



SOHN STOARI FAHN

GAYLZ PAINT

(MALANTI)

Paat 2

***Some stories from the village
of Gales Point (Manatee)***

Volume 2

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Table of Contents

Alan Andrewin: Taiga Ahn Hanansi <i>Tiger And Anansi</i>	p. 1
Myrna Manzanares: Moonlait Naitis <i>Moonlight Nights</i>	p. 9
Iris Abraham: Jekilantan Jekilantarn	p. 16
Justin Bowen: Di Too Lee Bwai The Two Little Boys	p. 25
Dorita Usher: Di Stoari A Mi Laif <i>The Story Of My Life</i>	p. 39
Myrna Manzanares: Bang Huki <i>Playing Hooky</i>	p. 45
Ronald Williams: Grampa Saami <i>Grandpa Sammy</i>	p. 53
Iris Abraham: Foolfool Jani <i>Fool Fool Johnny</i>	p. 59
Eastelline Williams: Wen Ah Gaahn Da Haaspital <i>When I went To The Hospital</i>	p. 66

Notes:

- In the translation from Kriol to English, a meaning-based translation was used rather than a literal translation. Note also that in narrative conversation in Kriol, the past tense pre-verbal markers “mi” or “mi-di” are often omitted.
- There are variations in the pronunciation of some Kriol words. For instance, the word “frah” [from] is often pronounced “fahn”, as in some of these stories from Gales Point. Also in Gales Point, the pronoun ‘mi’ is often used for the first person subject pronoun, rather than “Ah”.
- Gales Point Manatee is most often called “Malanti” by its inhabitants.
- In the Kriol writing system each letter represents just one sound. There are no silent letters. Following is a brief guide to reading some of the more unfamiliar symbols:
 - ‘long a’ = ‘ay’ as in ‘wayt’ (wait)
 - ‘long i’ = ‘ai’ as in ‘bwai’ (boy)
 - ‘long e’ = ‘ee’ as in ‘teech’ (teach)
 - ‘long o’ = ‘oa’ as in ‘bloa’ (blow)
 - ‘long u’ = ‘oo’ as in ‘hoo’ (who)
 - ‘double short a’ = ‘aa’ as in ‘yaad’ (yard)
 - ‘tr’ – ‘chr’ as in ‘chrai’ (try)
 - ‘nasalization’ – ‘hn’ nasalizes the vowel as in ‘kohn’ (come)
 - ‘dr’ = ‘jr’ ‘jrink’ (drink)



*Taiga Ahn Hanansi
bai Alan Andrewin*

Dis da wahn taim wen taim da-mi taim,
wen Hanaansi yoostu choo tubaako ahn spit owt
wait laim. Hanaansi gaahn da werk. Ih hav wahn
big maami chree. Ih gaahn da di maami chree da
maanin, ahn ih di pik aaf di maami fahn aaf da
chree.

Soh poa Taiga deh aal bowt di luk fi
sohnting fi eet ahn now ih geh hongri. Ih

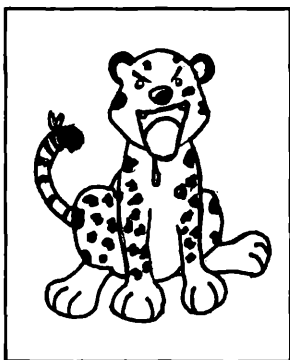
Jaguar and Anansi

*This was a time when time was time, when Anansi
used to chew tobacco and spit out white lime.*

*Anansi went to work. He had a big mamey tree.
That morning he went to the tree and was picking the
fruit from it.*

*Meanwhile poor Jaguar was walking all about
looking for something to eat and he was really getting*

disaid seh ih gwehn da di maami chree weh
ih noa ih wahn fain maami fi eet. Bot wen ih
geh deh, Hanaansi mi don get aal dehn wan
dehn weh mi deh pahn di grong, an ih deh
pahn tap a di chree di geh di wan dehn weh
lef.



Soh wen Taiga si
ahn, ih seh, "Braa
Hanaansi, yu noa Ah
hongri man. Geh mi
wahn nais maami noh."
Hanaansi seh,

"Taiga, how yu wahn geh
di maami wen yu kyaahn kech?"

hungry. So he decided he would go to the mamey tree, where he knew he would surely find some fruit to eat. But when he got there, Anansi had already gathered all the fruit that had been on the ground and was in the tree picking what was left.

When Jaguar saw him, he said, "Brother Anansi, I'm really hungry. Please throw me down a nice mamey."

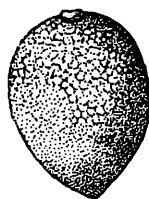
Anansi said, "Jaguar, how are you going to

Taiga seh, "Hanaansi, Ah gwehn oapm mi mowt waid, ahn aal weh yu hafu du da jrap di maami rait eena mi mowt." Soh Taiga oapm ih mowt waid waid waid.

Hanaansi gaahn ahn geh wan a di saafis maami, nais wan prapali raip, ahn wen Taiga oapm ih mowt, Hanaansi jrap di maami rait eena ih mowt. Oo, dat da-mi wahn nais wan! Ih gaahn dong gud jos laik mashmelo.

Soh Taiga feel gud, ih seh, "Hanaansi, geh mi wahn neks maami jos laik dat."

Soh Hanaansi geh wan a di greenis maami weh mi haad laik rak.



get the mamey when you can't catch?"

Jaguar said: "I'll open my mouth wide and you can drop it right into my mouth." And he opened his mouth really wide.

Anansi picked a soft mamey that was nice and ripe and dropped it right in Jaguar's mouth. My, it was a delicious one, and it went down just like a marshmallow.

That made Jaguar feel really good and he said, "Anansi, get me another mamey just like that one."

So this time Anansi got one of the greenest

Ahn Taiga oapm ih mowt. Wen ih oapm ih mowt, Hanaansi legoh da maami ahn ih jrap eena Taiga mowt. Bot ih mi kyaahn gaahn dong. Ih ton kraasway eena Taiga chroat, ahn ih tek wan hoal mont fi mek ih geh raip dat ih kuda mi swala ahn.

Soh Taiga seh, "Eni paat Ah meet Hanaansi, Ah wahn kil ahn," an ih gaan aal bowt di luk fi Hanansi.

Den wahn day Hanaansi di waak rong ahn rong, an ih gaahn pahn wahn brij weh wahn man mi-di skayl wahn big taapong weh ih mi kech.

mameys that was as hard as a rock. When Jaguar opened his mouth, Anansi turned the mamey loose and it dropped into Jaguar's mouth, but it turned crossways in Jaguar's throat and got stuck. It took a whole month before it was ripe enough for him to swallow it.

Jaguar was furious. "When I meet Anansi, I'm going to kill him," he said. And he went about looking for him.

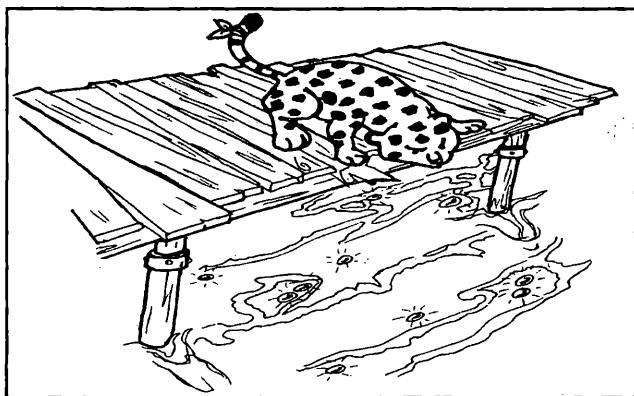
Then one day when Anansi was walking around, he came to a bridge where a man had caught a big tarpon and had scaled it right there.

Wel, di sayhn taim Hanaansi si Taiga
di kohn. Ih noa seh Taiga di luk fi ahn.

Soh Hanansi seh, "Maanin, Taiga."

Taiga seh, "Ah gat yu now. Ah wahn
kil yu."

Hanansi seh, "Taiga, how yu wahn kil
mi? Luk dong deh. Wahn lat a moni deh dong
deh."



*After a while Anansi saw Jaguar coming. He
knew that Jaguar was looking for him.*

Anansi said, "Good morning, Jaguar."

*Jaguar answered, "I've got you now, and I'm
going to kill you."*

*Anansi said, "Jaguar, how could you kill me?
Look in the water. There's a lot of money down
there."*

Ih di shoa ahn di taapong skayl eena di waata.

Taiga seh, "Yaa. Bot how wi ahn get ahn?"

Hanaansi seh, "Wel, yu noa Ai kyaahn swim, rait?" Den ih seh, "Di oanli way wi wahn geh di moni da fi wi geh wahn beg ahn wahn roap. Den Ah wahn loawa yu dong wid wahn stoan, ahn wen di beg ful, yu jos shayk di roap ahn Ah wahn haal yu op."

Soh evriting weh Hanaansi tel Taiga dehn gaahn tu werk ahn dehn du it. Ahn Taiga gaahn dong ahn ih begin tu pik op di

and he showed him the tarpon scales.

Jaguar said, "Yeah, but how are we going to get them?"

Anansi said, "Well, you know that I can't swim. The only way we can get the money is for us to get a big bag and a rope. I will lower you down with a stone [so you won't float]. When the bag is full of money, just shake the rope and I'll pull you up."

So they went to work and got everything they needed. Then Jaguar went down and began to collect



taapong skayl. Soh ih pik op ahn ih pik op til
ih ful di beg.

Wel da taim now fi Taiga kom op. Soh
ih begin tu shayk shayk shayk shayk . Bai di
taihn Hanaansi mi loawa dong Taiga, ih mi
tai di roap pahn di brij ahn ih gaahn bowt

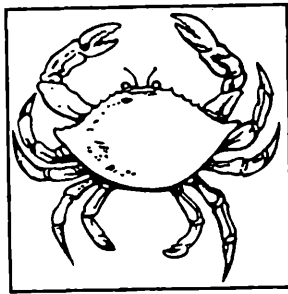
*the tarpon scales. He kept collecting until he had
filled the bag.*

*When he was ready to come up, he began to
shake the rope. He shook and shook, but Anansi was
long gone. As soon as he had lowered Jaguar down,
he had tied the rope onto the bridge and went on his*

ih bizniz, ahn lef Taiga dong deh fi jrongdid.

Taiga shayk, ih shayk, ih shayk. No Hanaansi. Bot da gud ting di kraab weh dehn kaal Raati mi-di paas bai. Da soh Raati kot di roap, ahn da soh Taiga geh weh.

Taiga mosi stil di luk fi Hanaansi op tu tideh day.



way, leaving Jaguar down there to drown.

Meanwhile Jaguar kept on shaking the rope. No Anansi! Fortunately the crab named Raati happened to be passing by, and he cut the rope and Jaguar got away.

Jaguar is probably still looking for Anansi up to today.



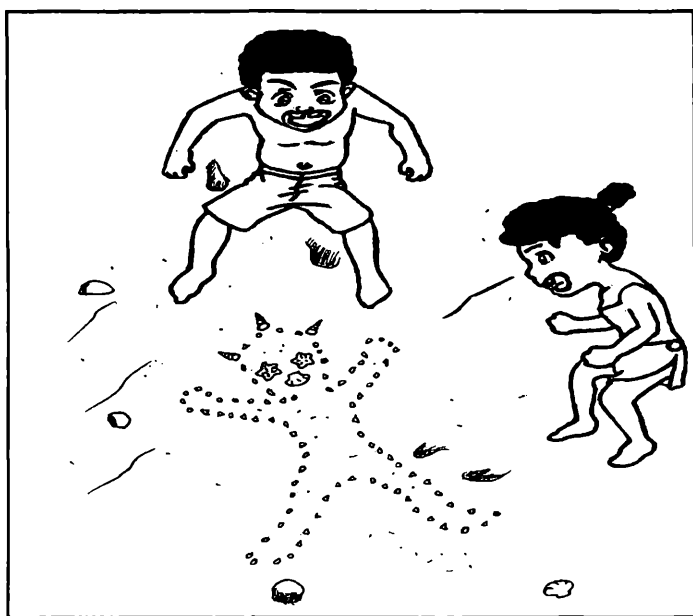
Moonlait nait

bai Myrna Manzanares

Ah yoostu gah too bredda. Wan nayhn
Lans an di ada wan nayhn Wayn. Dat da bi-
foa mi terd lee bredda hihn kohn lang. An fi
wee bigis ting da nait, wen di nait nais ahn
di moonlait di shain. Da moonlait yoostu bee
laik hevn fi wee, bikaaz wi wuda sidong owt
deh ahn play.

Moonlight nights

*I used to have two brothers: Lance and
Wayne. That was before my third brother arrived,
my littlest brother. We had a favorite thing to do at
night when the night was nice and the moon was
shining bright. That moonlight was like heaven to us,
because you could sit out there and play.*



Eena dehn dayz da Malanti, dehn
 yoostu gah wait wait san. Wi yoostu laik pik
 op aal a di graas batl -- weh wee kaal "graas
 botl" da-mi reeli brok op glaas batl. Wan a
 wi yoostu lidong, ahn den wi wuda tek dehn
 graas batl ahn put dehn pees bai pees rong

*Back then in Malanti, the sand used to be
 very white. We would collect all the pieces of glass
 that came from broken bottles. We called them
 "grass bottle." Then one of us would lie down in the
 sand, and the others of us would put the pieces of*

di persn. Ahn wen di persn get op fahn deh
yu wuda si di shayp a ahn. Wi yoostu kaal
ahn "moonshain baybi".

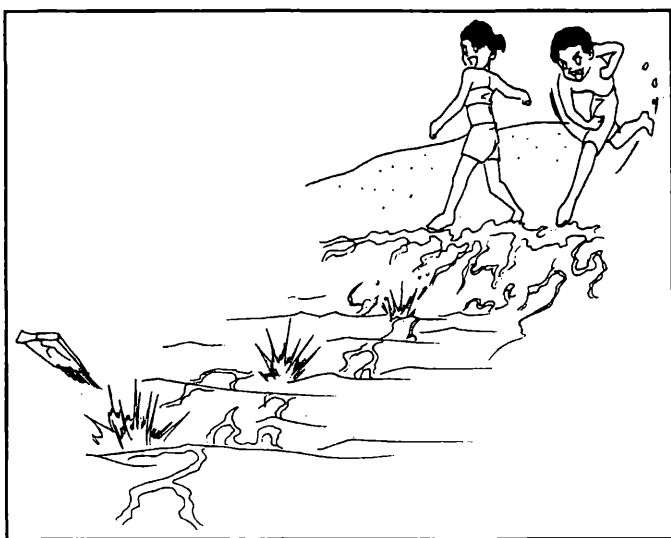
Ah memba wahn nait wi mi deh owt
deh di taak bowt moonshain baybi, ahn how
priti ih luk. Wi sidong di taak ahn di gi joaks
ahn wi di taak stoariz. An wi mi-di waak
pahn di pyaa, kaa wi yoostu liv bai di polees
stayshan weh di pyaa mi deh.

Wen wi doz goh pahn di pyaa, wi wuda
tek di lee pees a brokn batl dehn, ahn wi
skim dehn kraas di waata tap. Wel Ah tel

*broken glass around that person. When he or she
got up, you could see the shape of the person. We
used to call it "moonshine baby."*

*I remember one night we were out there
talking about moonshine babies and how pretty they
looked.*

*When we finished making our moonshine
baby, we would sit down and tell jokes and stories.
We would also walk on the pier, because we used to
live by the police station where the pier was. We
would take the little pieces of broken bottle and
skim them across the water. They looked like a lot*



yu, dehn luk laik wahn lat a lee silva fish di
flai owt a di waata.

Wen mee luk, mi big bredda hihn
disapyaa. An wen ih kohn bak, ih seh, "Kohn,
mek wi goh bak goh play eena di san." Soh wi
gaan, an wi deh deh di play, ahn wi di taak
an soh.

of little silver fish flying out of the water.

*One particular night when we were on the
pier, my big brother disappeared. When he re-
turned, he said, "Come, let's go back and play in the
sand." So we went and were playing in the sand and
talking.*

Afta wahn wail ih seh, "Gyal, Ah ga sohnting fi yu." An Ah si ahn kohn wid wahn paypa beg an ih han mi di paypa beg. Ah neva chros ahn, yu noa, kaa mi breda dehn laik du mi aal kain a ting, kaa mee da di oanli gyal ahn dehn noa how mee laik fait bak.

Soh wen ih push owt di paypa beg, Ah di wach ahn. Ahn den Ah tek di beg, ahn wen Ah oapm ahn, wahn big oal toad jomp owt rait pahn mi.

Wel Ah tel yu, if Ah neva skreem! Ah skreem an Ah ron an Ah baal an Ah hala,

After a while my brother said to me, "I have something for you." He went off and came back with a paper bag, which he handed to me. I didn't trust him, you know, because my brothers liked to do all kinds of things to me. I was the only girl and they knew how I liked to fight back.

So when he pushed the paper bag towards me, I watched him. Then I took the bag, and when I finally opened it, a big old toad jumped right out on me.

Well I tell you, did I scream! I screamed and ran and cried and yelled, because I was afraid of

bikaaz Ah mi frayd
 fi toad, ahn dehn
 noa Ah frayd fi
 toad. Wel, Ah tel
 unu, unu ku jos
 imajin weh gaan aan,
 bikaaz Ah mi oanli
 beks.



Fahn da taim deh rait op tu now mee jos
 hayt toad moa. Eevn wen Ah gaahn da kalij ahn
 wi hafu kot op frag fi baiyalaji klaas, Ah tel
 dehn Ah noh wahn du it. Soh Ah jos neva du it.
 Wen Ah staat tu teeche ahn wi haftu teeche
 bowt animal ahn dehn difrant paats, mee neva
 du di frag. Mee mi hafu mek wan a di neks

*toads and they knew it. You could just imagine what
 went on. I was so angry!*

*Ever since then, I've hated toads. When I went
 to college and we had to dissect a frog in biology class,
 I told them I wouldn't do it and I just never did. When
 I started to teach and we had to teach about the parts
 of an animal, I never did dissect a toad. I would make*

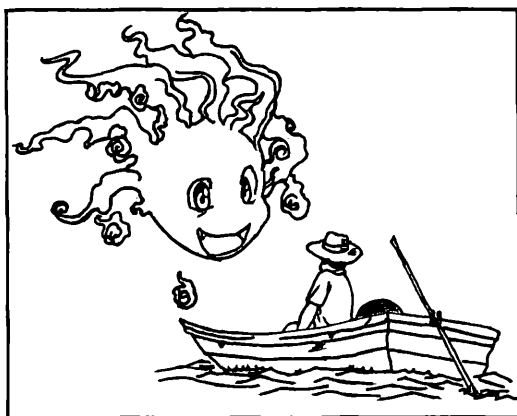
teecha du it.

Soh yu si, eevn wen yu mi smaal ahn
yu geh dehn kain a ekspeerens deh, ih stay
wid yu fi wahn lang lang taim. Soh ih noh
gud wen yu fraitn pikni, er wen yu payrent
push yu eena wahn klazit ahn du aal a dehn
tingz deh tu yu. Dehn kain a tingz stay wid
yu fi di res a yu laif. Bikaa eevn tideh day,
mee noh laik toad. Mi noh eevn laik luk pahn
toad. Enitaim Ah luk pahn toad mi blod ron
koal koal koal koal.

one of the other teachers do it.

*So you see, sometimes when you are small
and you have those kinds of experiences, they stay
with you for a very long time. It isn't right when you
frighten children, or when your parents push you in a
closet and do all of those kinds of things to you, be-
cause they stay with you for the rest of your life.*

*Even up to today, I don't like toads. I don't
even like to look at them. Every time I look at a toad
my blood runs very very cold.*



Jekilantan

by Iris Abraham

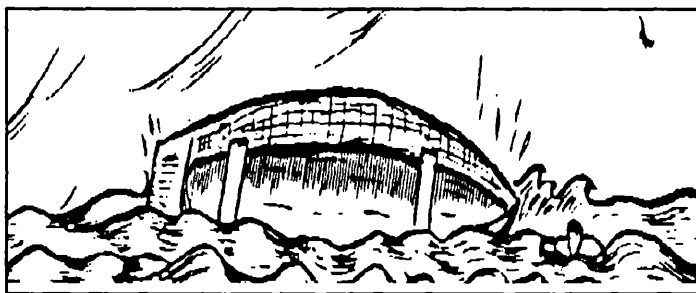
Jekilantan da sohnting weh kohn eena
aal kain a faam. Sohntaim dehn kohn laik
wahn big baal a faiya. Sohntaim dehn kohn
laik wahn ship, bot da aalwayz lait. Dehn mi
deh da Malanti wahn lat wen Ah mi yong. Aal
di taim wi yoostu si dehn kraas di lagoon.

Jekilantern

by Iris Abraham

A jekilantern is something which comes in all kinds of forms. Sometimes it appears like a big ball of fire. At other times it appears like a ship - but it always involves light. There used to be a lot of them in Malanti when I was young; we used to often see them going across the lagoon.

Sohntaim di jekilantan dehn wuda ton
oava dehn lee oal man doari wen dehn goh owt.
Dehn kehr dehn wehpaa dehn noh waahn goh,
ahn laas dehn wen dehn di chrai fi padl fi goh
sohnweh. Dehn ton dehn doari rong, ahn wen
dehn kech op dehnselb dehn deh sohnweh weh
dehn neva waahn deh. Ahn den dehn jreg dehn
eena di bush pahn di ada said.



At times the jekilanters would turn over the dories of little old men. They would take them where they didn't want to go, or when they tried to paddle somewhere they would cause them to get lost. Sometimes they would turn the old men's dories around, and when they came to themselves they were somewhere they hadn't wanted to be. And then the jekilanters would drag them into the bush at the other side of the lagoon.

Yu noh play wid jekilantan wen yu si
ahn. Yu chrai get owt a ih way. Bikaaz mi
memba wen dehn mi ton oava fi mi onkl
doari. Mi memba wen dehn mi tek weh ih
padl, dehn jreg ahn oava di ada said eena di
bush, ahn di neks maanin dehn fain ahn. Ih
noh eevn noa weh ih deh.

Main, dehn stil deh yu noa, bikaaz
sohntaim yu ku stil si dehn. Dehn flash bowt
ahn dehn flai bowt eena bush ahn ting laik
dat. Bot Ah tink nowadayz pipl moa waiza,
soh wen dehn si jekilantan now dehn noh
eevn bada dehn.

*You shouldn't play with jekilanterns when you
see them; you should try to get out of their way!
I remember a time when they turned over my uncle's
dory. I remember that they took away his paddle,
took him over to the other side of the lagoon, and
dragged him into the bush. The next morning when
he was found, he didn't even know where he was.*

*Jekilanterns still exist, you know. At times
you can still see them. They flash about and fly
around in the bush and do things like that. But I
think the people of today are wiser, and when they
see them they aren't even bothered.*

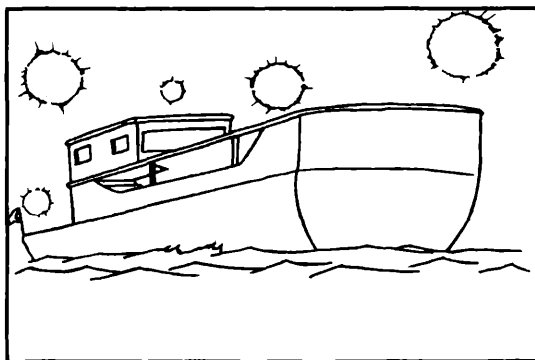


Wel Ah waahn tel yu sohnting weh
happ tu mi wen Ah mi leel. Noh leel leel, kaa
mi don bowt semteen er ayteen. Ih mi happ
wahn nait wen Ah mi liv op da di Paint weh
di Laj deh now. Eena dehn dayz deh, da
plays da-mi fi mi ma. Da deh wi yoostu
liv. Wi mi liv eena wahn big big red hows weh
mi deh way da di Paint ahn yu ku luk schrayt
op eena baar riva mowt.

Well, I want to tell you something that happened to me when I was little — not too little, but about seventeen or eighteen. It happened one night when I was living up at the Point where the Lodge is now standing. In those days my mother owned that area. We used to live there in a big red house, way at the end of the Point, and one could look straight up where the river met the lagoon.

Wel, wahn eevnin layt, mee mi-di stan
op rait da di winda di luk owt. Ahn wen mi
luk, mi si wahn big big ship di kom owt a di
mowt a di riva wid aal kain a difrant lait.
Plenti a lait dehn di flash ya ahn flash deh,
bot dehn priti. Ah tel yu, Ah neva si soh
moch priti lait eena aal a mi laif.

Bot ges wat! Di ship noh noa Malanti,



Late one evening, I was standing in front of the window looking out. Suddenly I saw a very large ship coming out of the mouth of the river. It had all kinds of different lights that were flashing here and there. The lights were pretty I tell you, I have never seen so many pretty lights in all my life.

But guess what! The ship was unfamiliar with Malanti and didn't know that a big shoal runs right

ahn deh'n neva noa dat wahn big shoal ron
rait owt fahn di en a di Paint.

Wen Ah luk, Ah si disya ship di kohn,
ahn wen ih geh pahn di shoal, mi mi fraitn.
Bikaaz mi si di ship mi wahn geh stok. Bot
wen ih get deh, ih swing ih baw an gaahn bak
schrayt eena di front lagoon.

Wen mi si dis, mi ron owt a di hows
ahn gaahn da di polees pyaa weh di oal
polees hows mi deh. Dehn mi gah wahn big
pyaa weh ron way owt eena di lagoon, ahn mi
ron owt deh. Ahn wen Ah geh deh, di ship
jos di kohn kloas tu di pyaa. Man, wahn lat a

owt from the end of the Point.

*As I was watching, I saw it coming, and when
it reached the shoal I became frightened because I
saw that it would get stuck. But when it got there, it
swung its bow around and went straight into the
front lagoon.*

*When I saw that, I ran out of the house and
went to the pier where the old police station used to
be. They had a big pier which went way out into the
lagoon, and I ran out there. As I got there, the ship
was coming close to the pier. Man! There were a lot*



man deh eena ahn! Dehn stan op eena di midl a
di boat ahn ges weh dehn mi-di sing: "Staami
weda!" Dehn mi-di ga fon, man. Dehn mi-di
jomp op ahn dong eena di ship ahn di sing ahn
mek lat a naiz.

Wel, dehn gaan. Dehn tek dehn sloa sloa
taim ahn dehn gaan. Wen dehn get front a
Misa Jani Makaard wehpaa ih liv now, dehn
sloa dong. Dat da weh Bailin Hoal deh. Enitaim
yu geh da Bailin Hoal ahn yu goh een deh, di

*of men in the ship. They were standing in the middle of
the boat and guess what they were singing: "Stormy
Weather!" They were really having fun. They were
jumping up and down in the ship singing and making a lot
of noise.*

*As I watched, they went on. They took their
time and slowly kept going. When they got in front of
the place where Mister Johnny McCord is now living,
they slowed down. That is where the Boiling Hole
(whirl/pool) is. If you get caught in there, the water*

waata bail yu dong dong dong, an afta dat ih
bail yu op agen. Ahn dis da
wehpaa di ship gaan.

Disya taim mi di wach,
man. Wahn neks laydi kohn an
ih stan op said a mi, ahn wi di
wach dis ship. Aal av a sodn di
ship staat a fayd weh. Ih mi
geh smaala ahn smaala ahn



ahn smaala ahn bai di taim ih geh kraas di
Bailin Hoal ih gaan. Mi neva si da ship agen.
Jekilantan gaan.

Bot ih stil deh da Malanti, yu noa.

*takes you way down and then it brings you back up
again. And that is where that ship went.*

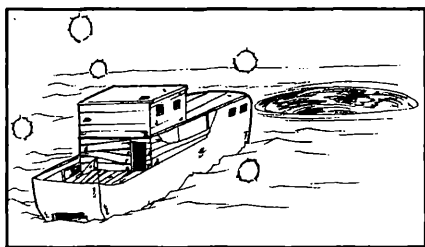
*By that time I was really watching closely to
see what would happen. A lady came and stood next
to me and we both watched the ship. All of a sudden,
the ship began to fade away. It got smaller and
smaller, and by the time it crossed the Boiling Hole
it was gone. I never saw that ship again. The jeki-
lantern was gone.*

But yet jekilanters are still in Malanti, you

Wahn lat a pipl stil di si ahn.

Eniway, if unu gwain eni plays ahn unu si wahn jekilantan, unu moov owt a ih way noh. Dehn say yong pipl gat moa sens, bot if dehn reeli waahn laas yu, dehn wahn laas yu tu. Soh jos bee kyaaful. If unu si jekilantan, unu noh hafu intafyaa wid ahn bikaaz maybi ih wahn laas unu tu.

Dat da jekilantan. Di debl kain a lantan, bot da stil jekilantan.



know. A lot of people still see them.

Anyway, if you are going somewhere and happen to see a jekilantan, just move out of its way.

They say young people have more sense nowadays, but if a jekilantan really wants to cause you to get lost, it will do so. So just be careful. If you see a jekilantan, don't interfere with it, because it might get you lost, too.

That is what a jekilantan is. It is a devil's kind of lantern.

Di Too Lee Bwai
bai Justin Bowen

Wans apan a taim dehn mi gah too lee
bwai. Wan a dehn gud, ahn wan a dehn bad.

Di ma sen di gud wan
fi waata. Ih sen ahn
wid wahn mog, bot di
mog jrap eena di wel.
An ih ron gaahn tel ih
ma how di mog jrap
eena di wel. An ih ma



seh, "Fain wahn pees a stik ahn chrai fi tek
ahn owt." Bot wen ih chrai fi pul owt di mog,
hihn jrap bihain di mog.

The Two Little Boys

*Once upon a time there were two little boys.
One of them was good, and one of them was bad.
Their mother sent the good one with a pitcher to
get water, but the pitcher dropped into the well.*

*When he told his mother what had hap-
pened, she said, "Get a stick and try to get it out."
But when he tried to pull out the pitcher, he also
fell into the well.*

An ih gaan, an ih fain wahn road eena
dis wel. Soh now ih begin tu sing:

Mee da Mama hansom bwai.

Mee noh waahn goh da Tata Duhende.

Afta wahn wail ih si Soa-Soa Hed deh
front a ahn. Di hed ful a
graas batl. Ih aks di lee
bwai fi pik owt di graas
batl owt a ih hed, ahn di
bwai du it. Ahn Soa-Soa
Hed tel ahn: "Gud deh
hed a yu ahn bad deh bihain yu."



Soh ih gaan agen ahn ih di sing ih sang:

*Inside the well he found a road, and he began
to walk on it. He was singing a song:*

I am Mama's handsome boy.

I don't want to go to Tata Duhende.

*After a while he saw a head in front of him. It was cov-
ered with splinters of glass. The head asked the boy to
pick out the splinters, and the boy did it. The the head
told him: "Good is ahead of you and bad is behind."*

The boy went on his way singing his song:

Mee da Mama hansom bwai.

Mee noh waahn goh da Tata Duhende.

Soh now ih si Soa-Soa Han deh front a
ahn, ahn di han ful op a prikl. Ih aks ahn fi pul
owt di prikl, ahn di lee bwai du it. Wen ih don
pul owt di prikl, Soa-Soa Han tel ahn, "Gud deh
hed a yu ahn bad deh bihain."

Soh ih gaan agen ahn ih di sing ih sang:

Mee da Mama hansom bwai.

Mee noh waahn goh da Tata Duhende.

Den ih bok op pahn Soa-Soa Fut. Di fut
kot op ahn ih di bleed, soh ih aks di lee bwai fi
wash ahn ahn stap di blod. Di lee bwai du ahn.

I am Mama's handsome boy.

I don't want to go to Tata Duhende.

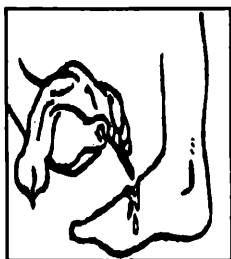
All of a sudden he saw a hand in front of him that
was covered with thorns. It asked the boy to pull out the
thorns, and he did it. When he was finished, the hand
told him, "Good is ahead of you and bad is behind."

So the boy went on his way singing his song:

I am Mama's handsome boy.

I don't want to go to Tata Duhende.

*Suddenly he came upon a foot which was cut and
bleeding. The foot asked the boy to wash it and stop it*



Den Soa-Soa Fut tel
ahn: "Gud deh hed a yu
ahn bad deh bihain."

Afta dat Soa-Soa
Fut tel ahn, "Waak ahn

waak til yu meet wahn hows rait pahn di
schreet kaana, ahn yu goh ahn nak pahn di
doa. If dehn noh tel yu
fi kom een, noh goh een.
Bot if dehn tel yu fi kom
een, goh een."



Soh ih waak, ih
waak, ih waak til ih si
di hows, an ih nak pahn di doa.

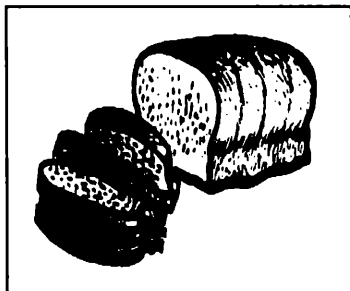
*from bleeding, and the little boy did so. Then the
foot told him: "Good is ahead of you and bad is be-
hind."*

*Then the foot said, "'Keep walking until you
come to a house right there on the corner of the
street. Go up and knock on the door. If they refuse
you entrance, don't go in. But if you are told to go in,
go on in."*

*The boy walked for a long time, and then he
saw the house and he knocked on the door.*

Soh now di laydi weh deh eena di hows
tel ahn, "Kom een," ahn ih gaan een. Di laydi
aks ahn, "Humoch bred yu eet?"

Ih seh how ih
oanli eet too slais a
bred. Soh di laydi gi
ahn too slais a bred.



Den di laydi aks
ahn, "Weh kain a bed yu sleep pahn?"

Ih seh dat fi hihn ma mek ih sleep pahn
feda bed.

Den di laydi tel ahn, "Twelv aklak tinait
yu wahn si wahn blak kyat kohn rong ya. Wen

*A lady opened the door and she said, "Come in!"
The boy entered and the lady asked him, "How much
bread do you eat?"*

*The boy answered that he only ate two slices of
bread, so the lady gave him two slices.*

*Then the lady asked him, "What kind of bed do
you sleep on?"*

*He said that his mother made him sleep on a
simple bed of feathers.*

Then the lady told him, "Tonight at twelve

yu si ahn, brok ih bak."

Di blak kyat kohn twelv aklak da nait, ahn
di lee bwai pik ahn op
ahn ih gi ahn sohnting fi
eet. Ahn ih sleep wid
ahn til di maanin.



Den di laydi gaahn bring di mog. Ih aks
ahn, "Humoch mog yu waahn?"

Ih seh, "Wan."

Den di laydi gaahn bring tenis. Ih aks ahn,
"Humoch tenis yu waahn?"

Ih seh, "Wan."

o'clock you will see a black cat. When you see it, break its back."

The cat came at twelve o'clock. But the little boy picked it up, gave it something to eat, and slept with it until morning.

Then the lady went and got the pitcher. She asked him, "How many pitchers would you like?"

He said, "One."

Then the lady brought some tennis shoes and asked him, "How many pairs of tennis shoes would you like?"

He answered, "One pair."

Den di laydi gaahn bring hat. Ih aks
ahn, "Humoch hat yu waahn?"

Ih seh, "Wan."

Di laydi gaahn bring shot. Ih aks ahn,
"Humoch shot yu waahn?"

Ih seh, "Wan."

Den di laydi gaahn bring pans. Ih aks
ahn, "Humoch pans yu waahn?"

Ih seh, "Wan."

Den di laydi tel ahn, "Yu waak, yu waak,
yu waak, ahn yu wahn si wahn red botn ahn
wahn blak botn. Yu push di red botn ahn yu

*Then the lady brought some hats and asked him
how many hats he wanted.*

He said, "One."

*"The lady brought some shirts. She asked, How
many shirts would you like?"*

He said, "One."

*Then the lady brought pants. She asked, "How
many pairs of pants would you like?"*

He said, "One."

*Then she said, "Keep on walking until you see a
red button and a black one. Push the red button, and
you will see what will happen."*

So the boy walked until he saw the red and

wahn si weh wahn hapm."

Soh ih waak, ih waak, ih waak, til ih si di red botn ahn di blak botn. Ih push di red botn, ahn loan goal jrap pan ahn.

Den ih gaahn hoahn now. Wen ih gaan eena di hows, ih ma aks ahn, "Bwai, weh yu kohn fahn wid aal dehn ting?"

Ih tel ih ma aal weh hapm tu ahn wen ih jrap eena di wel. Ahn ih tel ahn how ih mi gaahn da wahn laydi hows ahn weh aal di laydi gi ahn.

Wen di bad bwai yehr dat, ih ron gaahn da di wel, ahn ih dash di mog een, ahn hihn jomp een bihain ahn.

black buttons. He pushed the red button, and a whole lot of gold coins fell on him.

Then the boy went back home. When he came in the house, his mother asked him, "Son, where have you come from with all those things?"

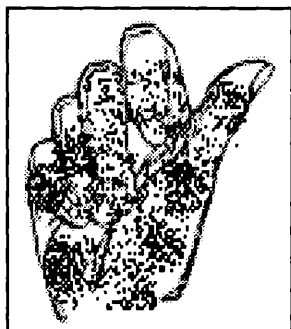
He told his mother how he went to the lady's house, and about all the things she had given him.

When the bad boy heard what his brother said, he ran to the well, threw the pitcher into the well, and jumped in behind it.

Soh ih gaan ahn ih meet Soa-Soa Hed
wid ih hed ful op a graas batl. Ih aks ahn fi
help pik owt di graas batl owt a ih hed, bot di
lee bwai jos sok ih teet ahn gaan.

Soh Soa-Soa Hed seh: "Bad deh hed a
yu, ahn gud deh bihain."

Soh now Soa-Soa Han deh front a ahn,
ahn di han deh ful a
prikl. Ih aks ahn fi pul
owt di prikl, bot di lee
bwai sok ih teet ahn
gaan.



Soh Soa-Soa Han tel ahn: "Bad deh

Then he went along the road and met the head that was covered with splinters of glass. It asked him to help pick out the splinters, but the boy just walked off in disgust.

The head remarked, "Bad is ahead of you and good is behind."

By that time the hand full of thorns was in front of the boy. It asked him to pick out the thorns, but the boy shrugged his shoulders in disgust and walked off.

So the hand remarked, "Bad is ahead of you

hed a yu ahn gud deh bihain."

Den ih bok op pahn Soa-Soa Fut. Soa-
Soa Fut mi kot op an ih di
bleed, soh ih aks di lee bwai
fi wash ih fut ahn stap di
blod. Bot di lee bwai sok ih
teet agen, an ih waak aan.



Den Soa-Soa Fut tel
ahn, "Bad deh hed a yu ahn gud deh bihain."

Dehn ih tel ahn, "Yu waak ahn waak
til yu meet wahn hows rait pahn di schreet
kaana, ahn yu goh ahn yu nak. If dehn noh
tel yu fi kom een, noh goh een. Bot if dehn
tel yu fi kom een, yu goh een."

and good is behind."

Then the boy came to the foot which was cut and bleeding. It asked him to wash it and stop the bleeding, but the boy shrugged in disgust and walked on. The foot remarked: "Bad is ahead of you and good is behind."

Then the foot said, "Keep walking until you come to a house right there on the corner of the street. Go up and knock on the door. If they refuse you entrance, don't go in. But if they tell you to

An ih waak, ih waak, ih waak til ih si di
hows an ih nak pahn di doa. Soh now di laydi
weh deh eena di hows tel ahn "Kom een." ahn
ih gaan een.

Di laydi aks ahn, "Humoch bred yu
eet?"

Ih tel di laydi,
"Ah ku eet aal." Soh ih
eet aal a di bred, ahn
ih noh lef non fi di
laydi.



Den di laydi aks ahn, "Weh kain a bed
yu sleep pahn?"

enter, go on in."

*So the boy walked for a long time and then he
saw the house. When he knocked on the door, the
lady who was in the house said, "Come in." So he
entered the house.*

*The lady asked him, "How much bread do you
eat."*

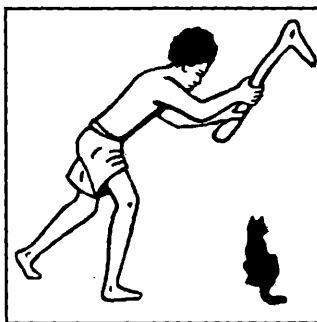
*He said, "I'll eat all there is." So he ate up all
the bread that was in the house and left none for the
lady.*

*The lady then asked, "What kind of bed do you
sleep on?"*

Ih seh, "Ah sleep pahn dobl machris."
Soh ih tek di laydi bed, ahn di poa laydi gah
notn fi sleep pan.

Den di laydi tel ahn, "Twelv aklak
tinait yu wahn si wahn blak pus kohn rong
ya, Wen yu si ahn, brok ih bak."

Soh di blak pus kohn twelv aklak di
nait an ih pik op wahn
pees a stik an ih brok
di kyat bak.



Den di laydi
tel ahn, "Goh, ahn yu
wahn si wahn red botn ahn wahn blak botn."

*He said, "I sleep on a double mattress." So
he took the lady's bed and the poor lady had nothing
to sleep on.*

*Then the lady told him, "At twelve o'clock
tonight, a black cat will come around here. When you
see it, break its back."*

*When the black cat appeared at twelve
o'clock, the boy picked up a stick and broke its back.*

*Then the lady said, "Go on your way and you
will see a red button and a black one."*

Soh di lee bwai gaan. Bot den ih ton
bak, ahn ih aks di laydi bowt aal di priti ting
dehn weh ih breda mi get.

Di laydi seh, "Oo, da yu breda?" Soh
ih bring owt sohn tenis.

Ih aks ahn, "Humoch tenis yu waahn?"

Di lee bwai seh, "Aal!"

Den di laydi gaahn bring owt pants.

Ih aks ahn, "Humoch pants yu waahn?"

Di lee bwai seh, "Ai waahn aal!"

Di laydi bring shot.

"Aal!"

*So the boy started on his way, but then he
turned back and asked the lady about all the pretty
things that his brother had gotten.*

*The lady said, "Oh, was that your brother?"
And she brought out some tennis shoes.*

*She asked, "How many pairs of tennis shoes
do you want?"*

The boy said, "I want all that you have!"

*Then the lady brought out some pants. She
asked, "How many pairs of pants do you want?"*

The boy said, "All of them."

*The lady brought some shirts. The boy said
he wanted all of them.*

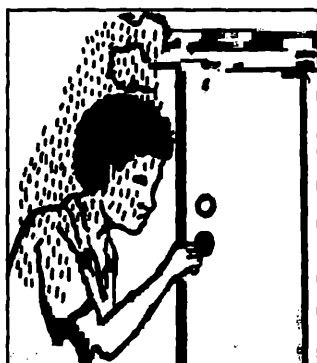
Ih bring hat.

"Aal!"

Soh now di laydi tel ahn, "Yu waak, yu waak, yu waak ahn yu wahn si wahn red botn ahn wahn blak botn. Push di blak botn."

Soh ih waak, ih waak, ih waak, til ih si di red botn ahn di blak botn. Ih push di blak botn, ahn loan taar jrap pan ahn.

If di pin neva ben,
dis stoari wuda neva en.

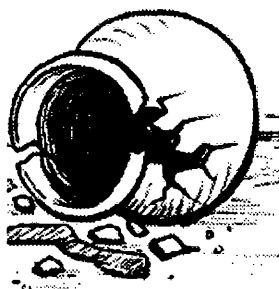


Then the lady brought out some hats. The boy said he wanted all of them.

Then the lady said, "You will walk a long time, and then you will see a red button and a black button. Push the black button."

He took off and went a long way, and then he saw the two buttons. He pushed the black one and tar fell all over him.

If the pin had never bent, this story would never have ended.



Di Stoari A Mi Laif

by Dorita Usher

Ah waahn tel unu weh mi hapm eena
mi laif wen mi pa lef wi. Ih mi oanli hert. Mi
ma mi divastaytid. Shee brok op aal di tingz
weh wi mi oan eena wi hows, an ih tayr op
aal di pikcha weh ih mi hav a mi pa.

Wen mi pa reech da Stayts ih sen wi
too honjrid dalaz. Dat da-mi it. Ah tink ih

The Story of My Life

*I want to tell you about what happened in my
life when my father left us. It was very painful. My
mother was devastated. She broke up everything we
owned in our house, and she tore up all the pictures
that she had of my father.*

*When my father reached the States, he
sent us two hundred dollars. That was it. I think he*

figet aal bowt wi, kaa ih neva sen notn els
agen.

Wi liv eena Bileez fi sebm yaaz, ahn
den wi moov da Tee
Ketl, ahn wi gaahn liv
wid mi aanti fi sebm
yaaz. Ah gaahn da
skool ahn da skool mi
nais, yu noa. Da mi
fon. Bot mi ma oanli werk haad. Ih mi di plat
baaskit titai fi main wi.



Afta wahn wail mi ma staat tu faal
apaat, ahn mi aanti begin tu hav prablem.
Ahn soh mi ahn mi ma moov owt a mi aanti

*forgot all about us, because he never sent us any-
thing else.*

*We lived in Belize City for seven years, and
then we moved to Tea Kettle and lived with my aunt
for seven years. I went to school, and it was a nice
school. I had fun there. But my mother worked very
hard, weaving baskets so that she could support us.*

*After a while my mother started to fall
apart, and my aunt began to have problems. So we*

hows, ahn wi gaahn liv da mi onkl hows pahn
mi pa said.

Afta dat wi moov, ahn wi moov, ahn wi
moov, til fainali wi gaahn bak gaahn liv da
Bileez. Wen wi moov da Bileez wi gaahn liv
da wahn neks aanti hows. Mi ma staat tu
schrogl haad fi wi,
bot ih kudn mek it.
Soh ih sen mi dong
da Gaylz Paint fi
goh liv wid mi grani.
Wi gaahn da skool
dong ya, ahn skool
mi oanli nais.



*moved out of my aunt's house, and went to live in my
uncle's house on my father's side.*

*After that, we moved many times until we
finally went back to Belize City. There we lived in
another aunt's house. My mother began to struggle
hard to support us, but she couldn't make ends meet,
so she sent me down to Gales Point to live with my
grandma. We went to school here and school was
very enjoyable.*

Mi grani ded wahn yaa abak. Ih da-mi wahn nais laydi. Wi liv deh wid ahn fi bowt wahn yaa, ahn den wi staat tu gah prablem sayk a wan a wi kozn. Soh mi ma moov da Gaylz Paint, ahn wi liv eena wahn lee hows pahn wahn bak schreet. Wi liv deh fi bowt chree yaaz.

Afta dat mi ma meet mi stepfaada, ahn den tingz staat tu gaahn bad. Mi stepfaada neva laik mi. Ih staat tu chreet mi bad, soh Ah mi hav tu kom owt a di hows ahn gaahn liv pahn mi oan. Dat mi haad fi mi.

My grandma died a year ago. She was a nice lady. We lived there with her for about one year, and then we began to have problems because of one of my cousins. So my mother moved to Gales Point, and we lived in a little house on a back street for about three years.

After that, my mother met my stepfather, and then things began to get bad. My stepfather never liked me. He began to treat me badly, so I had to leave the house and go live on my own. That was hard for me. I was angry and sad, because I felt

Ah mi beks an Ah feel sad, kaa Ah feel laik
Ah neva hav notn eena mi laif. Aal weh Ah
mi ga da-mi mi kloaz dehn.

Den Ah meet
mi fren weh nayhn
Karol, ahn shee mi
nais. Shee stil nais tu
mi. Ah sidong wid ahn
wahn lat da nait, an
Ah krai ahn krai ahn



krai, bikaaz Ah mi neva tink mi laif mi wahn
ton owt tu bee dat bad. If mi pa mi stil deh
wid mi ma, Ah tink mi laif mi wahn bee moch
beta.

*like I had never had anything in my life. All I had
were my clothes.*

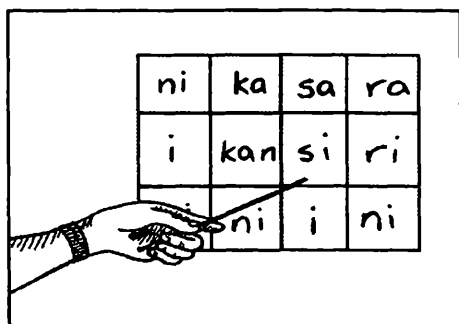
*Then I met a friend whose name was Carol.
She was nice and still is nice to me. I sat with her a
lot in the night, and I cried and cried because I
never thought my life would turn out so badly. If my
father were still with my mother, I think my life
would have been much better.*

Wen Ah mi faiv yaaz oal, Ah ku
rimemba mi ma ahn mi pa mi liv hapi tugeda.
Bot bowt too yaaz layta dehn staat tu ga
problem. Dat da-mi oanli sad. Ah wish mi pa
neva lef mi ma.

Mi pa gaahn fi fifteen yaaz an ih neva
rait wi. Ih neva eevn kaal wi, ahn dat mek
Ah feel bad bad bad. Ah hoap dat wen Ah
ga pikni, mee ahn mi hozban wahn stay
tugeda.

*When I was five years old, I can remember
that my mother and father lived happily to-
gether. But about two years later, they began having
problems. That was really sad. I wish my father had
never left my mother.*

*My father has been gone now for fifteen
years and he has never written to us. He has never
even called us on the telephone, and that makes me
feel really bad. I hope that when I get children, my
husband and I will stay together.*



Bang Huki

bai Myrna Manzanares

Yu noa fahn Ai small, Ah doz
aalwayz bang huki fahn skool. Ah tink da
dats wai Ah aalwayz di geh lang wid pikni
tudeh day. Ah noa how pikni laik fi gi
chrobl, bikaaz Ah yoostu gi wahn lat a
chrobl miself.

Ah tink Ah mi yoostu giv chrobl kaaz
skool mi oanli boarin. Eena dehn taim deh, di

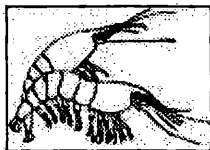
Playing Hooky

*From the time I was a small child, I always
played hooky while I was at school. I think that is
why I get along so well with children today. I know
how children like to give trouble, because I used to
give a lot of trouble myself.*

*I think the reason why I did so was because
school was so boring. In those days, teachers used*

teechaz dehn yoostu teech aal a wi di sayhn way. Dehn neva tink dat pikni di laan eena difrant wayz. Ahn meni taim di ting weh dehn gah pahn di blakboad ahn soh, mee mi don noa di stof dehn aredi, soh ih mi boarin yu noa. Soh sohntaim Ah wuda jos noh goh da skool. Ah mi lov tu bang huki.

Ah mi ga wahn fayvrit way fi bang huki. Ah doz ga wahn lee milk pan, ahn sohntaihn Ah teef mi grani ginisayn. Ah yooz it fi kech schrimps. Soh Ah doz tek mi



jres ahn stik it op eena mi panti, an Ah goh

to teach all of us in the same way. They never realized that children learn in different ways. Many times I already knew the things that were written on the blackboard, so the lessons were boring to me. As a result, I didn't go to school; I loved to play hooky.

I had a favorite thing that I liked to do when I played hooky. I had a little milk pan, and sometimes I would take my granny's little seine net. I would use in to catch shrimps. I would tuck my dress into my panties and go into the water close to

eena di waata lang di waatasaid, an Ah doz
kech di lee san schrimps dehn, an Ah put
dehn eena mi lee milkpan a waata.

Den Ah mi gah wahn pees a stik wid
sohn chred rap rong it, an Ah tek mi buk
huk an Ah tai it op
pan it. Dat da mi
huk fi kech di lee
fish. Den Ah wuda
kech mi fish dehn.
Ah mi aalwayz gah



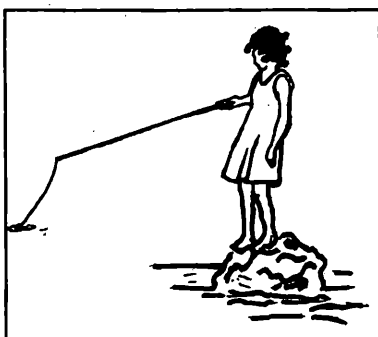
sohnting shaap fi kot oapm di beli, ahn mee
bail ahn rait deh. Mee noh goh da skool.
Wen lonch taim kohn, mee jos bail mi fish.

*the side of the lagoon. There I would catch little
sand shrimp and put them in my milk pan of water.*

*I also had a stick with some thread wrapped
around it. I would take a staple from my book, tie it
to the string, and bend it into a hook for catching
little fish. I always had something sharp with me to
clean the fish, and I would clean and boil them right
there. I wouldn't go back to school; when lunchtime
came, I would just cook my own fish. No one knew*

Nobadi noh noa
seh Ah noh gaan
da skool eksef fi
di teechea.

Wahn neks
ting, mee mi lov



aal a di froot dehn weh mi kom eena seezn:
mengo, see grayp, kashu. Ah di tel yu, bak
den yu noh hafu eet dina. Mi wuda eet di
froot dehn, ahn wen Ah kech mi fish, Ah jos
bail ahn an eet ahn mee wan. Nobadi noh
noa. Ah neva doz ga wahn lat a fren; Ah jos
geh eena chrobl bai miself.

*that I hadn't gone to school, except for the
teacher.*

*Another thing was that I just loved the
fruit which would come into season: mango's, sea
grapes, and cashews. I tell you, back then you didn't
have to eat dinner! I would eat the different kinds
of fruit, and when I caught my little fish, I would
boil them and eat them all by myself. No one knew
about what I was doing. I never did have a lot of
friends, so I just got into trouble by myself.*

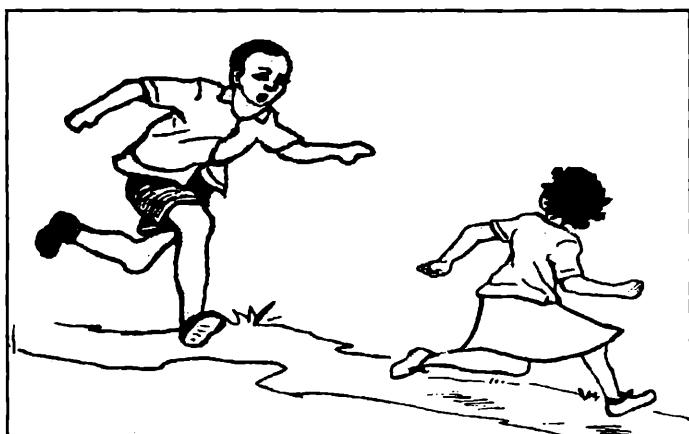
Ah jos kuda rimemba waakin fahn
 wan en a di vilij tu di neks di du lee tingz. Ahn
 wen Ah don reech skool, da nayli di
 aftanoon, yu noa. Wen Ah geh hoahn, mai ma
 noh noa notn. Bot eena dehndeh taim, di vilij
 mi smaal, soh ih
 noh wahn tek lang
 fi dehn fain owt
 seh dat mee noh
 mi-di goh da skool.
 Ahn di teeche
 wahn bong fi tel
 dehn tu.



Ah ku neva figit di day wen di teeche

I can remember walking from one end of the village to the other doing my little things. By the time I reached school, it was almost afternoon, and when I got home, my mother didn't know anything about it. But in those days, the village was small, and it wouldn't take long before it was discovered that I wasn't going to school. Besides that, my teacher was bound to tell people.

I can never forget the day when the teacher

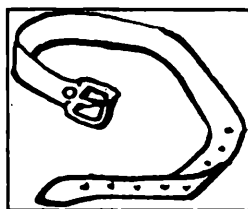


kohn di taak schupidnis wai mee noh kohn da
skool er sohnting. Ahn yu noa mee ga mowt,
soh mee aalwayz ga sohnting fi seh. Soh
dehn wahn kohn chrai lash mi. Wel mee ahn
lashin neva gree. Mi neva laik lashin. An
bifoa yu lash mi, yu hafu kech mi. Soh di
teecha doz laik sen di big bwai dehn fi kech
mi. Ah rimemba wen dehn kech mi ahn di

*began to say stupid things about why I didn't go to
school. Well, I have a smart mouth and I always had
something to say, so they would try to lash me. Well,
lashing and I never were in agreement! I never did
like to be lashed, and before you lashed me, you had
to catch me. So the teacher would send the big boys
to catch me. I remember that when they caught me,*

teecha chrai lash mi. Wel mait az wel shee
 mi chrai lash taiga, bikaaz wen Ah grab
 shee noh, da ih kloaz weh Ah di luk fi haal
 aaf a ahn.

Wel, dehn gaahn
 gaahn tel mi ma how mee
 di fait di teeche eena



skool. Di neks ting Ah noa, mi ma deh rait
 deh. Ahn wan a di moas homblin ting yu kuda
 eva get da wen yu payrent tek yu front a di
 hoal skool ahn lash yu. Wel, dat da weh kech
 mee da day. Mi ma grab mi front a di hoal
 skool an ih lash mi, bikaaz a di way how Ah

*the teacher tried to lash me. Well, she may as well
 have tried to lash a tiger, because when I grabbed
 her I tried to pull off her clothes.*

*Anyway, they went and told my mother
 about how I fought the teacher in school. The next
 thing I knew, my mother was right there! One of the
 most humbling things that could ever happen to you
 was for your parent to lash you in front of the whole
 school. Well, that is exactly what happened to me
 that day. My mother grabbed me and lashed me in
 front of the whole school because of the way I had*

mi gaan aan wid di teeche. Ah neva figit
dat, kaa da front a aal a mi fren dehn.

Eena dehn dayz deh, Ah ges dehn
neva noa di bes way fi disiplin dehn pikni,
soh da lashin yu wahn get. An Ah seh, mee
wuda neva du dat tu mai pikni ataal ataal
ataal ataal.

Ah ges mee da-mi wan pikni weh dehn
neva noa fi disiplin, bikaaz Ai yoostu gi lat a
lat a lat a chrobl, kaa Ah mi gat lat a lat a
lat a mowt. An Ah stil gat am tideh day!

*treated the teacher. I have never forgotten that,
because it was in front of all my friends.*

*In those days I guess people didn't know the
best ways to discipline their children, so they would
lash them. One thing for sure, I will never do that to
my own children. Never!.*

*I guess I was one child whom people never
knew how to discipline. I used to give a whole lot of
trouble because I had a sassy mouth -- and I still
have it today!*

Grampa Saami

bai Ronald Williams

Wen Ah mi yong Ah yoostu du wahn
lat a ting wid mi Grampa Saami. Ih mi laik
gi mi lee stoari wen mee ahn hihn di sidong
said a ih bed. Mi ma mi gat ayt pikni, bot
non a dehn goh sleep wid mi grampa, oanli
mee.

Da taim deh wi mi ga swet rais. Wi
neva yoostu bai rais. Soh ih wuda seh,
"Bwai," ih seh, "klaim op pahn di bed ahn luk

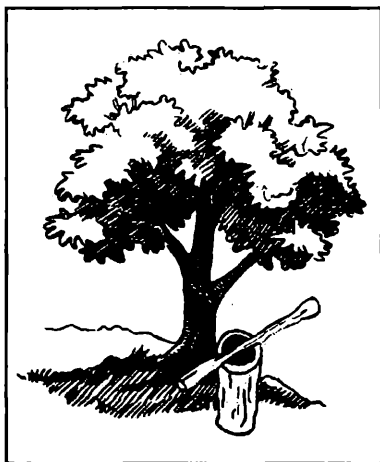
Grandpa Sammy

*When I was young, I used to do a lot of
things with my grandpa. Grandpa Sammy liked to
tell me little stories as we sat down together by his
bed. My mother had eight children, but I was the
only one who would go and sleep with my
grandfather.*

*In those days we had green parboiled rice.
We never used to buy rice. Grandfather would say,
"Son, climb up on the bed and look over the partition*

oava di paataaf ahn tek dong wahn sak a
rais mek wi goh beet."

Ahn wen Ah geh di sak a rais, wi
gaahn da wahn
mengo chree weh
wahn maata mi
deh. Mi Grampa
Saami noh waak
soh gud bikaah ih
gah payn eena ih
nee, bot ih oanli



schrang eena ih han. Ahn hihn wuda kohn,
ahn hihn wahn beet da rais.

Ahn wen ih di beet di rais, sohntaim
Ah waahn tel ahn, "Stap beet!" bikaaz ih mi

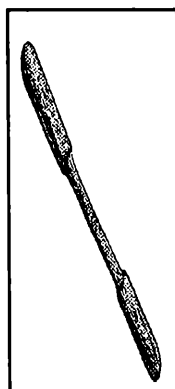
and takedown a sack of rice for us to pound."

*When I got the sack of rice, we would go to
a mango tree where a mortar was kept. My grand-
father couldn't walk so well because his knees hurt
him, but his arms were really strong. He would come
and pound the rice.*

Sometimes when he was pounding the rice I

bowt semti yaaz. Ah mi waahn
seh, "Stap beet, Grampa!"

Bot ih wuda seh, "Kom
aan, man! Aii chiwawa!" Den ih
wuda seh, "Goh luk eena di room
ahn yu wahn si too maata stik.



Feel wich wan a dehn laita, ahn bring ahn."

An Ah bring di lee wan weh lait, soh Ah
ku beet wid hihn said tu said. Adawaiz Ah
kyaahn beet wid mi grampa ataal. Ah beet laik
wahn honjrid aad pong bap bap, den Ah kool
aaf. Ahn hihn deh rait deh di swing too honjrid

*wanted to tell him: "Stop pounding!" because he was
about seventy years old. I wanted to say, "Stop,
pounding, Grandpa!"*

But he would say, "Come on, man! Ai chiwawa!"

*Then he would say, "Go look in the room and you
will see two pestles. Feel which one of them is the
lightest and bring it here."*

*And I would go and get a little one which wasn't
heavy, so that I could beat rice alongside of him.*

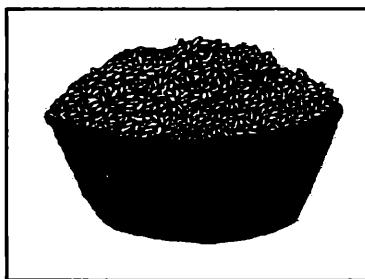
*Otherwise I couldn't beat rice with him at all. I would
beat about a hundred strokes and then I would cool
off. And there he was swinging his pestle left and*

lef ahn rait bap bap bap!

An wen Ah luk, Ah si ih di fan owt di
rais fi get aal di shel dehn owt a it. Ahn wen
ih don beet, yu kyaahn fain noa pikinz.

Evriting don kom owt a it.

Den ih wuda put it eena wahn big
mahagni bowl weh oala dan mee, maybi fahn
fi hihn grani. Ai
sayv it, kaa wen
yu skrayp it wid
wahn masheet, ih
ton red red. Dat



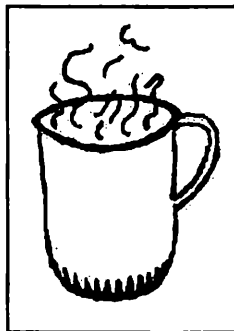
da di kain a bowl weh evribadi yoostu gah
eena dehn hows.

right, two hundred times without stopping!

*Before I knew it, I would see him winnowing
the rice to get all the chaff out of it. When he was
finished, there was no chaff in it at all.*

*Then he would put the rice in a big mahogany
bowl which was older than I was. Maybe it came
from his granny. I saved it, because when you scrape
it with a machete, it turns very red. That was the
kind of bowl everyone used to have in their house.*

Mi grampa da-mi wahn man weh
 yoostu ga wahn lat a enerji. Ih neva taiyad.
 Evri maanin ih ga sohnting weh dehn kaal
 feeva graas, soh ih bail it da
 maanin taim. Ahn wen ih put
 feeva graas eena ih kop, yu
 si smoak di kom owt a it.
 Ahn di lee bit weh ih lef fi
 mee Ah kuda neva jrink
 dong, kaa ih bon mi mowt.



Ah mi aalwayz deh rong mi grampa.
 Wen ih di eet wahn janikayk, ih brok pees
 ahn gi mi. Ahn wi aalwayz di play gaym: aal

My grandfather was a man who had a lot of energy. He was never tired. He had something called "fever grass" and every morning he would boil it. When he poured out the fever grass tea, you would see steam coming from his cup. Even the little bit which he left for me was so hot I couldn't drink it, because it would burn my mouth.

I was always around my grandfather. When he ate a johnny cake, he would break off a piece and give it to me. And we always played games: all fours

foaz, ahn pitipat. Wi play fi kashu seed, kaa
hihn ga wahn lat a kashu. If Ah win, wi wahn
roas; if hihn win, wi wahn roas.

Dat da di way how Grampa Saami liv.

Ah glad dat Ah mi noa ahn az mai grampa.



*and pittypat. We would play for cashew seeds,
because he had a lot of cashew trees. If I won, we
would roast the seeds; if he won, we would also roast
them.*

*That is the way Granpa Sammy lived. I'm
glad that I knew him as my grandfather.*

Foolfool Jani
By Iris Abraham

Dehn yoostu kaal mi "Foolfool Jani."

Wen Ah mi-di goh da skool, Ah mi laik
wen skool geh haliday eena di soma. Yu si, mi
yoostu goh wid fi mi grani owt a plantayshan,
an Ah yoostu laik dat. Bikaaz wen di son geh tu
hat, ih sen mi goh sidong anda di gayvlin a di
hows. Bwai, yu noa weh mi yoostu du? Mee
yoostu laik goh play wid fu mee lee fren dehn
weh Ah mek op eena mi hed. Mee yoostu laik
dat, bikaaz Ah rait di poem dehn weh dehn tel
mi fi rait eena mi hed, an Ah risait dehn tu.

Fool-fool Jani

I used to be called "Fool fool Jani."

*When I was going to school, I used to enjoy the
summer holidays. You see, I would go with my granny to
the planting field, and I enjoyed that. When the sun
got too hot, she would send me to sit under the eaves
of the house. What do you think I would do? Well, I
used to enjoy playing with my little friends whom I
made up inside my head. I would write and recite the*



Ah aalso rait daiyalag, an Ah ak ahn owt tu.

Bot man, wen Ah geh bak da di vilij
da mi sompm els, bikaaz fi mee fren dehn
weh di goh da skool wid mi neva laik dat
ataal. Dehn seh Ah tink Ah beta dan dehn.
Bot da noh dat. Mee feel beta weh Ah di
play wid di lee wan dehn weh Ah mek op

*poems they would tell me to write, and I would also
write dialogues and act them out.*

*But when I got back to the village, that was
another matter. My friends who went to school with
me didn't like what I did at all. They said I thought
I was better than they were. But that wasn't it. It
was just that I felt better playing with my little
imaginary friends.*

eena mi hed.

Yu si, Ah mi neva laik kompni, an Ah mi aalwayz laik fi deh bai miself. Eniway, wid fi mi lee fren dehn Ah ku laaf, Ah ku joak, ahn nobadi geh beks.

Ahn wahn neks ting, Ah mi yoostu laik oal pipl. Enitaim dehn kaal mi, Ah ron goh da dehn. Enitaim dehn aks mi fi du sohnting fi dehn, mi gwehn. Wen dehn pramis fi pay mi wen Ah du sohnting fi dehn, Ah neva wuda tek dehn moni. Bot gyal, if dehn gi mi wahn pees a pitayto pong, eevn wahn powda bon, dat Ah gwehn tek! Bot Ah ku neva tek moni

You see, I was someone who didn't enjoy people around me; I always liked to be by myself. With my imaginary friends, I could laugh and joke, and no one would get annoyed.

Another thing was that I used to enjoy older people. Whenever they would call me, I would run to them. When they asked me to do something for them, I would do it. When they promised to pay me, I would never take their money. But if they gave me a piece of sweet potato cake, or a powder bun - that was another matter! I would take those. But I could

fahn no oal pipl, soh di pikni dehn seh Ah da wahn fool.

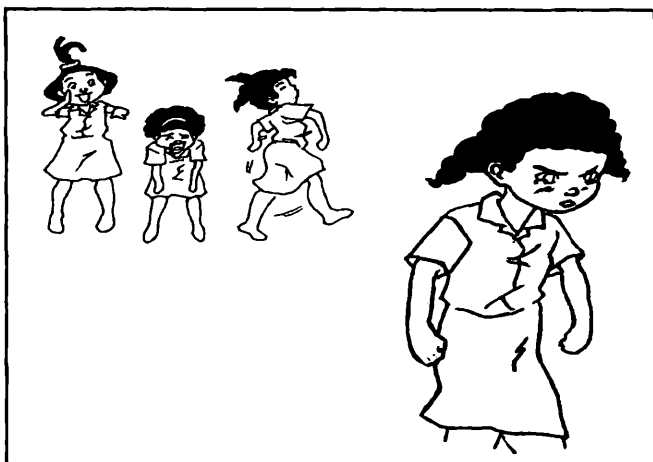
Wan day dehn yehr wen Mis Sayra pramis fi pay mi fi mek op ih bed, sweep owt ih hows, ahn wash ih doti playt an ih pat dehn. Wel, Ah du aal a dehn ting weh shee aks mi fi du, ahn wen ih staat tu pay mi Ah wudn tek ih moni.

Wel, wen di gyal dehn si dat, sohn a dehn seh mee da wahn fool fi noh tek Mis Sayra moni afta Ah du aal a dehn ting. Bot yu noa, shee mi oal laik fi mee graani ahn maybi eevn oala tu. Ah kudn tek ih moni!

never take money from old people, and that is why my friends said I was a fool.

One day they heard Miss Sarah promise to pay me if I would make her bed, sweep out her house, and wash her dirty dishes and pots. Well, I did everything she asked me to do, but when she started to pay me, I refused to take the money.

When the girls saw that, some of them said I was a fool for not taking Miss Sarah's money after I had done all those things for her. But, you know, she was old like my grandma and she may have been even older. I couldn't take her money!



Wel, di gyal dehn geh beks, ahn sohn
a dehn geh bihain mi ahn staat tu sing ahn
daans. Dehn di seh "Fool fool Jani, fool fool
Jani," oava ahn oava til Ah feel chupid
chupid. Ah staat tu ron an Ah di baal. Ah di
krai til Ah reech da mi Onkl Saami hows.

Wen Ah mek ih noa weh di goh aan, ih
luk pahn mi schrayt eena mi aiy an ih noh di

*Well, the girls got angry. Some of them got
behind me and started to sing and dance. They were
saying, "Fool fool Jani, fool fool Jani!" over and over.
It made me feel very stupid and I ran away crying. I
kept crying until I reached Uncle Sammy's house.*

*When I told him what was happening, he
looked me straight in the eye and didn't blink. I*

blink. An Ah mi wach ahn bak, bot Ah di
krai. Mi aiy waata di ron.

An ih seh, "Mi lee nees, Ah gwehn tel
yu sohnting, an Ah waahn yu fi lisn gud gud
gud. Noh kay weh enibadi tel yu wen yoo noa
yu di du sohnting rait. Yoo kip aan, ahn yoo
du am. Bikaaz yoo wahn aalwayz bee wahn
fool fi di fool dehn. Dehn da di 'Fool Fool
Jani,' bot yoo wahn bee waiz tu di waizis a
man."

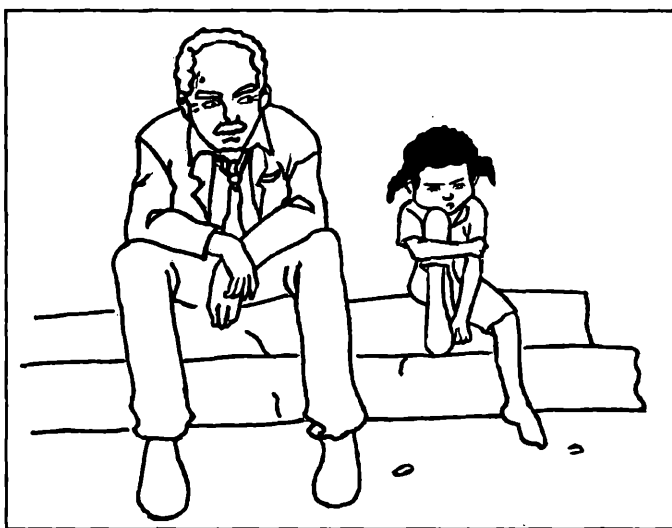
Fahn datideh day, mi tek da advais
ahn mek ahn eena wahn stepin stoan fi mi
laif.

*looked at him, too, but tears was running down my
cheeks.*

*Then he said, "My little niece, let me tell you
something and I want you to listen well. Don't worry
about what people say when you are doing something
right. Keep on doing it. Fools will consider you a
fool. But they are the "Fool Fool Jani's," and you will
be considered wise by the wisest of men."*

*From that day on, I have taken that advice
and have made it a stepping stone for my life.*

Soh mee di gi yu di sayhn advais weh
fi mi Onkl Saami gi mi. Memba now: "Don't
worry about what people say when you are
doing something right. Fools will consider
you a fool, but you will be considered wise
by the wisest of men."



*So I am giving you the same advice that my
Uncle Sammy gave me. Remember now: "Don't worry
what people say when you are doing something right.
Fools will consider you a fool, but you will be consid-
ered wise by the wisest of men."*

Wen Ah Gaan da Haaspitaal

by Eastelline Williams

Ah memba wen Ah mi geh mi nee
frakchaad wid mi kichin doa. Ah mi-di kom
owt ahn Ah shub di doa, ahn di doa kohn
rait bak ahn nak mi. Ah neva tink da ting mi
soh bad, yu noa, kaa dat mi hapm di maanin
ahn Ah werk di res a di day. Ah neva sidong
aal day. Bot rong chree aklak Ah feel mi nee
staat tu grab mi. Layta aan eena di eevnin ih
staat tu payn mi bad.

Afta dat wen Ah deh op eena mi bed,
Ah staat tu baal. Soh dehn kaal mi kozn

When I Went to the Hospital

*I remember when my knee got fractured by
my kitchen door. I was coming out of the kitchen
and I shoved the door, and it came right back and
hit me. I didn't think it was so bad, because that
happened in the morning and I worked for the rest
of the day. I never sat down once. But around three
o'clock it began to give trouble, and by evening it
was really hurting.*

*After I had gone to bed, it hurt so badly
that I began to cry aloud. My cousin Bernice was*

Bernis, ahn shee rob it
dong wid sohn medisn. Bot
dat noh help ataal. Ah
baal til maanin kohn.



Da maanin mi breda
Aivan aks too man fi kehr
mi da Bileez eena wahn
doari. Wahn yong laydi weh nayhn Karin gaahn
wid mi. Shee mi soh kain, shee krai an aal lang
wid mi til wi reech da Bileez.

Wen wi geh da Boaltan Brij, dehn geh
wahn taksi. Ah kyaahn moov ataal. Foa pipl hafu
tek mi owt a di doari, kaa den wi yoostu goh
eena dehn big big doari. Too a dehn mi hafu

called, and she massaged it with some ointment. However, that didn't help at all; I cried until morning.

That morning, my brother Ivan asked two men to take me to Belize City by dory. A young lady named Karen went with us. She was so kind; she cried along with me all the way to Belize.

When we arrived at the Bolton Bridge, a taxi was called. I couldn't move at all. Four people had to take me out of the dory (In those days we had large dories which carried many people). Two people had to

hoal mi fut, bikaaz if ih goh dong loa ih hert
mi, an if Ah raiz ahn op ih hert mi. Dehn mi
hafu kip it still.

Bai di taim di taksi reech da
haaspital, Ah feel laik Ah neva eena dis
werl. Ah neva feel payn laik dat. Dehn kehr
wahn wheelchya da di taksi, ahn dehn put mi
een deh. Ahn wen dehn kehr mi een fi put
mi pahn di bed, den Ah staat tu baal haad
haad, kaaz Ah kyaahn bayr di payn.

Afta dat dehn put mi fut eena kyaas,
ahn dehn put wahn boad pahn di machris,
soh Ah ku kip ahn eena wan plays. Ahn da

*hold my leg, because if it were lowered or raised it
hurt worse, so they had to keep it still.*

*By the time we got to the hospital, I felt
like I wasn't in this world anymore. I had never been
in so much pain. A wheelchair was brought to the
taxi and I was put in it. When they lifted me to put
me on the bed I began to really cry again, because I
couldn't stand the pain.*

*My foot was then set in a cast, and a board
was put on the mattress to keep my leg from moving.*



ting staat tu payn mi. Soh dehn tek wahn
ekschray, ahn dehn seh ih mi hav floowid
eena it. Dehn geh wahn batl ful op a loan
floowid fahn it.

Soh di dakta seh, "Yu noa weh hapm?
If yu mi wayt langa, dehn wuda mi hafu
aparayt pahn yu, bikaaz ih mi wahn geh blod
paizn."

*But then it began to hurt again. An exray was taken
and they found a lot of fluid — in fact they took a
whole bottle of fluid from my leg.*

*The doctor told me, "If you had waited any
longer, you would have had to have an operation,
because blood poisoning would have set in."*

Ah mi deh eena haaspital deh mosi
nayli tu mons. Wen Ah kom owt ahn gaahn
hoahn, Ah mi stil kudn waak pahn mi fut, kaa
ih mi stil swel. Mi Aanti May geh wahn laydi
ahn shee kohn evri maanin fi kohn naint it,
ahn bayd it dong wid sohn waam waata ahn
saal. Ahn dat da weh help mi. Now Ah ku
waak pan it, bot Ah stil ga chrobl wid mi nee
wen it rayn.

Dat da weh hapm tu mi wen Ah shub
di doa, ahn di doa kohn bak ahn nak mi nee.

*I was in the hospital for almost two months.
When I went home I still couldn't walk because my
leg was still swollen. My Aunt May had a lady come
every morning to massage it with oil, and she bathed
it with warm water and salt. That is what helped
me.*

*Now I can walk, but I still have trouble with
my knee when it rains.*

*That is what happened to me when I shoved
the door and it swung back and hit my knee.*



Yu mi reed di ada buk dehn eena Kriol?

Anansi Ton Wahn Oal Man

Anansi ahn di Domplin Chree

Layzi Saiman

Faiyaants Teech Kakroach Wahn Lesn

Wai Nani Goat Tayl Kungku

Stoariz frahn Crooked Tree Vilij

Sohn Stoari fahn Gaylz Paint (Malanti), paat 1

Wen Wi Mi-di Groa Op

**Di Chree Chreez Dehn (wahn lee Krismos
stoari)**

Ada Kriol tingz:

**You Can Read and Write Kriol
(wahn buk fi help yu laan fi reed
ahn rait Kriol)**

Chravel Buk eena Kriol ahn English

Di Birt a Jeezas (tayp ahn lee buk)