

The Doll That Bommakka Made

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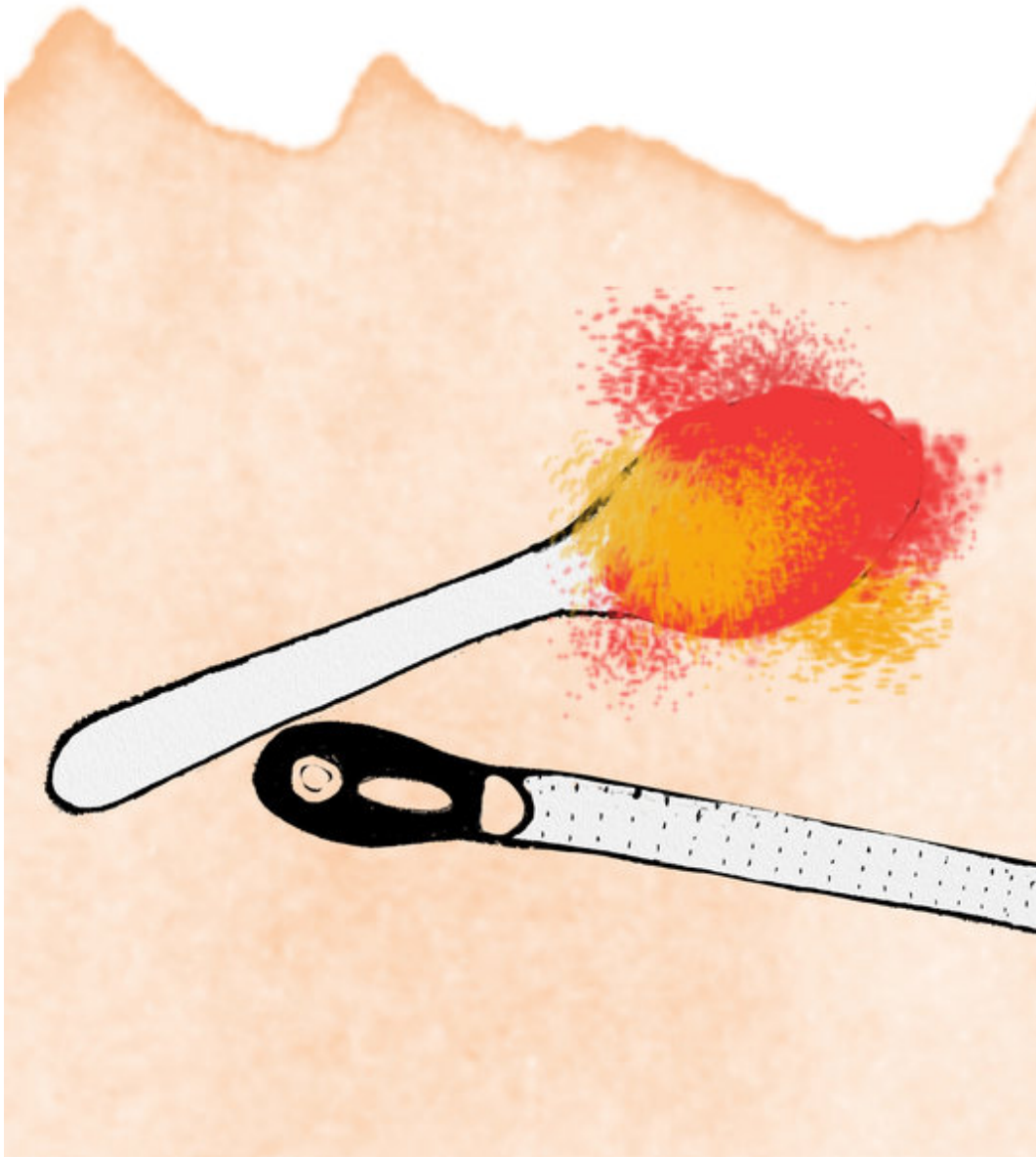


I am the doll,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made
a long time ago.

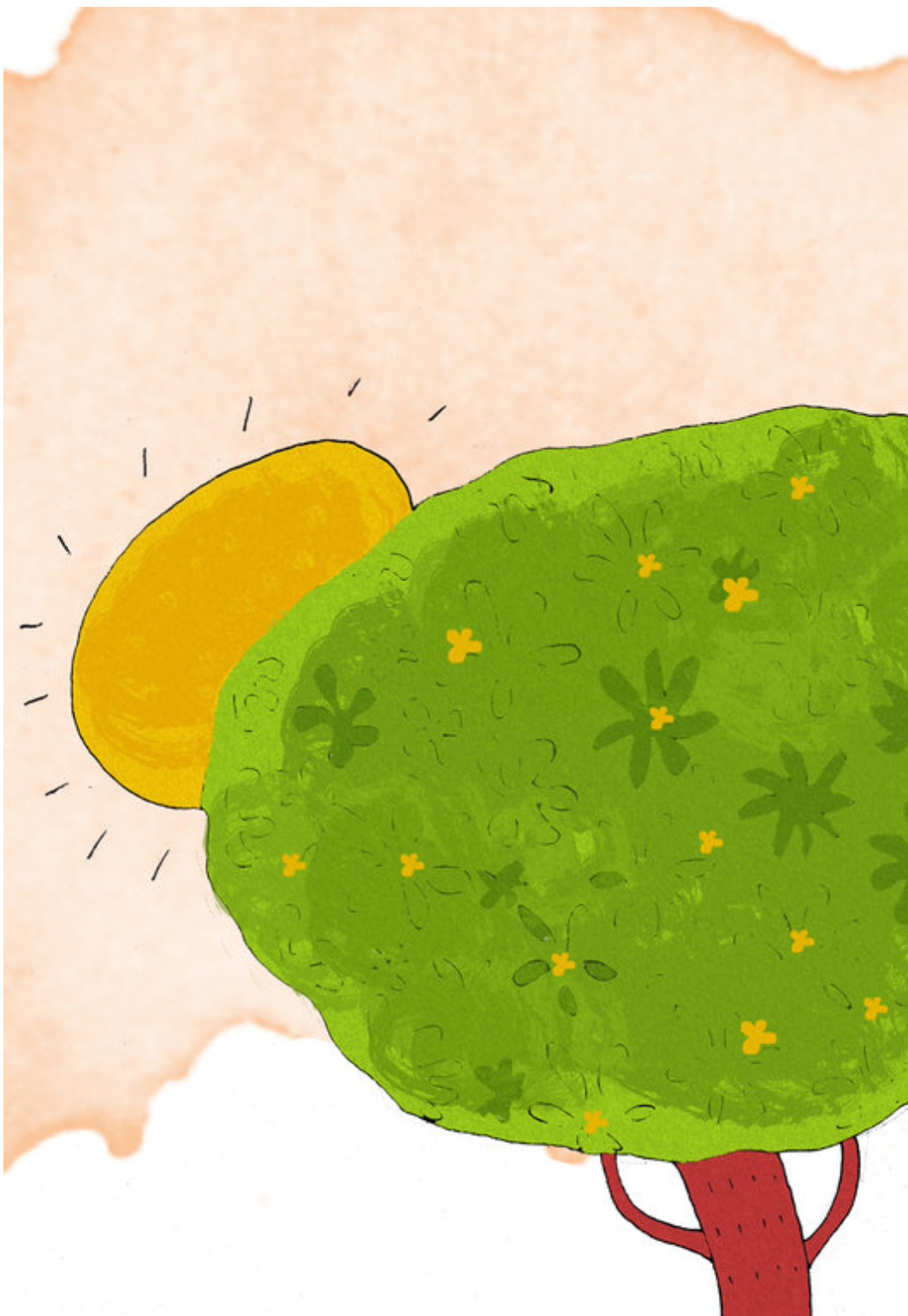
This is the clay,
the soft brown clay,
*that was scooped up one day
for crafting me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.*



These are the hands,
the supple hands
that kneaded the clay
that was scooped up one day
for crafting me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.



This is the tool,
the simple tool
that trimmed the shape
that was cast in the mould
that made me smooth
in the supple hands
that kneaded the clay
that was scooped up one day
for crafting me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.



This is the sun
that rose up high
that watched the tool
that trimmed the shape
that was cast in the mould
that made me smooth
in the supple hands
that kneaded the clay
that was scooped up one day
for crafting me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.



These are the brushes,
the bamboo brushes
that dipped and danced
in the colourful paints
that looked to the sun
to bake me dry,
*and this is the tool
that trimmed the shape
that was cast in the mould
that made me smooth
in the supple hands
that kneaded the clay
that was scooped up one day
for crafting me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.*



This is the market,
the Sunday market,
where a cheerful girl
skipped up one day
as I smiled at her
from a wicker basket
while I stood on my feet
waiting for someone
to take me home.
*With a joyful look,
she picked me up,
and took me home,
and played with me,
the dancing doll
that Bommakka made.*



These are the steps,
the seven steps
in a special nook
in the little girl's home.
The happy girl
who skipped to the market,
where I stood on my feet
in a wicker basket
and hoped to find
a loving home

where I could live
for a long long time.



I am the doll,
the dancing doll
who graced the steps
of the display of dolls
arranged with care
year after year
in the little girl's house...



...before she wrapped me
in layers of cotton and
tucked me in a family trunk -an old,
old chest
handing me down to
her very own daughter
who presented me
to her own daughter
down through the years.



I am the doll,
the very same doll
wearing a shiny blouse
and a long pleated skirt,
swaying my hips
as I gently twirl,
bobbing and nodding
my neck in turn
inviting you sweetly
to pause and to gaze.



I am the graceful
dancing doll
that Bommakka made
a long time ago!

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The Doll That Bommakka Made

(English)

This charming cumulative tale celebrates the tradition of hand-crafted dolls, inspired by the South Indian Thanjavur Thalai Atti Bommai. Starting with a little ball of clay, we see the fine dancing doll grow before our eyes. The rhythmic descriptive words, stacked in a delightfully repetitive way, invite children to chant along. The vibrant illustrations complete the vivid imagery.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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