



Wen Wi Mi-di
Groa Op
(When we were growing up)

Sohn chroo stoariz bai
Lorna Wade ahn
Pamela Dyer

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Table of Contents

Lorna Wade: Hongri Beli

(Hungry Stomach) p. 1

Pamela Dyer: Di Lee Gyal Weh Ron Weh

(The Little Girl Who Ran Away p. 20

Lorna Wade: Wen Ah Laas Mi Ma

(When I Lost My Mother) p. 48

Note: 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.

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’ as in ‘jrink’

Hongri Beli
bai Lorna Wade

Wel dis da sohnting weh hapm to mee wen
Ah mi smaal. Ai da di twelv pikni fi mai ma. Mai
ma ga terteen a wi. Shee da-mi laik wahn singl
payrent. Wan er too a di man dehn wuda gi ahn
sohnting fi di pikni dehn. Bot mai pa hihn, fahn di
taim hihn hav wi, hihn disaid dat wi noh bilanz tu
hihn, wi bilanz tu wi ma. Soh hihn noh gi wi notn.

Eena dehn taim deh, wi yoostu ga tingz
haad. Mi ma yoostu mek janikayk erli da maanin

Hungry Stomach

This is something that happened to me when I was small. I was my mother's twelfth child; she had thirteen of us. She was like a single parent. One or two of the fathers would give her something for their children, but from the time we were born, my father decided that we didn't belong to him, we belonged to my mother, so he didn't give us anything.

In those days things were difficult for us. My mother would make johnnycakes [baking powder biscuits]

ahn mek wi goh sel. Afta dat, mi ma wahn bai
wi lee buk.

Dehndeh taim deh Ah mi ga wahn sista
weh mi ahn shee mi deh kloas. Weh Ai wayr,
shee wayr. Mi ma yoostu tek wahn
eksaersaiz buk, kot it eena too haaf, haaf fi
mi sista ahn haaf fi mee. Ih tek wan pensl, ih
brok ahn eena too haaf, haaf fi mi sista ahn
haaf fi mee, bot wi goh da skool.

Wi neva yoostu ga shooz. Dehn yoostu
ga wahn ting weh dehn kaal chachacha —
slipaz. Wel, wi skrob ahn eevnin taim, ahn wi
put ahn deh fi wi wayr da maanin. Wi fut

*early in the morning and send us to sell them. With
the money she would buy our exercise books.*

*At that time one of my sisters and I were
very close. Whatever I wore, she would wear. My
mother would take an exercise book, cut it in half, and
give one half to my sister and the other to me. She
would take a pencil, break it in two, and give one half
to my sister and the other to me. But in spite of all
that, we went to school.*

*We didn't have shoes to wear, so we wore rub-
ber slippers which we called "chachacha". We would
scrub them in the evening and put them aside to wear*



kleen, wi toanayl kleen.

Eena dehn taim deh, dehn yoostu ga
wahn ting weh dehn kaal flowabeg. Mi ma
wuda tek di flowabeg wen di flowa don kom
owt a it. Ih beet it, ahn wen ih beet it, ih
put ahn eena sohn kloaraks, ahn den da ting

in the morning. Our feet and toenails were clean.

In those days flour used to be sold in cloth bags. When the flour was used up, my mother would take the bag and beat it to get the flour out. She would put it in bleach until it was extremely white,

kohn wait wait wait wait wait. Afta dat, mi ma
staach ahn. Ih yoostu ga wahn han masheen,
an ih ron op sohn panti fi wi.

Dehndeh taim deh, wi neva ga korant,
kaa oanli big taim pipl yoostu gat ilekchrisiti.
Mi ma wuda tek di aiyan, put wan ahn too rad
tugeda, put di aiyan pahn di faiyahaat, ahn
aiyan wi kloaz. Wi luk neet wen wi goh da
skool, ahn wi smel gud. Eevn doh wi wyaa oal
kloaz, bot wi luk gud.

Wel, wen ih kohn tu feedin aal dehn
tirteen pikni, mi ma yoostu ga tingz haad.

*then she would starch it. After that she would get out
her hand sewing machine and run up some panties for
us.*

*In those days we didn't have electricity,
because only rich people had electricity. My mother
would put a few iron rods on the fire hearth and put
the iron on them to heat it, then she would iron our
clothes. We looked neat when we went to school and we
smelled good. Even though we wore old clothes, we
looked good.*

*When it came to feeding all thirteen of us chil-
dren, my mother used to have a hard time. At*



Sohn taim sohn fishaman wuda kom een.
Wahn lat a dehn noa mi ma, ahn wahn lat a
dehn wuda kredit janikayk. Soh dehn wuda
seh, "Mis Marva, wi noh sel aal dehn fish ya.
Yu ku yoos it?"

times some fishermen would come by. A lot of them knew my mother, because many of them had bought johnnycakes from her on credit. They would say, "Miss Marva, we didn't sell all of our fish; could you use what is left?"

Wel az weh Ah seh, wi da-mi
 tirteen pikni, plos chree moa fu mi aanti weh
 gaahn da Stayts, kaaz shee gaahn da Stayts
 ahn lef mi ma wid chree a fi shee pikni. Soh
 mai ma hafu si how wi eet. Sohn dayz da loan
 wait rais, bot wi tank Gaad fi it.

Sohn dayz wi wuda
 geh di fish. Wan a mi sista
 wahn geh di lee tayl, wan a
 di ada pikni wahn geh wahn
 lee paat. Ahn den mi ma



wahn tek di fish hed ahn ih wahn brok ahn
 eena too haaf, da wan deh geh pees, an Ai geh

Well, as I said, my mother had thirteen of her own children. She also had three other children to care for, because when my aunt went to the States she left three of her children with her. So Mother would have to find something for all of us to eat. Some days we ate rice with nothing on it, but we thanked God for what we had.

But some days we would get the fish. One of my sisters would get the little tail and another child would get another little part. My mother would take the fish head and break it in two pieces; one child

pees. Wi yoostu gah tingz haad, bot wi neva
yoostu goh da no nayba hows goh bayg, kaa
mi ma seh weh hapm eena di hows fi stay
eena di hows. Sohn dayz wi hongri. Wi wuda
wish fi goh bayg wahn nayba, bot wi wahn
geh wan tayrin noh, weh wi wudn sidong fi
weeks.

Sohn taim mi ma wuda seh, "Gyal, unu
noh gwehn da skool dis maanin," ih seh,
"bikaaz wi noh gah notn fi eet, ahn Ah noh
waahn unu goh jrap dong da skool."

Wel Ai wuda bigin tu krai, bikaa Ah

would get one piece and I would get the other. Yes, things were hard, but we would never go beg at any neighbor's house. My mother said that what happened in the house was to stay in the house. Some days we were hungry and wanted to go beg from a neighbor; but if we did, we would get such a whipping that we wouldn't be able to sit down for weeks.

At times my mother would say, "Girls, you aren't going to school this morning, because we don't have anything to eat. I don't want you to faint in school."

Well, I would begin to cry, because I always

aalwayz mi waahn goh da skool. Ai aalwayz mi waahn laan, bikaa Ah bileev if Ah mi laan Ah kuda mi mek wahn difrens. Ah kuda werk ahn help mi ma dat ih noh hav to goh chroo soh moch ting.

Mi ma yoostu bee wahn sikli persn. Ah bileev da mosi weh ih yoostu wori how ih wahn feed aal a wi, how ih wahn tek kayr a wi, how ih wahn sen aal a wi da skool. Ih yoostu ga wahn ting weh yu kaal presha. Ih yoostu ga haat prablem. Sohn taim noh, mi poa ma kyaahn eevn get op owt a di bed. Da di res a mi sista dehn wuda di help wi ahn soh.

wanted to go to school. I always wanted to learn; because I believed if I got an education, I could make a difference. I could work and help my mother so that she wouldn't have to go through so much.

My mother was a sickly person. I believe it was because she was worrying about how she would feed all of us, how she would take care of us, and how she could afford to send all of us to school. She had high blood pressure and heart problems. At times my poor mother couldn't even get out of bed, and the rest of my sisters had to help with us younger ones.



Ah bileev aal dehn tingz deh mek wi ma geh
sik. Maybi di man dehn weh ih mi lov,
dehn jos waak weh ahn lef ahn wid aal dehn
pikni. Bot eevn doa dat, wi hapi kaa wi mi ga
wi ma bai wi said.

*I believe all of those things made our
mother get sick. Maybe the men whom she loved
just walked away and left her with all those chil-
dren. But in spite of all of that, we were happy be-
cause we had our mother by our side.*

Ah hav wahn onkl, hihn yoostu werk
da aami kyamp. Wen hihn yoostu kohn, hihn
wuda bring dehn lee soada biskit ahn soh.
Dehndeh yoostu help wi, kaa sohn dayz notn
deh fi eet fu wi goh da skool.

Ah memba wahn taim mi ma tel mi,
"Lerna, noh goh da skool tudeh," ih seh,
"bikaa wi noh ga notn fi eet."

Wel, da-mi taim fi wi mek egzam, ahn
Ah mi waahn paas mi egzam. Soh Ah daaj
bihain mi ma bak, ahn Ah stil gaahn da skool.

Wen Ah reech da skool Ah bigin tu
feel dizi, bot Ah di du mi werk. Afta wahn

.....
" I had an uncle who worked in the army camp.
When he came to visit us he would bring little soda
biscuits, and that would help because some days we
had nothing to eat before going to school.

I remember one day my mother told me,
"Lorna, don't go to school today because we don't
have anything to eat."

Well it was time for my exams and I wanted
to pass, so I sneaked behind her and went anyway.

When I reached school, I began to feel
dizzy, but I kept on doing my work. After a while I

wail Ah bigin tu feel bad. Mi stomik bigin tu payn mi. Ah stil di rait, bot Ah leen pahn mi des.

Di teecha kohn bai mi. Ih seh, "Lerna, yu aarait?"



Ah seh, "Yes, Teecha." Ah seh it eena wahn kain a way mek ih tink notn rang wid mi.

Ih seh, "Bot Lerna, yu noh luk gud. Weh hapm tu yu?"

Ah seh, "Ah aarait, Teecha. Ah jos stay op di stodi. Ah noh geh inof sleep, bot

began to feel bad. My stomach began to hurt. I kept on writing but I was leaning on my desk.

The teacher came to me and asked, "Lorna, are you alright?"

I said, "Yes, Teacher." I said it in a lively way because I didn't want her to think anything was wrong with me.

She said, "But Lorna, you don't look good. What's the matter?"

I said, "I'm alright, Teacher. I just stayed up to study and I didn't get enough sleep. But I will

Ah wahn du yu hoamwerk. Noh wori, Teecha.

Ah wahn du mi werk."

Di teeche gaahn bak da di blakboard,
bot ih stil ga ih aiy pahn mi. Aal av a sodn
Ah jrap.

Ah noh noa weh hapm tu mi afta dat.
Wen Ah kohn tu, Ah si mi ma front a mi di
krai. Ah hyaa mi teeche di tel mi ma, "Lerna
shuda mi tel mi." Soh Ah seh, "Ma, weh yoo
di du ya?"

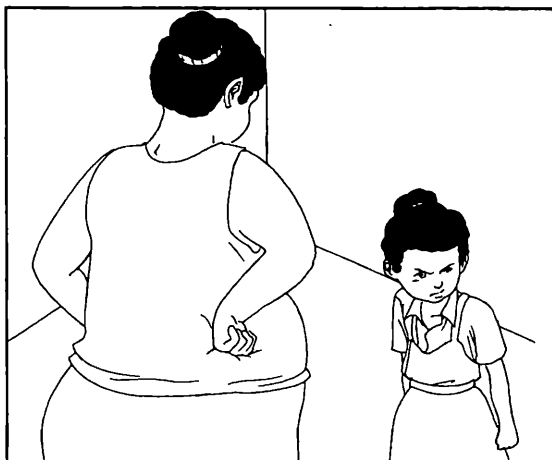
Ih seh, "Yu paas owt," ih seh. "Ah tel
yu neva kohn da skool."

*do your homework. Don't worry, Teacher. I'll do my
work."*

*The teacher went back to the blackboard,
but she still had her eye on me. All of a sudden, I
fainted.*

*I don't know what happened to me after
that. When I came to, I saw my mother in front of
me crying. I heard my teacher saying to my mother,
"Lorna should have told me."*

*I asked, "Mama, what are you doing here?"
She said, "You passed out. I told you not to
go to school today."*



Ahn da soh mi ma bigin tu eksplayn tu di teeche how wi sichyuayshan deh. Bikaaz az weh Ah tel yu, lat a tingz hapm eena wi faamili bot nobadi wuda noa weh wi di goh chroo, bikaaz wi ma aalwayz tel wi mek wi kip ahn eena di famili.

Soh mi ma eksplayn tu di teeche, ahn di teeche kehr mi da haaspital. Soh di dakta

Then she began to explain our situation to the teacher. She hadn't known about it because, as I've said, a lot of things happened in our family, but no one knew what we were going through because Mother always told us to keep it within the family.

After my mother explained our situation, the teacher took me to the hospital. The doctor

seh, "Evriting aarait. Ih jos need sohnting
waam pan ih stomik."

Soh di teeche kehr mi, ahn ih gi mi
wahn waam kop a milk. Ahn wen Ah jrink
ahn, Ah feel moch beta.

Afta dat di teeche eksplayn tu mi ma,



said, "There's nothing wrong with her. She just
needs somethig warm in her stomach."

So the teacher took me back and gave me a
cup of warm milk. After drinking it, I felt much
better.

Then the teacher said to Mother, "You don't

ih seh, "Yu noh haftu mek Lerna dehn kohn tel mi notn. Yu jos sen wahn pees a noat. Bot noh kip dehn weh fahn skool. Sen wahn pees a noat, ahn wi wahn si if wi ku provaid lee brekfas fi dehn. Bikaaz at lees if dehn geh wahn pees a powda bon ahn wahn kop a milk, dehn wahn bee aarait. Dehn wahn ku du di werk. Ahn yu noa wat? Lerna reeli di chrai."

Soh mi ma begin tu krai. Mi ma seh, "Bot teeche, Ah noh laik feel shaym. Ah noh laik nobadi piti mi, espeshali wid mi pikni dehn. Da noh bikaaz Ah hav praid, bot Ah

need to make Lorna and the other children tell me anything. Just send a little note with them. Don't keep them away from school. Send a note and we will see if we can give them a little breakfast. Even if they just get a piece of powder bun and a cup of milk, they would be all right and could do their work. And you know what? Lorna really does try to do well in school."

Then Mother began to cry. She said, "Teacher, I don't like to feel shame. I don't want anyone to pity me, especially about my children. It isn't that I'm proud, but I always do my best to take

aalwayz waahn chrai fi dehn."

Di teecha tel mi ma laik dis, "There is only so much you can do! Ahn yu da wan uman. Wen it kohn tu wan uman di tek kehr a terteen pikni plos chree moa, yu veri gud."

Soh mi ma gaahn hoahn.

Wel, Ah mi frayd. Ah mi frayd fi goh hoahn da eevnin, kaa di res a mi bredda dehn wahn seh, "Yu si? If yu neva gaahn da skool, nobadi neva mi wahn di noa wi bizniz." Soh now Ah frayd. Ah seh, "Ah noh waahn goh geh lashin."

care of them."

The teacher answered, "There is only so much you can do! You are only a woman and when it comes to taking care of thirteen children of your own as well as three other children, you do very well!"

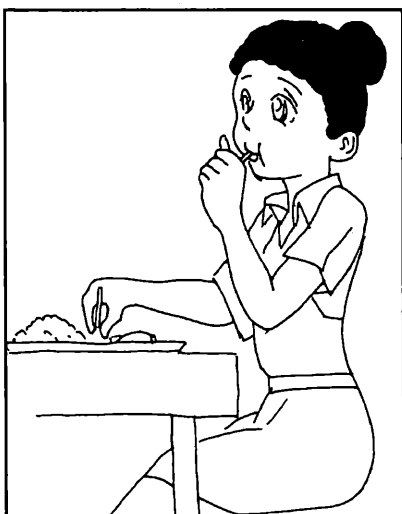
So Mother went home.

Well, I was afraid to go home that evening because I was afraid my brothers would say, "See? if you hadn't gone to school today, no one would know our private business." So I was afraid. I didn't want to get a lashing.

Bot wen Ah gaahn hoahn now, Ah si mi
ma di laaf, bikaa di teeche mi sen ahn fi gaahn
geh sohn groasriz. Wel, dat da-mi wahn jail!

Wen Ah geh hoahn, mi sista dehn seh,
"Gyal, yu playt deh pahn di taybl."

Wel, Ah mi
ekspek di sayhn
wan pat spoon a
rais, wid lee bit a
beenz grayvi chroa
pahn it. Bot wen
Ah luk, wahn big
pees a pigtayl deh



wid di rais ahn beenz. Wel Ah feel laik da-mi

*But when I got home, I saw my mother
laughing, because my teacher had sent her to get
some groceries. That made me very happy.*

*When I arrived, my sisters said, "Girl, your
plate is on the table."*

*Well, I expected the same single spoon of
rice with a little bit of beans and gravy on it. But
when I looked, I saw a big piece of pigtail with the
rice and beans. I felt like it was Christmas!*

Krismos!

Ah aalwayz seh dat wentaim wi hongri, wi shudn kip it wahn seekrit. Bikaaz da noh wahn shaym. Da noh wahn shaym. Ahn dat da-mi no reezn fu wi ma kip wi weh fahn skool.

Soh afta dat, wen Ah hongri Ah gaahn tel mi teeche. Ai noh tink dat dehn put shee deh fi tel owt wi bizniz. Ahn Ah noh tink shee da wahn mirakl werka needa, bot maybi shee ku gi wi wahn



I always say that when we are hungry, we shouldn't keep it a secret. It isn't something to be ashamed about really. And it certainly isn't a reason for our mother to keep us away from school.

After that, when I was hungry I went and told my teacher. I don't think that they put her in that position to tell out our private affairs. I also don't think she is a miracle worker, but maybe she

lee bit a food fi help wi dat wi ku stay eena
skool.

Soh Ah jos tank Gaad fu mi teeche.
Mi ma geh sik, ahn shee mi paas weh ded,
bot Ah tink ih gaahn da ih grayv hapi. Bikaa
wahn lat a wi kom owt ahn geh werk.

*could give us a little bit of food so that we could
stay in school.*

*So I just thank God for my teacher. Later
on my mother got sick and passed on, but I think she
went to her grave happy, because a lot of us went
through school and are now working.*

Di Lee Gyal Weh Ron Weh

bai Pamela Dyer

Yu aalwayz di hyaa bowt pikni misin, ahn
moas a di taim wen yu hyaa pikni misin, di
fos ting yu wahn tink da di wos. Bot stil Ai
bileev yu hav wahn lat a kays tu weh pikni
jos ron weh bikaaz a weh ada fren jos di
leed dehn aschray, ahn dehn fala dehn.

Gyal, Ah memba wen mi fren set mi op
fi ron weh an Ah neva noa dat da weh ih mi
gat op ih sleev. Mek Ah tel yu weh gaan aan.

The Little Girl That Ran Away

*You always hear about missing children, and
most of the time when you hear that a child is
missing, you think the worst. But I believe there are
many cases where children run away just because
they follow their friends, and they lead them astray.*

*Girl, I remember when my friend set me up
to run away and I never knew that was what she had
up her sleeve. This is how it happened.*

Da mi eena soma wen Ah mi bowt
nain. Da mi wahn priti soni day - yu noa dehn
taim deh wentaim skool deh owt, ahn aal
weh yu ku tink bowt da play. Bot den at di
sayhn taim, yu ma wahn tel yu goh sweep di
yaad, mek shoar di bokit dehn ful, mek
shoar di step dehn skrob. An Ah stil ku mi
rimemba Ah get op soon di maanin an Ah du
weh Ah had fi mi du, kaaz Ah seh Ah waahn
play, ahn yu noh play til yu don yu werk.

Ah mi ga dis gyal weh mi liv wid ih
grani, ahn fi shee grani ahn mai ma da-mi

*It was in the summer when I was about nine.
It was a pretty, sunny day - you know, one of those
times when school is out, and all you can think about
is playing. But at the same time, your mom is telling
you to sweep the yard, make sure the buckets are
full, and make sure that the steps are scrubbed.
And I still remember that I got up early that morn-
ing and I did what I had to do, because I wanted to
play, and you couldn't play until you finished your
work.*

*I had this friend who lived with her granny,
and her granny and my mom were good friends, and*



gud fren, soh ih kohn dat mee ahn shee
bikomz fren. Da noh laik wi da-mi gud gud
fren, bot wi da-mi fren, bikaaz mee ahn
shee mi deh eena sayhn klaas. Fahn faar
faar Ah si wen shee di ron op di schreet di
ron kohn anda belz. Ih di jomp ahn ih di
skip, soh Ah staat tu feel gud bikaa Ah seh

*so it happened that she and I became friends. It
wasn't like we were really good friends, but we were
friends because we were in the same class. From far
away I saw her running up the street, jumping and
skipping, so I started feeling good because I was*

wel di gyal di kohn kohn play. Ih seh, "Gyal, mi grani seh fi mek Ah as yu ma fi mek yu goh wid mi da Bileez."

Ah seh, "Bileez? Fi wat?"

Shee tel mi dat ih gwehn goh luk afta wahn I.C.S. koas weh ih inchrestid eena.

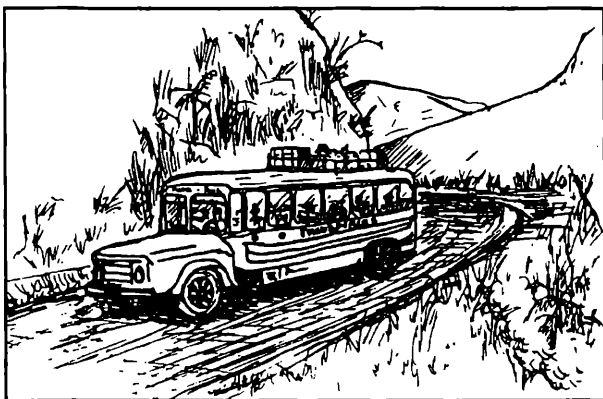
Da taim deh, Ah meen tu seh mi ma noh sen mi da Bileez bai miself, soh Ah mi tink mi ma mi wahn seh no. Soh Ah gaan an as mi ma, ahn tu mai sopraiz mi ma seh yes, ahn ih gi mi dala. Now da taim deh da fifti sehn fi goh ahn fifti sehn fi kohn bak fi pay di bos.

sure she was coming to play. But she said, "Girl, my granny told me to ask your mom to let you go to Belize City with me."

I said, "Belize City? What for?"

She told me that she was going to look into an I.C.S course that she was interested in.

In those days my mom didn't allow me to go to Belize City by myself, so I expected my mom to say no. But when I went and asked my mom, to my surprise, she said yes, and gave me a dollar. At that time the bus fare was fifty cents to go and fifty cents to come back.



Okay fain, Ah hori gaahn bayd mi
skin, chaynj mi kloaz ahn ron gaahn kech di
bos, bikaaz now da don eena di aftanoon
aredi, ahn wi gwehn da dis plays fi geh di
infamayshan ahn fi kech bos ahn kohn bak.
Soh wi gaan.

Soh wen Ah reech Bileez now, Ah as ahn
seh, "Yu noa weh di plays deh?"

*In my excitement, I took a quick bath,
changed my clothes and ran to catch the bus,
because by now it was already afternoon, and we had
to go to this place to get the information, then
catch the bus and come back. So we were off.*

*When we arrived in Belize City, I asked her,
"Do you know where this place is?"*

Ih seh, "Yes man, Ah noa weh di plays deh." Ih seh, "Di plays deh kaana Nyoo Road ahn Kween Schreet."

Soh Ah seh, "If wi goh oava Swing Briij, wi wahn reech deh?"

Ih seh, "Yes." Gud, soh Ah noa wehpaat wi gwehn. Kaaz dehn taim deh wahn lee gyal weh liv da vilij noh noa Bileez schreet dehn soh gud.

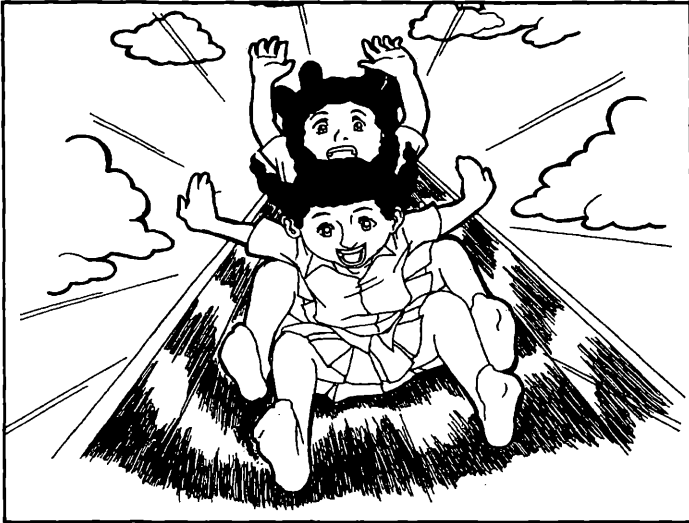
Eniway wentaim wi reech Bileez, wi kom aaf a di bos. Dehn taim di bos dehn stap rait da Pong Yaad. Dis gyal wahn seh, "Mek wi goh sidong eena paak."

"Yes man, I know where it is," she said, "It's on the corner of New Road and Queen Street."

So I said, "Will we get there if we go over the Swing Bridge?"

She said, "Yes." That was good to hear, because now I knew where we were going. In those days a country girl wasn't so familiar with the city streets.

Anyway, when we arrived in Belize City, we got off the bus. In those days the buses stopped right at Pound Yard. My friend said, "Let's go sit in the park."



Ah seh, "Sidong eena paak? Fi wat?"

"Jos wahn lee bit, man, den aftawodz wi gwehn. Di son tu hat."

Soh wi gaan ahn wi sidong eena paak, bot noh oanli sidong, bikaa di swing ahn di slaid dehn dehdeh, soh wi gaan ahn wi swing ahn wi slaid ahn wi swing ahn slaid. Bot den Ah stodi di as ahn,

I said, "Sit in the park? What for?"

"Just a little while, man, and then after that, we'll go. The sun is too hot."

So we went and sat in the park. But we didn't just sit, because the swings and slide were there, so we went on the swings and we went on the slide, over and over

"Da wen wi gwehn da dis plays?"

Ih seh, "Direkli, direkli, direkli." Wel yu noa, direkli neva did kohn, kaa aftawodz shee kom op wid dis aidyaa lesgeh hayl ih pa.

Ah seh, "Yu pa? Weh yu pa deh?"

"Mi pa liv bak a di Layk Ai ayrya."

Now fi too lee pikni, dat mi faar faar fi waak fahn Pong Yaad. Soh Ah seh, "If wi goh deh, wen wi gwehn da dis ada plays?"

Ih seh, "Direkli man, noh wori bowt dat."

again. But I kept asking her, "When are we going to that place?"

She said, "We'll go right away." Well, you know "right away" never came, because then she came up with this idea that we should go visit her dad.

I said, "Your dad? Where is he?"

She said, "My dad lives in the Lake I. area."

Now for two small children, that was a long, long walk from Pound Yard. So I asked her, "If we go there, when are we going to this other place?"

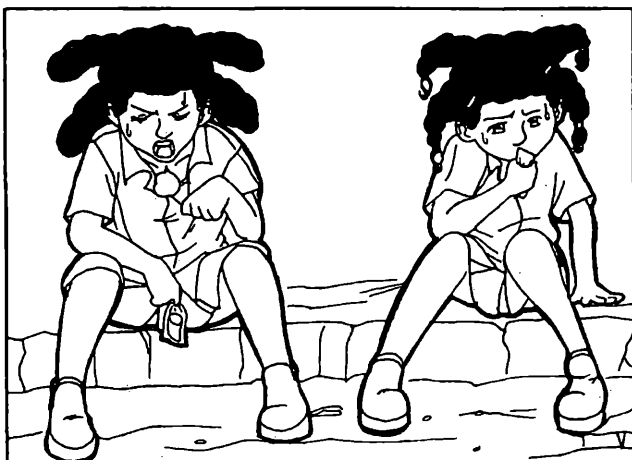
She said, "Right away, man. Don't worry about it."

Ah di tel yu now Ah tink Ah mosi mi
reeli sili eena dehn dayz deh, bikaaz fos
ting, wen shee di taak bowt eni I.C.S. koas,
Ah shuda mi noa dat shee mi neva seerios,
bikaa mee ahn shee mi deh eena sayhn
klaas. Eevn doa shee mi oala dan mi, shee
doz aalwayz layt, aalwayz di bang huki. Shee
da-mi di chrobl mayka eena klaas, ahn neva
du hoahnwerk. Now aal av a sodn, shee wahn
inchrestid eena wahn I.C.S. koas?

Bot eniway, wi tek wi paas ahn wi di
waak gaahn bak a dis plays. Now wail wi

*I can tell you now that I must have really
been silly in those days; because in the first place,
when she was talking about an I.C.S. course I should
have known that she wasn't serious. After all, we
were in the same class. Even though she was older
than me, she was always late and always playing
hooky, and she was the troublemaker in class who
never did homework. Now all of a sudden, she's in-
terested in an I.C.S. course?*

*Anyway, we took our pass and started walk-
ing out to this place where her dad lived. While*



gwehn, dis gyal wahn luk pahn mi ahn tel mi
seh, "Bai too aideel, noh."

Bot aal weh Ah had da-mi fifti sehn.
Ah tel ahn, "Dis da aal di moni weh Ah gat, yu
noa."

Ih seh, "Noh wori, man!"

Eniway, Ah tek di moni ahn mi bai di
aideel, kaa di son mi hat, an den di distans

*we were going, this girl looked at me and said, "Let's
buy two popsicles, okay?"*

*But all I had was fifty cents. I told her, "This
is all the money I have, you know."*

She said, "Don't worry, man!"

*So I took the money and bought the popsicles,
because the sun was hot and we were sweating*

mi faar ahn wi mi-di swet. Ah gi shee wan
aideel, ahn Ai tek wan, ahn wi sok ahn. Oa,
an Ah ges yu noa dehn aideel mi nais.

Bot now wen di aideel don, wahn lee
kaman sens staat tu kohn tu mi, soh Ah tel
ahn seh, "Gyal, da weh Ah wahn pay bos
wid?"

Ih seh, "Wel mee noh noa, kaa mee
noh ga no moni needa."

Ah seh, "Now, soh den da weh Ah
wahn du?"

Ih seh, "Noh wori, man." Ih seh, "Mek
Ah si. Ah mosi wahn geh moni fahn mi pa."

*because of the long walk. I gave her one popsicle and
I took one, and we sucked on them. And I guess you
know how nice they tasted!*

*But when the popsicle was gone, a bit of
common sense started coming to me, so I asked
her, "Girl, how am I going to pay for the bus?"*

*She said, "Well I don't know, because I don't
have any money either."*

I said, "So what are we going to do?"

*Again she said, "Don't worry, man. I'm sure
I'll be able to get some money from my dad."*

Wel wen ih tel mi dat, Ah staat tu
feel wahn lee gudish, bikaaz now ih gwehn
goh luk fi ih pa, ahn ih pa mos wahn gi ahn
sohn moni.

Wel eniway wi gaan. Kip dis eena yu
main: wi lef fahn Hativil afta twelv, di laas
bos tu Hativil lef faiv aklak, wi don tek taim
da di paak, wi haftu tek moa taim fu waak
bak a di plays. Soh da taim deh wen wi
reech da fi shee pa hows da mosi afta foa.
Ahn wentaim wi reech, ih pa noh deh hoahn!

Now wentaim wi reech deh, da jos

*Well, when she told me that, I started to
feel a little better, because now she was going to go
look for her dad, and surely he would give her some
money.*

*So we went, but remember this: we left Hat-
tieville after twelve, the last bus to Hattievill
would leave at five o'clock, we had already taken
some time in the park, and we still had to take more
time to walk out to her dad's place. So it must have
been after four when we got to her dad's house. And
when we reached there, her dad wasn't home!*

When we arrived there, it was just like I

laik Ah neva egzis, bikaaz di gyal gaan
eensaid ahn lef mi owtsaid. Ih noh eevn az
moch az memba fi seh, "Oa, Ah bring sohn-
badi wid mi," yu noa. Ih lef mi rait deh ahn
shee staat tu play wid ih breda ahn sista
dehn.

Den afta wahn wail now di laydi weh



*didn't even exist, because the girl went inside and
left me outside without so much as thinking to say,
"Oh, I brought somebody with me." She left me
right there and started playing with her brother and
sister.*

Then after a while the lady who lived with

ih pa liv wid kom owt an ih seh, "Gyal, da soh
yu chreet pipil? Yu akchuwali hav sohnbadi
owt ya wid yu, ahn yu noh mek Ah noa sohn-
badi kohn wid yu? Da how yu goh aan soh?"

Soh di laydi tel mi, "Kom een Pet, kom
eensaid bikaaz Ah noh andastan da how dis
gyal bihayv soh."

Soh now da taim
deh Ah di tel dis gyal,
"Yu noa weh hapm, yoo
wahn mek mai ma lash
mee if Ah reech hoahn
layt. Lesgoh. Get di
moni ahn lesgoh."



her dad came out and said, "Girl, is that how you treat people? You actually have a friend with you and you didn't tell me? How can you act like that?" So she told me, "Come inside, Pet. I don't know why she behaves like that."

At that point I told the girl, "Do you know what's going to happen if I get home late? My mom is really going to lash me. So let's get the money and get out of here."

Soh wi tel di laydi seh wi need moni fi goh.

Ih seh wel shee noh ga no moni, soh dis gyal wahn hav tu wayt til wen ih pa kohn. Okay, mee don staat tu waahn krai, bikaaz Ah don noa da weh taim. Da nayli faiv aklak ahn di pa noh kohn yet.

Wel eniway, wi stay bikaa Ah kudn du notn els. Shee noh ga no moni, Ai noh ga no moni, ahn di laydi noh ga no moni.

Ahn wen di pa kohn, da mosi laik sebm aklak, an ih si ih daata. Ah ges ih mosi mi hapi fi si ahn. Ai neva hapi, bikaa dis da nait

So we told the lady that we needed money to go home. She said she didn't have any, so my friend would have to wait until her dad came. Well, when I heard that, I wanted to cry, because I knew that it was almost five o'clock and her dad wasn't there yet.

Since there was nothing else we could do, we ended up staying there. She didn't have any money, I didn't have any money, and the lady didn't have any money. And when her dad finally arrived, it must have been seven o'clock. I guess he must have been



now, ahn mee noh yoostu deh owt a mi hows
fahn mi ma laik dat.

Soh shee tel ih pa dat ih need moni fi
goh hoahn. Ih pa seh ih noh ga no moni, ahn
dis taim ya ih kyaahn du notn bowt fi chrai
geh wi hoahn.

Soh wi wahn hav tu stay deh di nait.

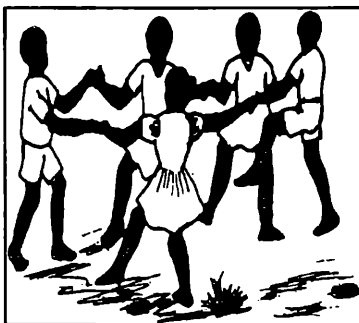
Soh now di oanli ting mee ku du da play, ahn

*happy to see his daughter, but I wasn't happy at all,
because by now it was night time, and I wasn't used to
being away from home and my mom like that.*

*So she told her dad that she needed money to
go home, but said that he didn't have any money at the
time, so he couldn't do anything to help us get home.*

*So we had to spend the night there. Well, the
only thing I could do was to play, so I joined them and*

mee jos jain dehn ahn mee staat tu play. Oa,
 luk ya, dat da-mi fon fi mee da nait, bikaa wi
 get andaneet di lam poas ahn wi staat tu play
 sohn gaymz laik "ring a ring a roaziz," "rabit
 rabit fain a hoal,"
 ahn aal kain a lee
 kech gaym. Di nait wi
 had fon. Wi gaahn
 sleep wen wi don.



Di neks maanin wentaim wi get op, di man
 seh ih stil noh ga no moni, an ih noh shoar if ih
 wahn get eni tudeh, bot ih wahn si weh wahn
 hapm. Wel aal weh wi kud du da play. Dis taim

*we started to play. Oh, that was a fun night for me be-
 cause we went under the lamp post and played games
 like "Ring around the rosy," "Rabbit, rabbit find a hole,"
 and all kinds of chasing games. We really had fun that
 night, and when we finished, we went to sleep.*

*When we got up the next morning, the man said
 that he still didn't have any money, and he didn't know if
 he would get any that day, but he would see what would
 happen. Well, all we could do was play, and this time my*

ya Ah noh hav no ma fi tel mi fu goh kleen
no yaad, skrob no floa er wateva, jos play
ahn play hoal day. Ahn az Ah mi tel yu, Ah
mosi mi reeli sili.

Wel lisn tu dis - wan a wi famili fren
paas wi. Bai di taim mi fren si dis man, ih
kohn tu mi ahn tel mi seh, "Noh mek da man



noa wai yu deh
ya, yu noa."

Di man si
mi ahn stap an ih
seh, "Da weh
yoo di du ya?"

*mom wasn't there telling me to clean the yard or
scrub the floor. We just played and played all day
long. As I already told you, I was really silly.*

*Well, listen to what happened next. A friend
of my family passed us, and when my friend saw this
man, she told me, "Don't tell that man why you're
here."*

*When the man saw me, he stopped and
asked, "What are you doing here?"*

Wen di man aks mi da weh Ah di du
ya, ahn if mi ma noa dat Ah deh ya wid dehn
pipl, Ah jos luk op pan ahn an Ah tel ahn,
"Yes, mi ma noa."

Bot di man neva mosi mi bileev, kaa ih
luk pahn mi ahn seh, "Yu shoar?"

Ah tel ahn, "Yes, Ah deh pahn
haliday, man." Ah di tel wan lai afta di neks.

Di man mi liv eena di sayhn ayrya, ahn
dat da-mi maanin. Wentaim di man mi-di
paas fi goh hoahn fi lonch, ih wayv an ih hala
fi mi.

*When he asked me that, and if my mom knew
where I was, I just looked at him and said, "Yes, my
mom knows."*

*But he must not have believed me, because
he looked right at me and said, "Are you sure?"*

*I said, "Yes, I'm here on holiday." I was
telling one lie on top of another.*

*That was in the morning, and the man lived in
the same area. When he passed again to go home
for lunch, he waved and called to me.*

Soh wen ih goh bak da werk agen, dis taim Ah mek shoar Ah hala fi ahn fi mek ih noa evriting aarait. Ah neva waahn tel di man wat da-mi di sichyuayshan, bikaa ih noh oanli mi wahn gi mi moni, ih mi wahn kehr mi hoahn ihself.

Eniway afta Ah lai tu di man, di man paas di eevnin agen, an ih komfatabl dat evriting aarait wid mi. Soh eniway dat da di sekant day.

Soh di terd day, wen di pa wayk op di maanin, ih seh ih stil noh ga no moni.

So when he was on his way back to work, I made sure I hollered to him, just to let him know that everything was all right. I didn't want to tell him what the situation was, because he wouldn't only have given me money, he himself would have taken me home.

Anyway, after I lied to the man, when he passed in the evening, he believed everything was okay with me. That was the second day.

On the third day, when the girl's dad woke up, he said that he still didn't have any money.

Soh Ah tel di gyal, "Yu noa weh hapm,
mee hav tu goh hoahn. Wan way er di ada, Ah
gwehn hoahn tudeh, bikaaz wi fi goh pahñ wahn
famili ekskerzhan
an Ah gwehn
hoahn. Unu noh ga
no moni, Ai noh ga
no moni, bot Ah
gwehn hoahn wan
way er di ada."



Ahn yu noa, kohn fi tink bowt it, luk ya, di
pipl dehn seh dat dehn noh ga no moni, bot
yet Ah ku rimemba how dehn mi-di sen wi da
shap goh bai. Ahn den Ah tink wi mi bai chips.

*So I told my friend, "You know, I really have to
get home. One way or another, I'm going home today,
because I'm supposed to go on a family excursion. You
don't have any money, I don't have any money, but one
way or another, I'm going home."*

*But come to think of it, even though those peo-
ple were saying that they didn't have any money, I
remember them sending us to the shop to buy things*

Ah tink Ah ku rikaal di sok aideel. Da mi oanli
fifti sehn, soh wai dehn mi kudn jos gi mi
moni fi mi gaahn hoahn?

Soh di gyal seh, "Weh yu wahn du?"

Ah seh, "Ah gwehn rait da di bos man,
ahn goh as ahn fi mek ih gi wi wahn raid
hoahn."

Soh ih seh, "Okay, wi wahn du dat."

Soh wi tel di pipl deh bai ahn wi lef,
Ahn wen wi gwehn di gyal seh, "Yu noa weh Ah
tink? Ah tink da wahn gud aidyaa if yu waak
wan schreet ahn Ai waak wan neks schreet.

*like chips, and I think I even recall sucking on
popsicles. The bus fare was only fifty cents, so why
couldn't they have just given me the money to go
home?*

*My friend asked , "What are you going to do?"
I told her, "I'm going right to the bus driver
and ask him to give me a ride home."*

She said, "Okay, we'll do that."

*So we told everyone good-bye. As we were
leaving, she said, "You know what I think? I think
it would be a good idea for you to walk on one street
and I'll walk on the other. Then nobody will see us*

Den pipl noh wahn si wi tuggeda."

Soh Ah seh, "Yu noa wat, da chroo, yu noa."

Bot den Ah neva mi-di tink dat dis gyal oanli mi-di tink bowt ihself, bikaaz if dehn mi si wi tuggeda, ih noa dat dehn mi wahn blaym shee. Bikaa da shee Ah lef wid, bot if dehn si mi bai miself, dehn wahn kyaahn seh dat Ah mi deh wit shee.

Eniway az Ah mi tel yu, sohnting mosi mi rang wid mi, an Ah gaahn pahn di schreet weh ih shoa mi.

Soh Ah fain di bos plays. Bot wail Ah

together." So I said, "That's true, you know."

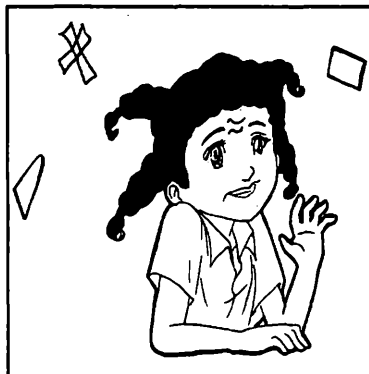
All the time it didn't occur to me that this girl was only thinking of herself. If anyone saw us together, she's the one they would blame, because she's the one that I left with. But if they saw me by myself, they wouldn't be able to say that I was there with her.

But like I said, something must have been wrong with me, and I went on the street that she showed me.

While I was finding my way to the bus stop,

gwehn, Ah di tink op aal kain a lee stoari fi
 tel di bos man fi mek ih gi mi wahn free
 raid. Den Ah di tink op aal kain a stoari weh
 Ah wahn tel mi ma, bikaa Ah ku jos imajin
 how ih wahn tayr mi wen Ah reech hoahn.

Bot den Ah memba dehn seh dat if
 wen yu lef fahn hoahn ahn yu tek lang, fi
 mek yu ma noh
 lash yu, yu pap too
 pees a graas, yu
 mek it intu wahn
 kraas, yu kis it ahn
 yu chroa ahn oava



I started thinking up all kinds of little stories that I could tell the bus driver so that he would give me a free ride. And after that, I started thinking of all kinds of stories that I could tell my mom, because I could just imagine how she would tear into me when I got home.

Then I remembered something I had been told. If you leave home and are away longer than you should be, in order to keep your mom from beating you, you snap apart two pieces of grass, make it into a cross, kiss it, throw it over your left shoulder, and

yu lef shoalda, an noh luk bak. Wen yu reech
hoahn, yu ma noh wahn lash yu ataal. Soh Ah
seh gud, enitaim Ah reech Hativil, az Ah kom
owt a di bos, Ah wahn pap dehn too pees a
graas, kis ahn ahn chroa ahn oava mi lef
shoalda mek mi ma noh lash mi.

Soh eniway, Ah reech da di bos an Ah



*don't look back. Then when you get home, your mom
won't punish you at all. That sounded good to me, so I
decided that when I got to Hattievil and was coming
off of the bus, I'd snap off the two pieces of grass,
kiss it and throw it over my left shoulder so that my
mom wouldn't beat me.*

Anyway, when I got to the bus I didn't have to

tink Ah neva had tu mi tel di man notn, bikaa
evribadi fahn Hativil mi don noa aaredi dat Ah
ron weh. Ahn evribadi mi don noa dat mi ma put
oava anonksment, kaa evribadi di tel mi fahn
wan ting tu di neks bowt mi ma wahn lash mi,
how Ah ga mi ma di wori, how Ah ga mi ma di
dis an di dat.

Da taim di gyal reech da di bos tu, ahn
yu noa, shee nat eevn waahn kohn sidong said a
mi needa.

Soh wen wi reech Hativil da di bos stap,
hoo yu tink deh da di bos stap jos di wayt, jos

*tell the driver anything, because everybody from
Hattievillle already knew that I had run away. They
knew that my mom had made a public announcement
about me, because everybody was telling me about what
a beating my mom was going to give me, how I had
caused my her so much worry, and all the other things I
had done.*

*Well, I got on the bus and sat down. And about
that time my friend arrived too, but you know, she
didn't want to sit anywhere near me.*

*When we reached Hattievillle and the bus
stopped, who do you think was there at the bus stop,*

di hoap? Evritaim wahn bos kohn, mi ma
mosi mi deh owt deh di hoap ahn pray dat
Ah kom aaf a di bos.

Soh wen di bos stap, mi ma deh rait
deh. Ah neva hav no taim fi pap no graas. Mi



*just hoping? Every time a bus came in, my mom must
have been right there hoping and praying that I
would step off of the bus.*

*So when the bus stopped, she was right
there. I didn't have time to snap off any grass. She
grabbed me and hugged me tight. Then she held my*

ma grab mi an ih hog mi op tait. Oa, an ih
hoal mi han aal di way hoahn, soh Ah kudn
pap no graas fi kis it ahn chroa it oava mi
shoalda. Bikaa wen Ah reech hoahn an ih
legoh mi han, ih grab di belt an ih gi mi wahn
gud tayrin.

Ahn dat da-mi mi lesn weh Ah mi get.

*hand all the way home, so there was no way that I
could have snapped off any grass, kissed it and
thrown it over my shoulder. But then the moment
that we got home, she let go of my hand, grabbed
her belt, and gave me a good beating.*

And that was the lesson I learned.

Wen Ah laas mi ma.

bai Lorna Wade

Wel, dis da wahn sad paat eena mi
laif, bot Ah liv chroo it.

Ah memba wen mi ma sen mi da Kee.
Ah beks wid shee, bikaaz owt a bowt
siksteen pikni, wai shee chooz mee fi sen
weh, yu noa. Maybi shee mi ga wahn reezn,
bot Ah noh tink no reezn noh deh fi tek weh
wahn pikni fahn ih ma, ahn Ah geh bex wid
ahn.

Wen mi aanti wuda bring mi bak da

When I Lost My Mother

*This is a sad part of my life, but I lived
through it.*

*I remember when my mother sent me to the
Cayes, I was angry with her. Out of all of the
children who lived with her, why did she have to
send me away? Maybe she had a reason for it, but I
don't think there is any good reason why a child
should be sent away from its mother. Only my
mother knew why, and I was angry with her.*

When my aunt would bring me back to the

Bileez, Ah wuda seh, "Helo, Ma," ahn dats it.
Wid aal di tingz dehn weh Ah mi-di goh
chroo, aal di abyooos, Ah blaym shee. Ah seh
if ih neva sen mi weh, prabli wahn lat a ting
eena mi laif wudn a hapm.

Soh, wahn wail bak wen Ah mi ron
weh ahn gaahn liv wid mi grani, Ah yehr mi
ma sik. Az weh Ah tel yu, Ah neva mi-di
taak tu ahn. Soh wen ih geh sik, ih mi laik
Ah neva reeli kay. Mi sista dehn kohn ahn
seh, "Yu yehr Mama sik bad, ahn yu noh
kohn si ahn?"

*city, I would say, "Hello, Ma," and that was that.
With all the problems I was going through,
especially the abuse, I blamed her. I told myself,
if she had not sent me away, probably a lot of
things in my life wouldn't have happened.*

*After I had run away and gone to live with
my granny, I heard that Mother was sick. But, as
I've already said, I was not talkin to her. So when I
heard that she was sick, I didn't really care. My
sisters came and said to me, "You heard that Mama
is really sick. Aren't you going to visit her?"*



Ah seh, "Man, Mama wahn geh
aarait."

Dehn taim Ah mi beks bad wid ahn,
kaaz aal a dehn deh hoam ahn dehn ku seh
Mama bai shooz fi dehn, Mama dis, Mama
dat, dehn ga paati. Aal a dehn deh tuggeda,
ahn mee wan noh dehdeh.

*I would say, "Man, Mama will get better."
At that time I was really resentful, because
all of my other brothers and sisters were at home.
They would say, "Mama bought shoes for us," "Mama
did this," and "Mama did that." They would tell me
about a party they had had at home. There they all
were, living with Mama, and there I was by myself.*

Soh mi sista kohn bak agen ahn seh,
"Lerna, Mama sik bad," ih seh. "Yu hafu
kohn si ahn."

Ah seh, "Ah noh waahn goh da no
haaspital, man! Mama wahn geh aarait ahn
soon kohn hoahm."

Wel, di aftanoon dehn kohn bak ahn
dehn seh, "Lerna, Mama ded."

Ahn wen dehn seh dat, Ah put aal di
angri asaid ahn seh, "Ah shuda mi gaan. How
aal av a sodn shee wahn ded, ahn shee oanli
faati-too? Weh kain a ting dat?" Ah seh,
"No yong pipl laik dat noh ded, yu noa."

*After a while my sister returned and said,
"Lorna, Mama is really sick. You have to come and
see her."*

*But I refused. "I don't want to go to a
hospital," I said. "Mama will get better and come
home soon."*

*But one afternoon they returned from the
hospital and said, "Lorna, Mama is dead."*

*When they said that, I put all my anger
aside. I said, "I should have gone. How could she die
all of a sudden, and she's only forty-two years old?
What kind of business is that? People don't die that
young!"*

Wel, Ah geh
 beks wid mself,
 ahn Ah bigin tu
 wap op mi hed gens
 wahn waal. Ah seh,
 "Ah shuda mi
 gaahn si Mama. Ah
 shuda mi gaahn tel
 ahn weh di hapm."



Wel, Ah
 kyaahn krai, bikaa di angri, di hert, di beks,
 evriting bail op laik Ah jos feel wahn big
 lomp eena mi stomik. Ah kyaahn bring owt
 wahn song.

Then I got angry with myself. I began to whack my head against a wall. "I should have gone to see Mama," I said. "I should have gone and told her what happened to me."

Well, I couldn't cry. All the anger and hurt and vexation were boiling up inside of me, and all I could feel was a big lump in my stomach. I couldn't bring out a sound.

Soh mi sista seh, "Yu si? Ah tel yu fi kohn si Mama, ahn yu noh kohn. Noh krai now, bikaaz Ah noa yu neva laik Mama." Bot dehn noh noa dat Ah mi lov mi ma, bot Ah mi beks wid ahn.

Soh di nait a di wayk now, aal mi sista dehn krai. Di oanli ting Ah kud du da sidong ahn wach aal a dehn. Ah waahn krai, bot di baal dehdeh eena mi stomik, aal di hert, evriting kyaahn mek Ah krai.

Afta wahn wail Ah gaan eena wahn room bai miself. Ah stil kyaahn krai, kaa Ah

My sister said, "See? I told you to come see Mama but you refused. Don't bother crying now, because I know you never loved Mama." They didn't realize that I loved my mother, but I had been too resentful to show it.

During the night of the wake, all my sisters were crying. but the only thing I could do was sit and watch all of them. Even though I wanted to cry, I couldn't do so because of the ball in my stomach. After a while, I went into a room by myself. Even then I still couldn't cry because, in spite of my



lov mi ma bot Ah mi beks wid ahn.

Soh di finaral day kohn. An wen di
finaral day kohn, mi gadmada seh laik dis, ih
seh, "Aal a unu di krai op ahn soh," ih seh,
"Bot unu noh noa weh Lerna di feel," ih seh.

love for my mother, I was still angry with her.

*Then the day of the funeral arrived. My god-
mother said to the others, "All of you are crying,
but you don't know how Lorna is feeling. You need to*

"Unu hafu wach unu sista, kaa ih mait paas owt," ih seh, "kaa wateva ih di goh chroo ku hambog ahn."

Soh Ah tel mi gadi, Ah seh, "Ah aarait!"

Mi sista seh, "Bikaa yu noh ga no kain a lov fi Mama, dats wai! Yu noh laik Mama, dats wai yu kyaahn krai!" -- laik dat ih seh, "Wai shee noh goh fahn ya? Noh mek shee stay rong Mama. Noh yoos ih stay rong an ih noh laik ahn, kaa ih oanli di priten" - laik dat.

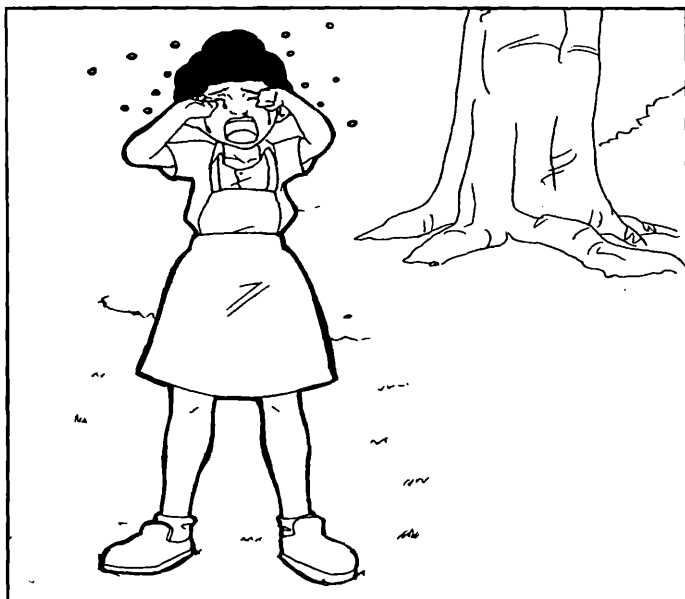
watch her, because she might pass out. Whatever she is going through may cause her to lose her mind."

When I heard my godmother say that, I objected. "I'm all right," I said.

My sister said, "It's because you have no love at all for Mama. You didn't like her, that's why you can't cry." Then she said to the others, "Why doesn't Lorna go away from here? Don't let her stay around Mama. There's no use in her staying around since she didn't like her. She's only pretending to feel bad."

Soh afta di finaral now, aal a wi
gaahn hoahn, an Ai gaan op da Mimorial Paak
mosi bowt afta nain da nait. Ahn wen Ah
gaan da Mimorial Paak, Ah sidong bai miself,
ahn Ai begin tu taak tu mai ma. Ah seh,
"Wai?" yu noa. Ah begin tu kweschan ahn. Ah
seh, "Wai?" wichin Ah mi gah di aperchuniti.
Ah noa dat ih kyaahn ansa mi, bot Ah di
taak tu ahn. Ah seh, "Wai yu lef mi, eevn
doa yu noa weh Ah di goh chroo?" — kaaz
Ah bileev now dat shee noa, yu noa. Afta
dat Ah seh, "Yu haftu help mi!" An sodnwan
aal di angri jos staat tu get owt, an Ah mek

*After the funeral, we all went home. But
around nine o'clock that night, I went to Memorial
Park by myself. I sat down and began to talk to my
mother. Finally I had my opportunity to talk to her!
So I began to question her, even though I knew that
she couldn't answer me. I said, "Why did you leave
me, even though you know what I was going
through?" Because by then I believed that she
knew. I said, "You have to help me!" And suddenly all
the anger and resentment started to come out, and
I let*



wahn haad skreem.

Ahn soh Ah baal. Ahn di hurt stil di
deh, bikaaz Ah neva geh tu tel ahn gudbai.
Ah noa dat shee mi noa dat Ah mi beks wid
ahn, an Ah neva did tel ahn weh Ah mi beks
wid ahn fa.

out a loud scream.

And then I began to cry. The hurt was still there, because I never got to tell her goodbye. I knew that she had known I was angry with her, and I never shared with her why I was angry.

Soh Ah noa dat
 shee gaan. Shee ded
 anhapi wid mi, yu noa.
 Bot Ah bileev Gaad dat
 ih reech hevn, ahn if Ah



kantinyu tu liv fu Gaad, Ah wahn reech tu,
 ahn Ah wahn tel ahn how Ah mi feel. Ahn
 rait now, Ah don figiv ahn. Ah mis ahn wahn
 lat. Ah mis ahn wahn lat. An Ah jos hoap dat
 mai sista dehn wahn andastaan. Bikaaz op tu
 yet, dehn stil seh owt a aal a mi ma pikni Ah
 da di wan weh noh laik ahn. Bot dehn noh
 noa di deep lov weh Ah hav fi mai ma.

*I know now that she is gone. She died very
 unhappy with me, you know. But I believe God that
 she went to heaven, and if I continue to live for God
 I will see her again. Then I will tell her how I felt.
 As for the present, I've already forgiven her, and I
 really miss her a lot. I just hope that one day my
 sisters will come to understand how I felt. Up to
 now, they still say that out of all of my mother's
 children, I am the only one who didn't love her. They
 just don't know the deep love that I have for my
 mother.*

Soh dat da laik di paynfulis paat eena
mi laif, yu noa -- loozin mi ma. Mi dad
ded, bot hihn mi neva laik wahn dad. Hihn
da-mi jos wahn man weh mek wi, yu noa, ahn
hihn mi neva deh rong. Soh da-mi neva laik
wahn big deel, laik how wen Ah looz mi ma,
yu noa. Hihn ded bowt too yaa bak. Hihn mi
deh eena wahn baar ahn ih geh jronk. Ih
skrash eena di rongabout, ahn ih ded pahn
ih motosaikl.

Bot yu noa, weh Ah waahn advaiz pipl
dat if yu bex wid eni memba a yu famili, goh

*So that was the most painful part of my life
-- losing my mother. Some years later my
father died, but he wasn't really a dad. He was just
a man who caused us to be born. He was never
around, so it wasn't a big deal like losing my mother.
He died about two years ago. He had been in a bar
and he got drunk and crashed on his motorcycle at
the roundabout.*

*What I would like to advise people is that no
matter how angry you become with someone, don't*

tu ahn, ahn taak tu ahn. Chrai taak ahn werk
it owt bifo di persn ded. Bikaaz ih ku ton
intu laik weh Ai gaahn chroo. Yu ku looz
sohnbadi weh yu lov ahn neva geh di chans
agen.

*wait to talk to him or her until he or she is dead. Try
to work it out while the person is still alive. Other-
wise you might go through what I did. You might lose
your loved one, and never have the chance to make
things right.*