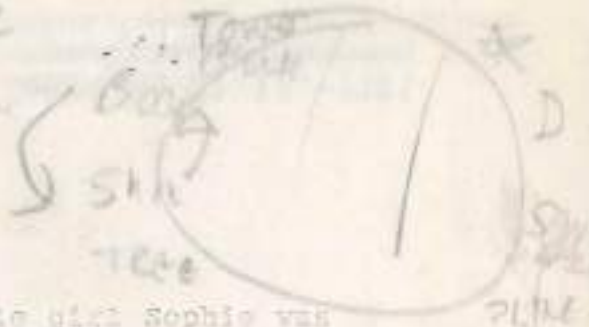


DEBS

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc
EK DU TIL
EK EK
T Monmouth



Scene 2: MUSIC - ?

Once upon a time when she was a very little girl Sophie was sitting in her play pen when.....

Only milk she ate Sophie jo nun kee choto chillo shayda kelar kor! ke'chillo.....

MUM: Sophie, come darlin' mummy goin' teach you how fe count.

VOICE "Oh no" thought Sophie, "not again!".

SOPHIE Yes mummy.

MUM Now dis is one - say one fe mummy....

SOPHIE One!

MUM Ooo! Now dis is two. Say two please.

SOPHIE TWO

MUM She clever eeh?

Tree... come run

VOICE "This is really boring". (Sophie goes back to playing and chuck's something at a member of the audience).

MUM Eh ah, let me fin' something fe.... yuh can't see yuh madda tired?

SOPHIE (No response)

MUM Yuh want a biscuit?

SOPHIE THREE!!!

MUM FOUR

SOPHIE BISCUIT

MUM FOUR

SOPHIE BISCUIT!!! ding ding ding Q Biscuit

MUM (Mum waves biscuits in front of Sophie).

SOPHIE FOUR

MUM FIVE

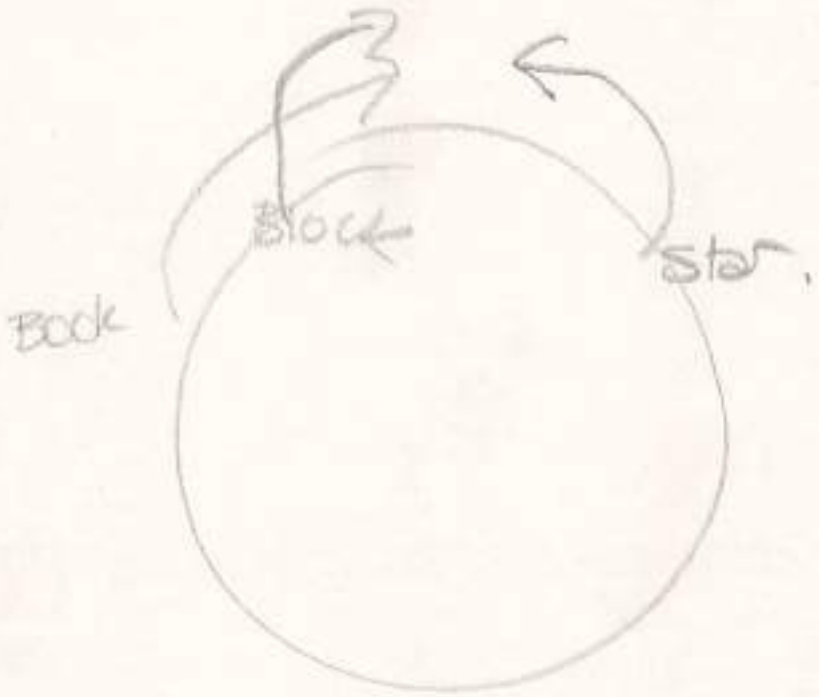
Switch all refs

①

SOPHIE Five

MUM Biscuits! (she gives Sophie a biscuit).

SOPHIE BISCUITS!!!!!!!!!!!! (she scoffs).



DAD: ^{y'know} WHEN COITIE'S A GROWN UP I THINK I WANT HER TO GO TO OXFORD

MUM: OK CAMBRIDGE - I THINK SHE SHOULD BE A DOCTOR

DAD: OK A POLITICIAN

MUM: SHE SHOULD GO TO CAMBRIDGE AND BE A DOCTOR SHE'S GOT GOOD HANDS

DAD: SHE SHOULD GO TO OXFORD AND BE A POLITICIAN [↑] ~~↑~~ SHE'S GOT A GOOD HEAD.

MUM: ~~BUT~~ THIS COUNTRY NEEDS BLACK DOCTORS

DAD: THIS COUNTRY NEEDS ^{BLACK} POLITICIANS

DAD: OXFORD

MUM: CAMBRIDGE

DAD: OXFORD

MUM: CAMBRIDGE -

MUM: SHE WILL BE THE 1ST BLACK ♀ CHIEF SURGEON GENERAL BOSS DOCTOR

DAD: ^{but would} SHE WILL BE THE 1ST BLACK ♀ PRIMINISTER [↑] ~~↑~~ PVEEN BOSS.

DAD: OXFORD

MUM: CAMBRIDGE

ROAD OXFORD

MUM : CAMBRIDGE ETC

REAL MUM : SOPHIE STOP THAT NOISE

SOPHIE : ~~COMING~~ ^{sorry} OF MUMMUM

SELEMA : WHATS IN OXFORD ANYWAY??

SC 2A (DICTATED IN SWEDISH WRITTEN IN ENGLISH)

LINK NARRATION: THEY GROWN UP TOGETHER, AND
BY THE AGE OF NINE SELEMA WAS WRITING HER FIRST
^{novel} BOOK - ON SOPHIE'S TYPEWRITER... AND BANQUA



Sarina
Khalon : (SYLHETI/ENGLI)
+ Andy.
Simultaneous
Sophie and Selima grew up together
and by the age of 9 Selima was
writing her first book.....
On Sophie's typewriter!
SFX

SELIMA. The Life of Selima Rahman. By Selima
Rahman. Age 9.

Syl. I am 9 years old. I live ~~with my father~~
^{at home}

"SOPHIE" Ang on a minute - aren't you going to
have a dedication?

SEL. What for?

SOPHIE All real books have a dedication.

SEL. O.k. I dedicate

Sophie D-E-D-I-C-A-T-E-

SEL This book to Sophie - adunawadun

Sophie (TYPES) To Sophie Claudia Linsley of
Berwick. 6

SEL - I live at home with my parents...
my brother and my ~~two~~ sisters - look then
Full stop. That's not how you spell
Selima - its You're put Selima!
Let me do it!

SOPHIE - I know the 'i' doesn't work properly

SOPHIE - Its my typewriter! Get off! Anyway
the 'i' doesn't work properly - just
pretend.

SELIMA - While I'm on the subject

SOPHIE - W-H (signs - no 'i') ... What subject?

SELIMA - of my sisters...

SOPHIE - Oh!

SELIMA - Look, you should've started a new
paragraph - like this (she tries
to wind it on...)

SOPHIE - I'm doing the typing - I know how
to do it

SELIMA - Yeah but

SOPHIE - NO! Its my typewriter

SELIMA - But its a new paragraph...

SOPHIE - Shut up - You'll wake my Dad up

he's on nights - and he'll make you go home if you disturb him. (she winds on) Go on then! About your sisters!

SELIMA Oh yes. I'm sure there's SOMETHING NOT going on!

SOPHIE What?

SELIMA She plans to go to college - but my ~~thinks~~ ~~its~~ ~~just~~ ~~an~~ ~~excuse~~ parents are not keen.

SOPHIE K-E-E-N.

SELIMA. ^{Syheti} Anyway, she doesn't ^{deserve} ~~deserve~~ to go to college - its just an excuse to meet HASSAN!

SOPHIE (types) ~~excuse~~... is that true? ^{reactin!} **TING!**

SELIMA (Nods + looks a bit guilty) But ^{who dat?} me ^{is} ~~me~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~college~~ ~~and~~ ~~be~~ ~~a~~ ~~writer~~! ~~Ami~~ ~~college~~ ~~Zolman~~.
I've got big plans, I've made my mind up ~~I'm~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~college~~ ~~and~~ ~~be~~ ~~a~~ ~~writer~~. ~~Zolman~~.

SOPHIE But you can't type!

SELIMA So! do you know what you're going to do?

SOPHIE Yeah!

Sel What?

Collingwood ~~and~~ Foundation

SOPHIE Go to ~~Oxford~~ - ~~of Cambridge~~ - I suppose.
What ~~college~~ ^{school} are you going to?

SELIMA Any! ~~It could be Oxford~~ ^{Could be Collingwood, or} ~~Collingwood~~ ^{too - it} could be abroad.

SOPHIE You should ask your dad!

SELIMA (looks doubtful - and worry says something
What about stops) ~~she says~~ * Sophie - ~~is that right~~ ^{Brats}
Nothing!! ^{get an} think my parents suspect! ^{with} ^{the} ^{back} ^{young} my uncle has been coming round!
That's spelt wrong! (resentful, resigned)

SOPHIE It's not my fault!

SELIMA He has secret meetings with my parents

SOPHIE What about?

SELIMA I don't know! I get sent out of the room, don't I? ~~New line~~ I have asked my sister about it. She just says... Speech Marks... Don't worry you'll be next!

(They look at each other, and leap out of their skins at a wild outburst of drumming).

SOPHIE O No!

SEL: What's that?

SOPHIE: Dad! ^{Just ignore him} ~~DAD!~~

SEL SEL: What's 'e...

SOPHIE: Dad stop it, we're WORKING

DAD: Young, gifted and Black...

SOPHIE: O no, 'es going to do it, he's going to do it! Stop it!

DAD: (continues singing) Working? So you think
~~Yes! Pit your wits~~
~~against Winston instead Magnusson~~
~~Berwick in the White-bird Quiz!~~
try ^{you're bright? mm mm} this one then!

SOPHIE: Stop it!

DAD: Yes! Question one, you must be ready,
fingers ~~po~~ buzzzz please! Question
one!
What country was once named Abyssinia?

SOPHIE: O stop it!

SELIMA: I know that one - buzzzz - Ethiopia!

DAD: Ethiopia! Ethiopia is the correct answer!
Ethiopia, liberated by Haile Selassie...

SOPHIE: All right!

DAD And the second question! Which black woman saved countless lives working along Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War? quick quick!

SOPHIE Bzzzz... Mary Seacole

DAD Is the correct answer! What famous black writer wrote the 3 Musketeers?

SELIMA Alexander Dumas!

DAD Is the correct answer!

SELIMA But he was French, wasn't he?

DAD Yes - he was black as well.

SELIMA Black!

SOPHIE So?

DAD Which black American Jazz genius invented be-bop?

SOPHIE O, Easy... Bzzzz Charlie Parker

DAD Yes! Also known as?

SOPHIE BIRD - (squawk squawk).

DAD What are the colours of the ANIC flag? quick, quick!

SOPHIE

Yellow, Black, and Green

DAD

Mm hmmm! ^{But wait!} You really think you're clever tonight! (Sophie beams!). Go on then and tell me — What is Rosa Parks famous for?

SOLIMA

Go on you should know this one!

SOPHIE

Bzzz, yes! She's a member of the Black Civil Rights movement — She wouldn't ^{stand} move from her seat on the bus just as white people wanted to sit down!

DAD

Mm hmmm! Who is the fastest woman in the world?

SOPHIE

Florence Griffiths Joyner

DAD

Where is Trinidad?

SOPHIE

off the coast of Venezuela!

DAD

And what is the name

SOPHIE

Bzz, Bzz

DAD

Of The Black Inventor who invented traffic lights? ... Come on then! Sophie?

SOPHIE

We haven't done that one!

SELIMA Go on Sophie - you must be able to remember.

DAD You buzzing and you don't know the answer?

SOPHIE Can't remember. We haven't done the quiz for ages. I can't remember!

DAD. So you think you can forget things just because we don't do the quiz? ~~him!~~ Knowledge isn't just for quizzes you know! ~~well~~ Well, I've got to get to work - so you can look that one up - Who invented the traffic lights? ^{in 1868}

SELIMA ^{Five} Can we do it again look it up ~~before~~ tomorrow, then?

DAD. Well, not tomorrow - I'm working a double shift -

SOPHIE Typical

DAD. Well you think money grows on trees now? ~~hasn't he been to the bank~~

SOPHIE But you always used to...

DAD I know darling - and it's not the bread of life. I thought I'd be looking forward to giving - but there it is.

SOPHIE LOOKS AT HIM.

Don't stay up typing too late. Tell your

Mother I'll see her later, mm? Be good.
Goodbye Selima!

HE GOES.

SELIMA - He's great, your Dad! does he do that all the time? ~~that's my Dad~~

SOPHIE He used to. ~~every~~ ^{dinner} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~each in own mood.~~

SELIMA My Dad's boring

SOPHIE He wasn't doing it for months. That's why I couldn't remember that answer.

SEL. It's not his fault, he has to work all the time

SOPHIE Don't you stick up for him!

SEL. But I like him

SOPHIE He was only doing it to show off - cos you're here!

SEL. Do you want to do some more typing?
Read the first chapter.

SEL + SOPHIE READ Selima's "Novel" -
Selima in Bengali, Sophie in English.

VERSES ① when I was 12,

② in '26 the general strike.

SC. Chelmege
Bener.

Add shoes

NARRATION : (music)

SELMA Tuesday Afternoon, and Sophie ...

SOPHIE Cloudia Linstead Bewick ...

SELMA And I are helping the community:
we're 10 now — It's a new scheme and we're on it.

SOPHIE Helping Old People!
 → all characters look ^{begin}
 action, looking

SELMA What number is it?

SOPHIE I don't know. It had a 4 in it —
'scuse Me (to audience) do you
live on this estate? D'you know
where Mr Martin lives?
(SEES MR MARTIN) Oh! Excuse Me!

SELMA Ssh! I'll ask him.
Excuse Me, do you know where
Mr Martin lives (at her best attempt
at Bangla) (Sylheti).

Mr T.M. ~~Martin?~~ ^{Selma} ~~(Sylheti)~~ Mr. Albert Martin, but I
think he has died, Or maybe Florence
Martin...

SOPHIE No! Harold Montgomery Martin!

MR MIAM O kein! Yes, he lives next door to me!
Follows me!

(HE SETS OFF SLOWLY Sophie nearly bumps
into kein.
ke Questions Selima in SYLHETI.)

Where do you live? Who is your
father?

(Mr Miah knocks on the door
Selima + Sophie hang back)

MR MARTIN ^{Mr Miah} Miah, Hello, Come in. Nice to see you.

TARA MIAM Well you Two little girls want to see
you (waves them forward).

MR M. Oh Yes, from the school. Come in!

TARA MIAM (sylheti) You are here in school time?

SELIMA (sylheti) Its a "Community Scheme" -
we're helping him.

TARA School in Tunis House? In Mr Martin's
flat? Hey Mr Martin! When are you (15)

becoming teacher? Very good Education System/:

MR MARTIN. Come In Come In, Sit down!
Never mind the Education System - ~~bring on~~
What about the Tax System! (Crawley
his form about)

felt

TARA MAH Aha Fall Tax

MR MARTIN Its adressed to my wife?

TARA Isn't she dead?

MR MARTIN Exactly! Can you believe it!?

SEPHIE Well... Maybe she was old!

MR MARTIN What? I wouldn't mind if I thought
~~that~~ the money would go straight into
your Education, ~~that~~ now that would be
progress - but all we seem to get is
~~cellular telephones, satellite television~~
~~Bluetooth dogs and pocket televisions~~
I didn't fight the war.....

TARA I think I should go now

MR MARTIN What? No tea?

TARA No, No, I've heard all about the
war before, Goodbye (Syheni) don't
forget about school - don't let him
keep you here all day!

SELMA

Joi, Ji oi!

SOPHIE

We can only stay on now!

(He brings the bags in)

SELMA

And we can't go off the estate...

SOPHIE

So we can't do shopping or emptying the bins

MR MARTIN

Well, what can you do? (+ Sylheti).

(They shrug)

Alright - there's some stuff I want saving out, hows that?

(They look at each other, shrug + nod).

Oh, er, what're your names?

SOPHIE

Sophie

M.M

How do you do ^{Sophie} k! tumer nam kita?

SELMA

My names Selma

MM.

Beta a son ni ^{Selma} k? ^{My names} ~~the~~ Martin

Harold Martin.

S+S ~~Harold~~ We know. Harold Montgomery Martin

MM. How do you know that?

Selina It's on the farm.

MM It would be! Everything's on a farm ^{in Belknap way} _{fields +} ^{straw} _{co}
Can I get you a drink?

Sophie Have you got any Coke?

MM Coke? I don't think so, but I might
have some orange smash...

S+S No, No, it's all right

Selina What shall we do ^{now?} then?

MM ~~well~~ ^{I've got} all this stuff that needs sorting.
A pile here - for my old age...
A pile here for ~~my~~ ^{my} exam!
You get started, I'll ~~but~~ ^{but} check
my tea - give my rice a good stir.

Sophie O k. Right what's all this stuff?
Er, gross! These boots are well crusty
he can't wear those....

Selina In his old age (they stifle giggles)

Sophie O look, those are nice, keep those! (18)

Selma They're woman's shoes, he can't wear them!

Sophie But they're wicked... look, if he can't wear them, well, put them in the Oxford pile and maybe...

Selma And a dress!

MM You can't chuck that out! That was my wife's - her dancing dress

Selma Sorry Mr Martin (she folds it neatly + puts it in the "keep" pile).

(Mr Martin starts picking through the Oxford pile)

TARA MITAL (Sylheti) They're a long time! He's probably getting them to clear out all his old junk - odd a good thing too! But you know, when you're old it's hard to throw things away - freythenq was memories. * lookhai a taxi

M.M. (picks up a pair of 'crusty boots')

Sophie You don't want to keep those?

MM No, ^{right} we wore these during the depression. They were made from cardboard, you know. (picks up the shoes Sophie likes). Keep these, though

Sophie But they're a woman's shoes.

and start coughing - open windows etc.)

TAKAMATA: (bangs on door)
EYL: [What is all this smoke, oh you
burnt your food again! I've told you
no talking and cooking at the same
time. (Sylheti) (he goes)]

MM: I know. have you got a light? (takes fog
from behind his ear)

TARA MAHA tries to give MM a light but burns
MM's nose. He goes. MM goes to kitchen.
Sopha: Have you got any washing up liquid? MM: No.
Sabana: You didn't put enough water in it, it's still
hard.

MM: I've never got it right.

Sopha }
Sabana } we'll teach you.

MM: Okay. (He gets all the ingredients out).

Sopha: you take one cup of rice, right? and you
add two cups of water, right? (puts in pan).

Sabana: And a pinch of salt. Then you heat it
til it's ~~boil~~ starts to boil and ^{then} simmer it. fast

Sopha: for about fifteen to twenty minutes.

Sabana: strain and serve

Sopha: And that's it... oh we'd better be
going. We've been here an hour. Can
you sign this for us? (hands form).

MM: (signs form) Are you coming back next
week?

Salama: Yes, (opens) could we have coke to drink next time?

M.M. Coke? why not. Thank you very much for all your help. (opens door. Tara Anah falls in). Oh!! See you next week then.

~~Tara Anah picks himself up~~
Bye Mr Martin.

Sophia?
Salama?

M.M. Call me Harold.

Salama: Can we call you Marty?

M.M. Marty?! If you like. Bye

S+S: Bye Marty

Chelon moves
Tower Block

TARA ANAH: (Syhati) what's your name?

Salama: Salama.

TARA ANAH: (Syhati) well Salama could you take this down to the post office for me. It's my Poll Tax form.

Salama (Syhati) yes, of course.

They Exit.

FREEZE - tower Block
moves (warning)

SONG 0 -

2 verses Old Man's

③ Lily struggled ^{Save} thru

④ ~~Thru~~ when the war was over

Andy moves
Star.
Benar

BELL

SOPHIE AND SELIMA BOUNCE IN, AND ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE AS THEIR 10 YEAR OLD CLASSMATES, REFERRING TO EVENTS AT PLAYTIME ETC.

end of song. Playground sfx. My class line up ^{in yr} file go pl

SOPHIE

Have you done your story? Me and Selima wrote ours about our community scheme visit, Mr Martin - have you done yours? etc

SELIMA

(syllabi)

SOPHIE

Yeah we did it together - look, its typed ^{old everything}... Wicked! O, come on Mr Bradley... We're going to get a gold star! On the chart! I showed it to my Dad - ~~he said I'll get a gold star, too!~~ O this is really good Man! My mum said really liked the bit at the end - What did your Mum say?

SELIMA

She didn't say anything

SOPHIE

didn't you show it to her?

SELIMA

No point, she wouldn't bother.

SOPHIE

Oh, come on ~~Mr~~ Mr Bradley

ENTER TEACHER - DAVID

TEACHER

Timing? THE!
Good morning - I'm sorry I'm late, Good Morning Everybody. ~~(SPEAKS INDIVIDUALLY TO A COUPLE OF KIDS.)~~
COMMUNITY SCHEME-PROJECT
What did you do Sophie?

SOPHIE

We went to visit Mr Martin - we went together!

TEACHER

On the Ocean Estate? Good! Well has everybody finished their story? (ASKS A COUPLE OF CHILDREN - MIMES COLLECTING THEM IF THEY SAY YES, OTHERWISE "YOU CAN FINISH IT LATER".)
O.K., who would like to read theirs out?

SOPHIE

O me, please! Can I read ours?

TEACHER

O.K., good, Sophie, you read it.
~~(HE GIVES BACK SOPHIE'S COPY).~~

SOPHIE

The Visit
On Tuesday The 15th of June...

TEACHER

Sophie! (Indicates "stand at the front")
Stand up straight!

SOPHIE

The Visit. Its about ~~and~~ Mr Martin

TEACHER

Good, Carry on!

SOPHIE

We were quite shocked to see

the inside of the flat - It was really tidy! Mr Martin was very upset because his wife had been sent a poll tax form, and she died few months ago. We thought this was spiteful but we did not know what to say ~~and~~ because Mr Martin looked as if he was about to cry... and that would have been horrible.

TEACHER Good, Good.. Selima, you read from yours.

SELIMA (Sylheti).

SOPHIE

When we asked if we could help he just said No, you can't get blood out of a stone - So there it is. This flat was really pretty with a lot of pictures and old ~~blouses~~ shoes. I really liked the shoes. He had **BEST** work shoes, Dance shoes, Dress shoes, All sorts, and every shoe had a story.

We think he wanted for us to sort out some things so that he could sell them, but when he saw all his belongings laid out on the floor, all the memories seemed to come flooding back. He didn't seem to want to let ~~anything~~ go of anything

SELIMA He reminded us of Sophie's Dad. The way he talks about things that happened ages ago that still mean something now. It's like you have to keep talking about important things in case you forget them. Because if you forget them then no-one will learn anything and everyone will have to start all over again -
S+S. So there it is.

TEACHER (to SOPHIE) What's the last line?

SOPHIE Everyone will have to start all over again.

TEACHER Good! Very Good! Sit down. It's very good!
Isn't it?

Yes.

Sophie's story is very good,
Selima's story is very good

S+S Thank you!

TEACHER Now tell me! Who copied who?

SOPHIE What? We didn't copy

TEACHER ~~There~~, They are absolutely identical

Selima, what does "identical" mean?

SELIMA It means the same.

TEACHER Exactly!

SELIMA ~~But that's because.~~

TEACHER ~~Quiet Selima!~~ Now Sophie, stand up. mm. look at me. Now tell me, ~~who copied whom?~~ Did you copy Selima?

SOPHIE I don't know, I mean we didn't.....

SELIMA We did it together!

TEACHER Sit down! I am not asking you! Quiet!
Now Sophie, there is nothing to be afraid of, just tell me!

SOPHIE But we didn't, we...

TEACHER Don't try to pretend, it's obvious! Both stories are the same - so, once more, who copied whom?

SELIMA But I just said....

TEACHER Sit down until I ~~am~~ speak to you!
Sophie, I am really ~~surprised~~ ~~disappointed~~! You and Selima are good at stories, you don't need to copy! I've told all of you before - if you can't do it, just speak to me, but don't copy someone else!

Calvin

Sit down Sophie, and get out your models.
I'm going to fetch the glue.

HE LEAVES. SOPHIE PIPS UP HER STORY, AND
SELMA

SEL. Sophie! What did you do that for?

SOPH. What d'you think I did it for?

SEL. (Sylheti) That's my work - Our work -
we worked hard at that! We worked
hard at that!
Eng!

SOPHIE Yeah, I worked hard and now it's no use

SEL. Eh?

SOPHIE Well he's not giving us a gold star, is he?

SEL. (Sylheti) A gold star? What does a gold
star matter - It was a good story -
English I've never done anything as good as that!

SOPHIE Well what's the point? If he thinks we
"copied" he's not gonna give us a star!

SEL. That's my work! I liked that story.
I could write that in my book!

SOPHIE Your book? And who's going to read that

SEL. It doesn't matter! It's mine!

SOPHIE

Yeah well it doesn't matter to you, does it. You probably won't go to ~~college anyway~~ Secondary School!

SENNA

Who says? Anyway, it's not the point that was our work, and you've got no right to ~~te~~ rip it up!

SOPHIE STORMS OUT

And it was about Mr Martin

SHE SLOWLY GATHERS UP THE PIECES OF PAPER, OR BACKGROUND. SINGING, SIMULTANEOUSLY MR MARTIN SORTS HIS STUFF, AND PUTS HIS WIFE'S DRESS IN THE "OXFAM" FILE.

Sand + Khelan move Mr Martin stuff back.

- ① sand out
 - ② last bit - Q Pitan pipe.
 - ③ Pick up paper + dress.
 - ④ Khelan moves book. After Calypso
 - ⑤ ~~Calypso~~ bench, Andy stool.
 - ⑥ sand starts moving
 - ⑦ sand picks up Tower Block,
Q loud Music Calypso.
- ~~⑤ Lily struggled turn on the Pension~~
~~⑤ I'm living now~~

SONG.

KNOCKING

MR MARTIN

~~Alright! Alright!~~ Its not that loud
HE TURNS DOWN HIS LOUD MUSIC

~~KNOCKING~~

O, sorry! ~~Coming~~ TURNS IT OFF
SOPHIE PUSHES IN.
Sophie!

SOPHIE

Monty! Sorry, I mean Mr Martin...

MM.

Its all right... I've got some Coke...

SOPHIE

Has Selima been round here ^{emb}?

MM

eh?

SOPHIE

+ Selima. did she visit you?

MM

No, 'course not. What's the matter?

SOPHIE

~~Blush~~ She hasn't been around, ~~I weren't seen~~
~~see her at the holidays~~, she's ~~didn't~~ + ~~we~~
gone, ~~her house~~ its all my fault,
her house, its ~~at least~~ empty.

Plot

At school, didn't she tell you?

MM HANDS HER A LETTER.

tell me ^{you see her} what?
I've been staying off o
let ~~that~~
we look

Whats this?

M. MARTIN

A letter. Open it. O yeah -

SOPHIE He From Bangladesh!

M. MARTIN He From Selma.

SOPHIE She's gone to Bangladesh! Why?
~~She can't do that!~~

M.M. She's gone with her family. for
a year.

SOPHIE But what about school... She won't
be able to go to school...

M.M. She'll go to school in Bangladesh
here, ~~let me~~ read it ~~to you~~.

SELMA'S VOICE: (Sylheti)

& tape - Sitar Music
Icheron moves plane

Simultaneously.
Sylheti



SOPHIE TAKES THE LETTER

SOPHIE ~~She says the plane was the biggest
thing she'd ever seen - It was bigger
than my house, her house and next
door house put together.~~

"When I got on the plane I sat near
the video and watched "Three
Men and a Baby"
Wicked!

SOPHIE + SEL

SELIMA (SYL) when we arrived it was night time, and very hot
(SELIMA steps out of the plane).

SOPHIE when she arrived she said there was a nice smell.

SELIMA (SYL) There's a nice smell.

SOPHIE: ~~what's that?~~ (hands letter to MM)
MM: ~~when I arrived in Sylhet I thought we were in a city.~~ Khiron shifts ~~them~~ moves Benor
"There were crowds of people. It was like town on a Saturday afternoon, but I suppose it's like this everyday. The worst part was when our relatives ran up to us at the airport."

(AUNTIE and UNCLE are waiting, looking for SELIMA).

UNCLE O MASUDER MA. JARDI AAO, TARAR PLAN KEYA GASA E.

AUNTIE XOI AAMI DAKSI NATO.

UNCLE OBMDI AAO, ATO BIRER MATHA DAXA JAY NA.

UNC+ AUNT SALIMA! SALIMA!

MM 'I tried to hide, but my auntie got hold of me and nearly crushed me to death.' MOVE.

UNCLE (AUNTIE SIGNS UP SALIMA) * ↓

AUNTIE SALIMA, SALIMA, DAXSONI AMRAR SALIMA. XATO BORO OEA GASA E. (she hugs SALIMA)

UNCLE THAW THAW, SALAM LATETO NA.

AUNTIE

SINGHO NI ANIRA RAY.

UNCLE

~~At-ka MARILANDA NI.~~ A
F

SALIMA

DI, SASA, SASI NA.

AUNT/UNC

DI, DI.

MM

Frozen 'Our relatives ~~live~~ in a village. It took 105
ages to get ~~out~~ of the city. I got the
feeling ~~everybody was~~ staring at me.'

(AUNTIE, UNCLE and SALIMA set off + walk through a
crowd).

SALIMA:

~~ATO BIPAR MATAI AATA JAI NA.~~

UNCLE

HORO, HORO. MAIYA MANSHAR KASAY AAO KILA

AUNTIE

ANAR BAFIJI LONDONO THAKI AYSAY.

SALIMA

SASA, AKHTA TAKA BILAI TARAY.

BEGGARS :-

AUNTIE:

NA, NA, OTA THIK NA, OLA HODDLEAY DAWN LAEY

~~we had to take a taxi to the village~~

MM.

~~'So I beg, being behind my auntie and uncle'~~

Rickshaws

UNCLE

TAKSI!

MM:

It was a long way to ^{our} the village and when
we got out of the taxi we were in the country
and I was attacked by insects, and caterpillars.

UNCLE

~~DAXO SALIMA XOTO SHONOR GAO.~~ Beautiful village

SALIMA

~~SASA, ATO MASI PTINAY.~~

FLYATTACKS

UNCLE

O KISONI GAOYA JTA THAXAY. SALINA, DAYO
AATO, PHAK. BE CAREFUL.

MAM

~~I was told that~~. I knew we were coming near
the village, when my sandals started sinking
in the mud.

SALINA

O, ALLAH, DAXI. AMAR SANDOL FAXAR MAJAY
ATKI GASAY.

AUNTIE

Different

AMAR GOINAY XANAY TARAY KOISA NA, MA TAY
FAXOR MAJAY OLA SANDOL LOIYA ATO FARTO NA

MAM

SALINA

(SYL)

} 'Why didn't they tell me I'd need my boots.'
~~The village is about the same size as~~
~~of estate - but the houses are completely~~
~~different - the village is~~

UNCLE

OI, DAYO AMAR BARL DAXA JAI.

SALINA

OI TA NI?

UNCLE

OI OI JOLM AATO.

(UNCLE moves up to call his children out)

UNCLE

MASUD, OISHE, DAYO, XA AISAY.

(MASUD, OISHE come out and see SALINA).

MAS/OIS

BA A ATO NI? (SYL) you look well etc

SALINA

(SYL)

Have some English Chocolate -

(MASUD, OISHE eat the chocolate).

It was brilliant when I first arrived -
I didn't know there would be so
much to do - ~~Agave + Maize~~
can you imagine me going fishing? 35

But

SALIMA:

On the ~~first~~ ^{Monday} ~~day~~ ^{Morning} of the ~~new~~ term I had to go to school! I know what the road would be like - my sandals were already broken - so I went barefoot, like Oyshe and Masoud.

OYSHE + MASOUD:

(to Audience) Schoolo zittin Nani!
Come On we'll be late Joldi Joldi.

(Oyshe + Masoud lead Salima and rest of class along the road to school, worrying about being late, Salima asking questions:)

SALIMA

(Sylheti) Is it much further?

OYSHE

(Sylheti) No Only 2 miles.

THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL (we hope!)
Rehin is writing.

SALIMA

I couldn't put myself through the door!
I'd got first day of school nerves again!
I heard the teacher call my name.

Rehin

Salima!

SALIMA

All the other children looked around and stared at me (in Sylheti).

THEY TURN AND STARE

SYL: } It wasn't the same without Sophie.
I wish she was here now.
(English) I wish Sophie was here now.

REHIM - (to a child in the audience) And this morning you were all a bit late - why was that?

CHILD TELLS ABOUT SMALL FLOOD.

REHIM - (Bongla) Masoud, where were you last week?

MASOUD Sorry Masoud, I had to go to market with my father...

REHIM Go to market! Everybody has to go to market, I had to go to market when I was young, but I didn't become a teacher by going to market - I went to school as well!
(Bongla) All these excuses, Bad feet! Working late because of a small flood. I have to walk along the same road! Do you think I don't have to walk through the flood?
(English) Look at my legs. ^{my} are old and weak! So why? Why do I come here grey day to be your teacher? Huh? Masoud?

MASOUD (Sylheti) I don't know - AMI ZANI NA, MITHELE

REHIM  What do you want to be when you grow up (Sylheti). *

ASK Members of audience - IMPRO ANSWERS

ask ~~ask~~
Masoud

Salima - What do you need to be an engineer?

Maths physics + good handwriting

MASOUD

An Engineer, Masoudji, I'd like to be
an engineer, ~~and I'll be~~ ~~clear~~

REHIM

(Bangla) You want to be an engineer,
how will you learn to be ~~an~~ an
engineer if you miss school?

↔*

①

(English) ~~for me!~~ I have given my
whole life to this school so that you
can choose - choose whether to be a
rickshaw puller ~~like your parents~~, or
whether to be an engineer - ~~or anything~~
else you want to be! ^{weaver or} weaver, builder

(Bangla) Education is the backbone of
a nation! Salima - What does that mean?

SALIMA

Education is the backbone of a nation,
Masoudji.

REHIM

Yes! And that is why I have given my
life to your education - If I give my
life to your education, I give my life to
the whole country. But what happens?
Everyday, someone is missing! I am
here ready to teach you, you are not
home, or stuck on the road
well. After today, there will be no
more excuses ~~of~~ not coming to school

~~And why not? Because THIS is a~~
 magic box, Janta... Oyshe - (Bangla)
 do you know what is it - this Magic Box?

OYSHE Ji Na, Mastorji

REHM Would you like to know

OYSHE Ji O: Mastorji

REHM (Bangla) All Right, look inside!

OYSHE OPENS THE RIGHT BOX

REHM ^{Bangla} Look inside (she does) Bring me what
 you find! (she does) Aha! Masond!
 What is this?
 Jata.

MASOND A gum boot Mastorji

REHM. Yes! A gum boot! Just like mine!
 And in that box I have 30 pairs!
 Now, what could I do with 30 pairs of
 nice shiny waterproof boots? Well, I
 could sell them in the market, I could
 give you the money, and what would you
 do? Ho! Spend it on sweets and maize
 your teeth fall out. OR I could give
 one pair to each of you, and then you
 could come to school every day with dry
 feet. Would you like that?

ALL Ji O: Yes please Mastorji ee.

MORNING NOISES: MOSQUE, COCK CROW, ANIMALS.
SALMA, OYSHE, MASOUD WASH IN THE POND.
OYSHE + SALMA 'TREAD' RICE, MASOUD DRIVES
THE CATTLE OUT. MASOUD IS WORRIED, HURRYING
& NOT IN A GOOD MOOD LIKE OYSHE + SALMA.
THEY POUND RICE WITH THE DEKHI

All
O Dau Bano Ray
Dekhite Par Dea
Dekhi Nachay
Ami Nachi
Haylia Dula
Dau Bano Ray etc.

SCHOOL BELL.

OYSHE + SALMA WIPE THE SWEAT FROM THEIR EYES,
QUICK RINSE, QUICK ORGANISE OF HAIR + GET THEIR MATS
READY FOR SCHOOL. MASOUD DOES NONE OF THESE
THINGS. WHEN OYSHE IS APART FROM SALMA -

MASOUD It's Market day today. (sylvia)

OYSHE I know! It's always Market on Wednesdays. Come On

MASOUD I can't go to school today - I've only had time
to fill 15 rice bags. ~~look, hey! if you stay and help... ..~~
~~hurry let if you stay home and help~~
I CAN DO ALL FIFTEEN!

OYSHE But it's not my job! sylvia: ~~It's your job!~~
Tumar xoo

MASOUD Oyshe, if we get all ¹⁵ the bags finished

There'll be plenty of food this week!

OYSHE But what about school! If I don't go to school today I'll lose the second shoe - SYL: I want Arekta Juta.

SYL: KINTU SCHOOLOR KITA OIBO? JODI AMI SCHOOLOR NA JAE, TOI AMI AREKTA JUTA PAITAM NA. AMI AREKTA JUTA ~~BAWA~~ SIGH.

MASOUD And go hungry for a week? SYL: You might be able to go for a week without Dhal and Chicken but what about Mother? What about little Salima?

OYSHE It was your job! If you hadn't wasted time ~~swimming~~ swimming you would have finished by now (You wanted to go swimming I want my shoe!) SYL

OTA TUMAR XAM. TUHI JODI HATRAIYA SHAMOT NASHTA NA XORTA, TOI TUMI SHAB XAM SHASH XORTA FARTA. TUMI CAO HATRAI, AMI CAI JUTA.

MASOUD ~~Salima can tell us what she learns today, she'll explain to Mr. Rahman that we were busy trying - making sure our family can eat this week!~~

Come on Oyshe - Our father will beat me really badly if I don't finish the job - SYL you wouldn't want me to be beaten just so that you can get your shoe?

OYSHE LOOKS AS IF SHE IS ABOUT TO GIVE IN

MASOUD Don't worry about the shoe Oyshe syl
you'll marry a good husband and have
lots of shoes.

SALIMA That's not the point ^(is what?) Even if Oyshe does
marry someone who buys her shoes, she'll
miss school! What'll you say to Mr
Rehem? Come on Oyshe, we'll be late!

MASOUD What do you know about it? If Oyshe doesn't
help, I'll only finish 10 bags

SALIMA So?

MASOUD If I only finish 10 bags, dad will beat me
and you'll be going to school on an
empty stomach! (syl)

OYSHE AMI AMIAK JUTA SIHA!
I want my shoe!

MASOUD It'll be your fault

SALIMA Come to school, don't listen to him!

THEY SHOUT AT EACH OTHER + STORM OFF
EACH TO A GROUP OF 'FRIENDS' TO AIR THE
THEIR FEELINGS! (OR DILEMMA!)

(SOPHIE RUSHES HOME EXCITED)

SOPHIE Dad, Dad, I've found out who invented the traffic lights. (pause) Dad! DAD!?

(she sees the note - 'Round at Tony's')

Typical!

(she rushes out and round to Mr Martin's)
(knocking - MM is playing a Calypso very loud.)

MM. Alright, Alright.

(He opens the door)

SOPHIE Who invented the traffic lights?

MM. What?

SOPHIE Who invented the traffic lights?

MM. I don't know. Who?

SOPHIE Garret Morgan

MM. Did he? From America, you say?

I never knew that.

SOPHIE Yeah, I ran home to tell my dad, because he wanted me to find out, ~~as part of a quiz~~ ^{now I know, he's not} ~~as part of a quiz~~.

MM. why do you think he wanted you to find out? He doesn't need to hear the answer. He just wanted you to know. Is it true?

cos it's important to know things - 49

SOPHIE

Yeah!

MM

well I never, you learn something
new everyday.

SOPHIE

Oh, this is Calypso man, Nice.

MM

It is isn't it?

SOPHIE

How come you like this?

MM.

Oh, that's another war story!

Come, make we lick foot?

(SOPHIE + MM laugh and dance)

MM.

~~Come on, I'll walk you home.~~

FREE

SAL
SOPH
SOPHIE
Dear Sophie,
Dear Salima,
guess what? I found out who invented the traffic lights!
It was Garrett Morgan I told Monty and I thought he'd be really surprised but he was'nt, he just smiled and said "well I never! You learn something new every day".....

SAL
SALIMA
I've learn't something new every day that I've been here Soph, not just about school things, but about how I feel. Like, when I first came to Bangladesh I thought my cousins were really lucky because they had so many reasons why they could'nt go to school. I really felt like saying "why don't you just stay at home instead of all this struggling?". But when I did have to stay at home working on the Deki and then in the fields, I changed my mind.

SOPH
SOPH
My main reason for writing was to say sorry for ~~ripping up~~ ^{messing up} 'our' story. I think I did it because I thought Mr. Timpson was saying my work is'nt good enough. I thought if it was'nt gonna make me the best then I did'nt want it. But now I'm fed up of people saying that I have to be better than everyone else if I want to get a good job. I just want to be normal!

SAL
SOPH
Normally Mr. Rahim (our teacher) is really strict in class but for the last few days he has been very quiet. I think there's something going on.....

SOPH
I've just ~~got~~ ^{READ} the letter from ^{the 2nd school} Collingwood Girls Brandsford High Secondary School to tell mum and dad that I've got a place starting in September. I had to go to this big interview and talk about my best subjects and what hobbies I had. The teacher said that I would do well academically with "the continued support of my parents" whatever that means!.

SAL
It's nearly the end of term and my mum and dad are really surprised that I've done so well at school. They talked to my Mr Rahim and he told them they should make sure that I get the best education possible when I go back to England, they agreed. I wonder if ~~this~~ ^{collingwood} means they'll send me to Brandsford High?

SOPH
Have you got a best friend there?

SAL
Whose your best friend now?

SOPH
Write and tell me if there's something going on.....

SAL
I'll write and tell you if theres anything going on....Salima

SOPH
.....Sophie xxxxxxxxxxxx.

DEA

SALIMA

Prio

Sophie

SOPHIE

Dear

Sophie....

SALIMA

~~Today is the last day of term - I'm looking forward to the holidays, but I'll really miss school too!~~

SOPHIE

SYL

Mr Penum is such an old character!
I haven't missed a day, and on the first day of next term I'll have my very own shoe! Aareeto Juta!

SALIMA

SYL

SOPHIE

Oyshe missed one day - she stayed at home to help Masend with the net for market - she's really upset cos she won't be getting her second shoe, so she wouldn't speak to Masend for a whole week. But she couldn't help it - there was a job to be done.

OR

Oyske didn't miss a day either - Masoud wanted her to help him work one day but she didn't listen. She's glad she got her shoes - and a day at school - but Masoud got a real hammering, AND we didn't eat chicken for a week!

SALIMA SYL (VERSION ONE OR TWO!).

SAL + SOTTIE

Anyway, I must run - I don't want to be late on the last day of term!
Love to Monty - do you think he'd give you these shoes if you asked?
Love xxx Salima

Salam Salam brother Shakol Salam Shaker Bashe,
Maryam adesh Korkay fulam aboli bomo Bashey,
sha-salam Salam Shaker Bashe,

You may be surprise, why I am singing this song.
What is the meaning of this song.

Well, I am going to tell you a story.

When I was very, very very little boy. My father
~~die~~ died. My mother couldn't afford to buy
food for us. She had to work hard to support
our small family.

Some bad village people after my young mother.

Then she had no alternative but to marry.

My mother got married with a rich man and

then we went to the city.

after a year or two my mother give birth

another baby. He was a boy.

We almost grow up together.

My stepfather doesn't like me at all. I use

to do all hard jobs at home, like washing
cloth, carrying things from the market, etc.

My stepfather never wanted me to study.
 but my mother very much wanted me to study.

I use to copy my ^{Kassam} step-brother's book and learn it
 over night and always use to bring his
 book in the morning before anyone else ^{got up} get up.
 I use to finish my everyday job in a ~~some~~ certain
 time and ~~tryed~~ to go attend school everyday.
 My stepfather never knew this.

There was a system in our school that every
 end of the term school authority use to
 give prize to the best boy of the
 school.

It was our last day of the term. The school
 hall was fully packed by student and teachers.
 'cos my father was the president of that school
 so he will handover the prize.

When the head teacher announcing that:
 this term's prize will be given to Mr. Rahman
 son, my father and every one else was present.
 They were ~~they~~ thinking that it should be Mr.
 Rahman's son Kimm. I mean my step brother.
 But unfortunately or fortunately the head-teacher

about the subjects

announced my name.

I could see all lines in my step father's face. My father had no alternative but to hand over the prize to me. I just took the prize and ran off.

My father went home and had a big fight with my mother and accused her why she did not allow me to go to school. and why did she give my school fees.

I knew what would be the situation at home. So I did not turn up till late. When I went home it was mid night, my mother was waiting for me in front of the house. When she saw me, she ran to me and asked me to leave the city before sunrise.

I couldn't disobey my mother's order.

I left that city that night. Singing this song which means: Goodbye good bye

the city, goodbye city people.

I am returning to beloved village.

Goodbye mother, farewell the city

I am going to see my loving village

(4)

I come back here, here in this village. I could hardly
remember any single day I didn't go to school.
When I became teacher I first join in this school.
My children, ^{am} at my last step of my life.
I may will not be able to teach you more.
In the first day of your next term your
new teacher will give you the second
second shoe. Anekla juti.
I hope you all will ~~win~~ win the second
shoe and continue your study.

Kheda Hafiz.

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