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# PAPIAMENTU KU TASJA

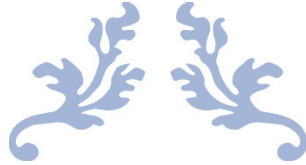
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Language opens the door, but culture helps you truly  
belong.



**NATHASJA PLAIZIER**





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# 1 Introduction

Language is more than words. Language is a way of coming home.

This book was born out of love, curiosity, and a desire to truly understand.

I was born in the Netherlands, but I consciously chose to become a *Yudi Tera*. Through living, listening, and feeling, I learned that Papiamentu is not just a language—it is a carrier of history, warmth, humor, and resilience. When you learn Papiamentu, you learn more than how to speak; you learn to see through different eyes and to listen with an open heart.

When someone asks me what Curaçao means to me, I do not think first of the beaches or the beautiful weather. I think of the people, the sense of community, the feeling of coming home, and of course, our language. Papiamentu has become part of who I am.

*Papiamentu ku Tasja* is not a traditional language textbook. It is an invitation. A unique way of learning, shaped by experience, the courage to make mistakes, and the joy of the journey. This book was written for anyone who wants to learn Papiamentu in a human, accessible, and respectful way—whether you live here, have recently arrived, or carry Curaçao in your heart.

Integration begins with connection. And connection begins with language. By learning Papiamentu, you show appreciation for the culture, the people, and the island. You are saying: *mi ke ta parti di bo mundu* — *I want to be part of your world.*

With this book, I hope to build a bridge. Between languages. Between cultures. Between who you were and who you want to become.

Bon bini na *Papiamentu ku Tasja*.  
Let's learn together — ku kurason.

## 2 My Connection to Curaçao

I am a Yu di Tera (child of the land) by choice and out of love for this beautiful island.

Curaçao is more than a place on the map to me; it is my home. It is where my memories, my family, my chosen culture, and my language are rooted.

When I first moved here, I did not always realize how special Papiamentu truly is. Over time, I came to appreciate more and more just how rich our language and culture are. It is a language that tells stories, conveys emotions, and brings people together.

With this book, I hope not only to teach words and phrases, but also to share a little of that connection.

I believe that when someone takes the time to learn Papiamentu, doors begin to open. Not only in conversations, but also in understanding the people, the history, and the culture of Curaçao.

As a Yu di Tera, I am proud of our island, and I find joy in sharing that pride with others.

That is why I wrote this book: to introduce people to our language in an accessible way while also giving them a glimpse of Curaçao itself.

Mi ta spera ku bo lo disfrutá di e biahe aki.

(I hope you will enjoy this journey.)

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