

Mamby,

Back to the
Beginning

Mamby,
Back to the
Beginning

by Mildred Luijdjens

Illustrated by
Jurino Ignacio &
Chavella Overman

First published in Dutch in 2018

Original title: *Mamby, Terug naar het begin*

Illustrations: Jurino Ignacio and Chavella Overman

Cover design: Zuleikha Stuart and Javier Wanga

ISBN: 9 789403 671758

Copyright © 2023 Mildred Luijdjens for Millanguage

Special thanks to:

Lucien Veldema

Sharon Comvalius-Goddard

Zuleikha Stuart

Javier Wanga

Frans van den Houdt

Kate Furber

Contents:

Chapter 1:	But not all the way...	Page	9
Chapter 2:	Surinam is way too far	Page	25
Chapter 3:	Red Fernandes soda	Page	31
Chapter 4:	What's that sound?	Page	38
Chapter 5:	The Tree that saw it all	Page	46
Chapter 6:	Going down, going down	Page	51
Chapter 7:	Kankan tree	Page	55
Chapter 8:	The secret	Page	65
Chapter 9:	Back to my roots	Page	75
Chapter 10:	Between Bijlmer and Bamako	Page	89
About the writer		Page	93

Chapter 1- But not all the way...

“Are we ready to roll, people?! Melody, you might want to sit in the middle, and keep an eye on Sola and Remy. It wouldn’t be wise for the two of them to sit together.”

While the kids slid into the car one by one, mom and Pop made sure everyone fastened their seatbelts.

“Do we have our luggage, Mavis?” Mother nods.

“Cash?”

“Check!!”

“Tickets? “

“Check!!”

“Passports?”

“Check!!”

“Insect repellent?”

“Check!!”

“All hands and feet aboard?”

“Check, check, check!!”

The twins would have probably continued forever, if father hadn’t put an end to their echoing. But, Remy and Sola are unstoppable and soon found another game to play, called: poke your sister in the side and try to make her laugh. But Melody was not in a playful mood at all. She was relieved when her parents finally put an end to her suffering:

“Okay kids, that’s enough now!”

When they were all settled, Cees starts the engine and shouts:

“Suriname¹, here we come!” Then he turns to his wife and asks:

“What time do we have to be at the airport, Mave?” She counts her fingers.

¹ Suriname= Country in South America

“Let’s see...if we are in line by seven, we’ll still be on time.”

“We’d better hurry then!”

By the time they reach the highway, Mavis has noticed that Melody hasn’t said a word since they have left. She is wondering what’s going on, since that is not like her at all.

“Are you okay, Mel?”

Melody shrugs and opens her mouth, but Sola and Remy are making so much noise, there is no use trying to shout over them.

“We’re almost there, we’re almost there, but-not-yet-all-the-way! All-the-way!! We’re almost there, we’re almost th-”

“Yeah, yeah! I know, I know. We are not even close yet!” Cees shouts to the singers in the back.

“Are we almost in ²*Sjurinam*, Poppy?”

Mavis and Cees try their very best not to laugh.

“No silly! We are now almost at the airport. That’s where we’ll take the airplane to Suriname. It’s quite a long flight, you know?!”

“Okay, but how many stops is it, poppy??”

“Well, there are no stops in the air, Remy. We will make a stop somewhere in the middle but after that, we’re flying straight to Surinam. So that will take a couple of hours. Luckily, we can do lots of fun things on board, like listening to music, watching a movie, or maybe read a book.”

“Or sing a song?!”

“Well... you could try that too, but it might not be such a great idea, Sola.”

“Why not, Poppy?”

“Well, because there are other people on the plane as well, and they might want to take a nap.”

“Huh, we won’t be taking any naps, right Remy? We’re gonna stay awake until we get there!” Remy nods clearly feeling the same way.

“Well, we’ll see about that, kids!”

“*Whab a’ we gonga doohoo, im Sjujinang?*” Even with his thumb in his mouth, Mum and Pop can still understand what Remy is saying.

² *Sjurinam*=Suriname (see *1)