

Dead Man Under Pandanus Tree Christopher Book: 11:77 #84

A girl grew up and became big. One day she wanted to chew pandanus. So she went and pulled down her canoe and she went. She was going, going, going, going - she passed the other point and she was going. When she looked she saw a pandanus tree with many ripe fruit on it. She saw it, so she pulled the canoe up. She went up under the tree. A dead man was lying underneath it. When she looked she saw him lying down. "Aha!". She asked him, "You climb up for me, cut those pandanus and I'll take them home." But the man didn't do anything, he was still lying down. She said, "Oh, you bad boy! I'm asking you to climb up and cut down the pandanus fruits for me to take home, but you don't want to do it for me. I'm not telling you to laugh. I'm asking you to climb up and cut the pandanus down for me." He couldn't do it, so she said, "All right, I'll jump over you and climb." She jumped over him and climbed up the tree. She cut the pandanus down. When she finished she said, "All right, you move away and I'll come down." She kept on asking him to move so that she could come down. He couldn't move so she said, "O.k., I'll jump over you and come down." She came down.

When she came down she said to the man, "Help me take these pandanus to the canoe." But he was dead and couldn't help her. She carried them down to the canoe. Then she came up and asked him to go down to the canoe, but he couldn't go so she carried him down and put him on the canoe. Then she started paddling home. The wind started to pick up. The body started to smell. "Mm, you bad boy! What have you been doing that your body is smelling." She kept on paddling. When the wind blew she could smell the body. She said, "You bad boy! Your body is smelly!" She was saying that. She passed the point and paddled to her village. As she came up to the shore her brother saw her and said, "She went to get pandanus and now she is coming back." They all went down. When they looked they saw the dead man on the canoe. They asked her, "What's this?" She said, "Oh, I told this man to climb the pandanus tree but he couldn't climb up. I cut the pandanus fruits down and told him to help take them to the canoe but he couldn't help me. So I carried them to the canoe myself. And I carried him to the canoe. While I was paddling home his body was smelling. I don't know what was wrong with him." They said, "Ah, you foolish girl. I think you are mad (kavakava). This man is dead." They took the pandanus up. They took the dead man down and threw him in the sea. They stayed.

