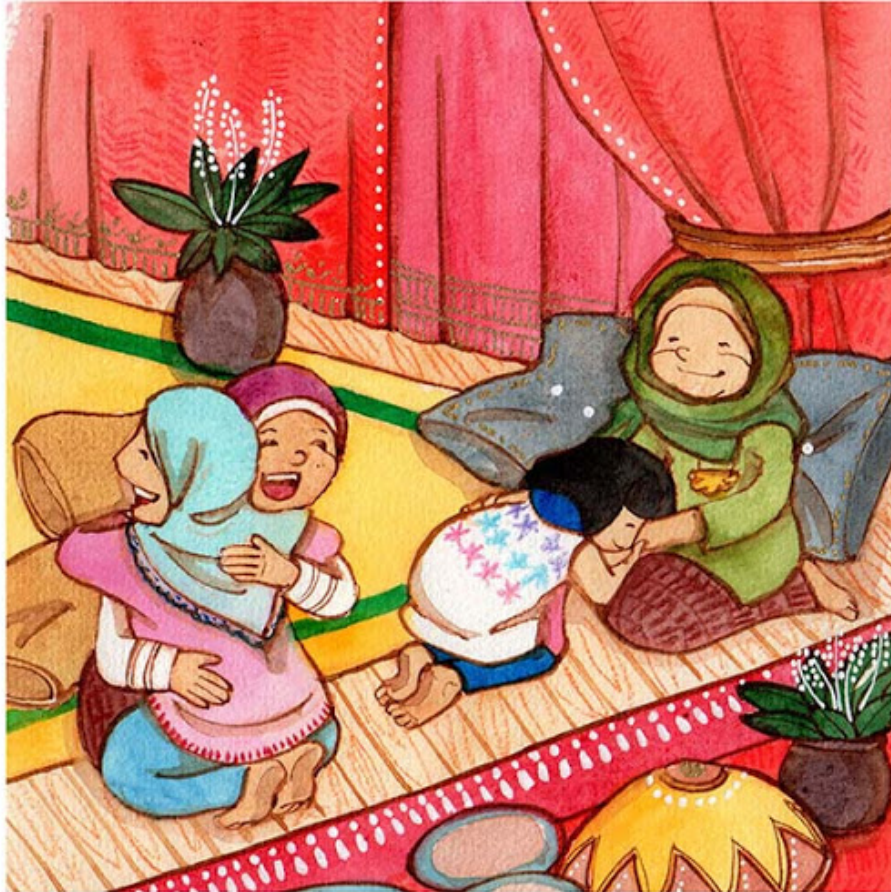




The Little Bridesmaid
Laveta Pamela Rianas
Tiffa N. Tanuwigena

Let's  Read

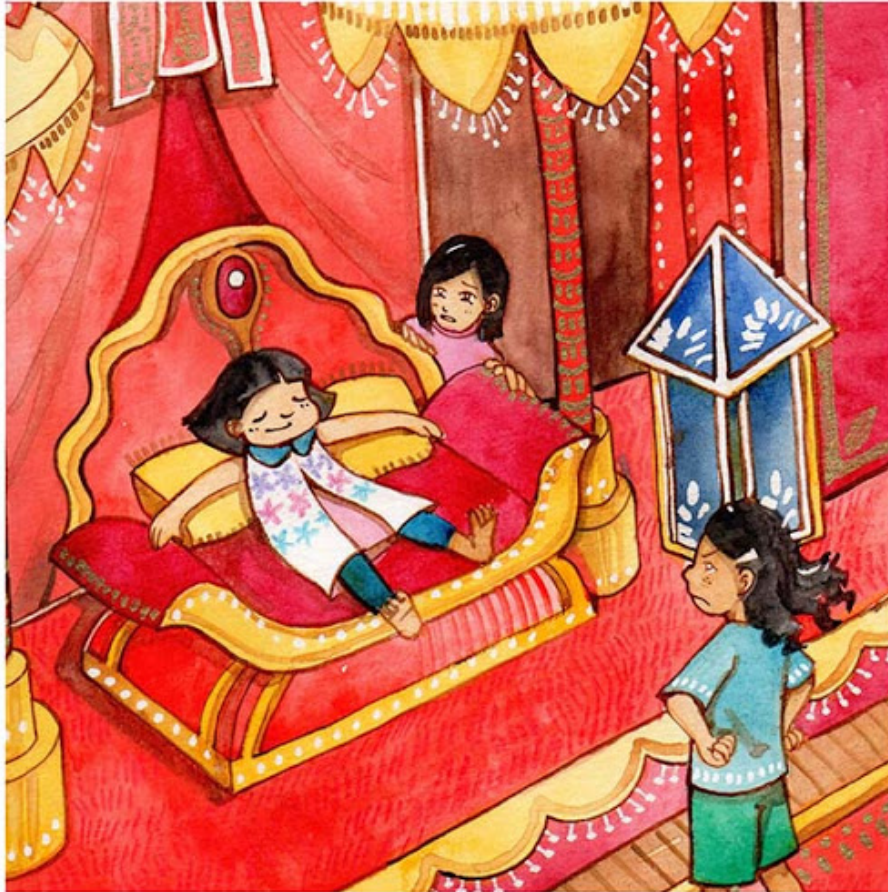
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Rena and her parents are attending Teta Yusni's wedding party. Teta Yusni is Rena's older cousin. Rena's distant relatives from faraway places are also here.



Rena is excited to meet her other cousins, Ipit and Vera. Rena asks them to play. Rena pretends to be the queen.



"This is how a queen sits!" Rena says.
Ipit and Vera also want to be queens. But
Rena does not want to give them a turn.



"It's not fun being a queen without a nice dress," Rena thinks. She starts to get bored and looks for something interesting to do.



"Wow! What a beautiful bedroom!" Rena thinks. "This room must belong to the bride. Hmm...And it smells good too!"



Rena then checks the room next door. Teta Yusni is there. A makeup artist is putting makeup on her. Wow...Teta Yusni is a beautiful bride!

"Rena, do you want to be a bridesmaid?" Teta Yusni asks.

"Really? I can?" Rena is surprised.

"Sure. A bridesmaid is called *anak daro ketek* here. Do you want to be one?" Teta asks again.

Of course Rena wants to be one!



"Rena!" her mom calls out.

In the front bedroom, Rena's mom and some aunties are also putting on makeup and getting dressed.

"Oh, you are also dressing up?" Rena asks when she sees her mom. "Will you be one of the bridesmaids too?"



"Haha...of course not. Only kids can be bridesmaids," her mom answers. "I am a *Pasumandan*, that is, the bride's lady. On this special day, the bride is treated like a queen. She has guards and ladies-in-waiting with her. Her little bridesmaids have to fan the bride and also bring her drinks."

"I want to be one!" Rena says. "I want to be a bridesmaid, Mom!"



Now it's Rena's turn to get makeup on. Then Rena is ready for the bridesmaid's dress. But the dress does not fit her!



"Maybe you can't be a bridesmaid," her mom says. "This dress is too small for you."

But Rena really wants to be a bridesmaid! She is sure the dress will fit her, somehow. She clenches her stomach and holds her breath.

"Pull the zipper, Mom. Pull again!"

Zzzzip! Rena's mom is able to close the zipper!



Rena has the dress on now.

"Hmm...this dress really looks too small on you. You'd better wear another dress, Rena," her mom says.



Before Rena can say anything, Ipit and Vera come in. Ipit has also dressed up as a bridesmaid. Vera wants to be a bridesmaid too, but there are no dresses left.

Looking at Ipit, Rena's wish to be a bridesmaid gets even stronger. She does not want to take off her dress.

"It's okay, Mom! This dress fits me well!" Rena tells her mom.



Now it is time for the bride and all family members to go visit the groom's house. The bridesmaids get to walk in the front row.



Boom...boom...crash...

Clang, clang, clang...boom...

Small drums and a little kettle gong make a loud song, marking the beginning of the bride's parade.

But Rena feels uncomfortable in her small dress. The dress rides up. It is hard for Rena to walk. She cannot keep up with Ipit.



As they arrive at the groom's house, Rena is excited to see all the dishes: *lung rendang*, dried beef, beef curry, cassava balls, and the sweet *lapek koci*. Those are Rena's favorites! But Rena has to wait. The feast has not started yet. The bride's family still has to listen to the groom's family's welcoming speech and the rhyme ceremony.



Rena starts to feel tired. She keeps moving in her seat. When will it be time to eat? Rena becomes more and more uncomfortable. How would she eat in this dress? Her stomach hurts, and it is already hard for her to breathe. Meanwhile, she is really, really hungry. What should she do?



Suddenly, an idea pops into her head.



Vera really wants to be a bridesmaid, and the bridesmaid's dress fits Vera better.
Rena is relieved. She is comfortable now.



She fills up on lung rendang, beef curry, cassava balls, and fermented bean beef.



Finally, it is time for the bride's family to go home. Rena still cannot walk fast, but it is not because of the small dress now. It is because she is very full!

Boom...boom...crash...

Clang, clang, clang...boom...



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Original Story

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