

The Watch Drenched In Syrup

It started much like any other day, however today it was Salihah's birthday and she had just turned twelve. As her treat her parents had just told her she was allowed to visit JoJo Sweet Factory. For her, this was a dream come true.

Exhilarated, she dashed down the stairs as if there was a dog behind her. As she approached the last step her Dada appeared from no-where. He covered her eyes and led her to the living room where she could hear whispering but then all was silent. "Surprise!", her family cried out as soon as Dada took his hands off. There before her was the most lip-smacking food ever. After all it was her birthday! Salihah had the most appetizing cake ever. Soon they had completely devoured the entire delicious meal.

Salihah skipped to the car with her two brothers Hassan and Ahmad who were equally excited. After waiting for three impatient hours, they finally arrived at JoJo factory. As they entered the huge, towering building, a smell of fruity flavours wafted through the air. They met Nana the owner of the factory. Nana was one of Salihah's relatives who she really loved. He was a jolly man with a booming voice and a pot belly like Santa Claus.

"Right let me show you around", said Nana. Following Nana, the children first went to the chewing gum production room. Nana explained how the gum started its journey from gum base and glucose which was mixed in massive mixers like those used to mix cement. They came to some black double doors where they entered a noisy area where Nana continued the long journey of the gum. This was where the gum was flavoured, then put through a clever machine which first made a long tube of gum then cut it up into smaller chunks which were then filled with sherbet. Salihah looked around her in amazement as the monstrous machines worked tirelessly.

Suddenly, as Nana was speaking Salihah noticed that Nana's watch was missing. This was no ordinary watch and only Salihah knew this. She had brought it for Nana only a few weeks ago. The watch had special sensors in it so that if the watch was lost, it would send out signals to the person who was the closest to it alerting them to where it was.

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Salihah panicked and rudely interrupted, "Nana where is your watch?". Nana panicked as well and ordered all the machines to be turned off and exclaimed "let's all look for a golden watch which says Pakistan on the strap." It had been a while since they started looking for the watch but no one had found anything. Salihah became really worried. She had only just bought the watch and it was lost all ready. The man in the market had said that this was the only watch of its kind in the whole world. She had to find it, it was so special. The children soon got bored and busied themselves with tasting the variety of chewing gums that lay on conveyer belt. Desperately searching high and low another hour had gone by but nothing had been found until suddenly Salihah heard a quiet beep. "I think I have found it, nobody move!"

Every one froze..... Salihah carefully followed the sounds which appeared to be coming from a monstrous barrel of thick, sticky, golden syrup. She climbed on the step and peered inside. There at the bottom of the barrel lay the watch. She carefully pulled out a sticky, but fine watch, out of the barrel of gloop. Nana danced with excitement and exclaimed "she's found it! she's found it! They all rejoiced with happiness. Nana sighed with relief "let's get out of here before something else get lost". He then ordered the machines to be put back on. After leaving that noisy production area they all went back to Nana's office.

Nana announced, "As Salihah found my watch and it is her birthday I will reward her with four whole boxes of sweets and gum." Within minutes, a worker filled the table with different coloured boxes full of sweets. The excited children got to try out samples all of the sweets and gums. With her mouth full of chewing gum, Salihah looked around at the huge variety of confectionary that lay in front of her. Choosing her boxes was going to be a tough decision!

After selecting her boxes and thanking Nana, Salihah and her family returned to the car. Salihah sighed and turned to her younger brother "what an adventurous day it had been. The best birthday ever!"