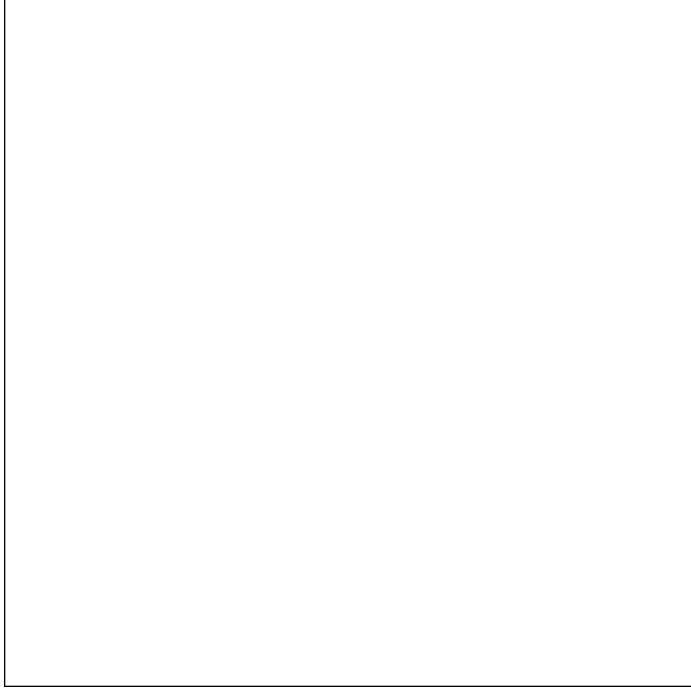


Granmaa banaana dem

Grandma's bananas



Ursula Natula

Catherine Groenewald

Georgette McGlashen

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Patwa / English / English



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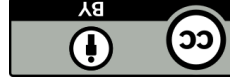
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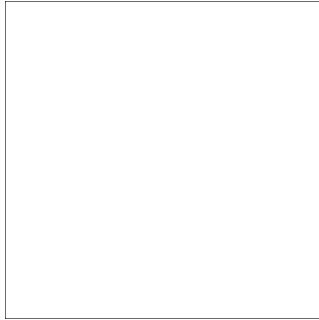


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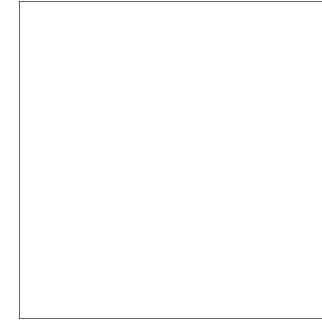




Granmaa gyaadn did nais-nais, fol a sogm, millet, an kasaava. Bot di bes a did di banaana dem. Alduo Granmaa did av nof granpikni, mi di nuo anda di kwaiyat se mi a did ar fievarit. Shi mek mi kom a ar yaad aal di taim. Shi tel mi likl siikrit tingz. Bot shi did av wan siikrit we shi no tel mi: which paat shi mek ar banaana dem raip.

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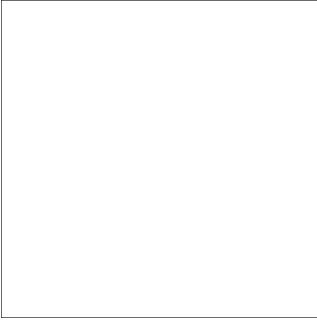
Grandma's garden was wonderful, full of sorghum, millet, and cassava. But best of all were the bananas. Although Grandma had many grandchildren, I secretly knew that I was her favourite. She invited me often to her house. She also told me little secrets. But there was one secret she did not share with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



Lieta inna di iivnin mi mada an faada kaal mi, an Granmaa. Mi did nuo a fi wa. Da nait de az mi lie dong fi sliip, mi nuo se mi kudn tiif agen, no fram granmaa, no fram mi pierens an fi shuor no fram nobadi els.

...

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.



Wan die mi si wahn big schraa baaskit inna di  
son outsaid a Granmaa ous. Wen mi aks ar se a  
we it fa, di ongli ansa mi get a did, "a mi majik  
baaskit." Said a di baaskit, a di nof banaana liif  
we Granmaa ton uova evritaim. Mi did wel  
wahn nuo a wa. "We di liif dem fa, Granmaa?"  
mi aks ar se. Di ongli ansa mi get a did, "Dem a  
mi majik liif dem."

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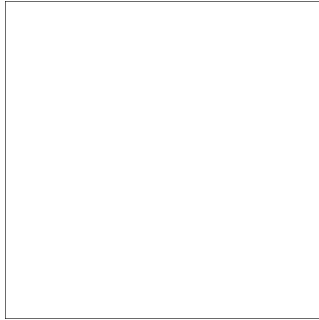
One day I saw a big straw basket placed in the  
sun outside Grandma's house. When I asked  
what it was for, the only answer I got was, "It's  
my magic basket." Next to the basket, there  
were several banana leaves that Grandma  
turned from time to time. I was curious. "What  
are the leaves for,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



Di neks die a did maakit die. Granmaa wiek op  
orli. Shi alwiez kyari raip banaana an kasaava go  
sel a di maakit. Mi neva ori op fi go luk fi ar da  
die de. Bot mi kudn avaid ar fi lang.

...

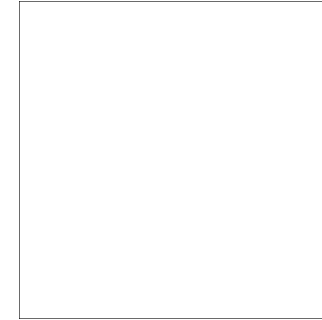
The following day was market day. Grandma  
woke up early. She always took ripe bananas  
and cassava to sell at the market. I did not hurry  
to visit her that day. But I could not avoid her for  
long.



It did intrestin fi wach Granmaa, di banaana dem, di banaana liif dem an di big schraa baaskit. Bot Granmaa sen mi go tu mi mada fi go du sopm. "Granmaa, du, mek mi wach we yu a go mek..." "No bi aadieez pikni, du we mi tel yu fi du," shi se siiros. Mi ron go.

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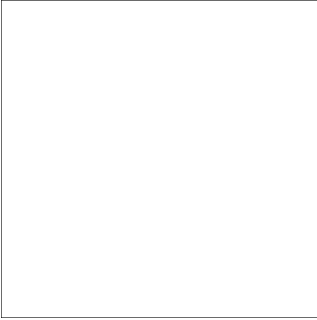
It was so interesting watching Grandma, the bananas, the banana leaves and the big straw basket. But Grandma sent me off to my mother on an errand. "Grandma, please, let me watch as you prepare..." "Don't be stubborn, child, do as you are told," she insisted. I took off running.



Di neks die, wen Granmaa did inna di gyaadn a pik vejitebl, mi sniik go iihn an luk pan di banaana dem. Nieli aal a dem raip. Mi kudn elp bot fi tek a bonch a fuor a dem. Az mi a tiptuo go a di duor, mi ier Granmaa a kaaf outsaid. Mi bieli manij fi aid di banaana dem anda mi frak an waak paas ar.

...

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.



Wen mi kom bak, Granmaa did a sidong  
outsaid bot sho neva av no baaskit ar no

banaana. "Granmaa, wich paat di baaskit de,

we aal a di banaana dem de, an we..." Bot di

ongl ansa mi get a did, "Dem de inna mi majik

plies;" Mi did disapaintidi!

...

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!



Di neks die wen Granmaa kom vizit mi mada, mi

buoit go a ar yaad fi chek di banaana agen.

Wahn wel raip bonch did de de. Afta mi kova di

baaskit agen, mi go biyain a di ous an it wan

kwik-kwik. A did di switits banaana mi eva ties.

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The following day when grandma came to visit

my mother, I rushed to her house to check the

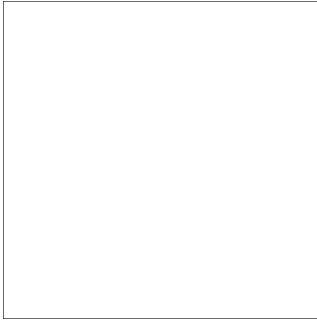
bananas once more. There was a bunch of very

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

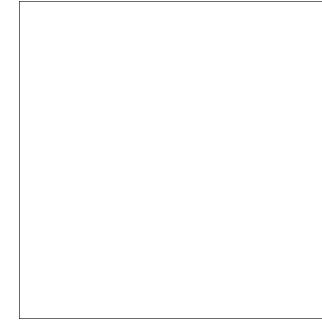
banana I had ever tasted.



Tuu die afta dat, Granmaa sen mi inna ar bedruum fi ar waakin stik. Az suuhn az mi uopm di duor, wahn schrang raip banaana smel lik mi. Pan di insaid a di ruum a di Granmaa majik schraa baaskit. It did wel aid wid wahn uol blangkit. Mi lif it op an tek iihn di nais-nais smel.

...

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.



Granmaa vais fraitn mi wen shi kaal mi, "We yu a du? Ori op an bring mi stik kom." Mi ori op an kom out wid ar waakin stik. "We yu a smail bout?" Granmaa aks se. A wen shi aks mi riyalaiz se mi stil did a smail bout ou mi fain out ar majik plies.

...

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.