaki at mahiwagang dayaming basket ni Lola. Nakatago ito sa isang lumang kumot. Iniangat ko ito at sininghot ang mabangong amoy nito.

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Two days later, Grandma sent me to fetch her walking stick from her bedroom. As soon as I opened the door, I was welcomed by the strong smell of ripening bananas. In the inner room was grandma’s big magic straw basket. It was well hidden by an old blanket. I lifted it and sniffed that glorious smell.

Ginulantang ako ng boses ni Lola nang tumawag siya, “Ano’ng ginagawa mo? Dalian mo na’t kunin ang aking tungkod.” Dali-dali kong dinala ang kanyang tungkod. “Ano’ng nginingiti mo diyan?” tanong ni Lola. Napagtanto ko sa kanyang tanong na nakangiti pa rin ako dahil sa pagkakatuklas ko sa kanyang mahiwagang taguan.

...

Grandma’s voice startled me when she called, “What are you doing? Hurry up and bring me the stick.” I hurried out with her walking stick. “What are you smiling about?” Grandma asked. Her question made me realise that I was still smiling at the discovery of her magic place.