

## DESPERATE REMEDIES

Sadhu Village had been subjected to a spate of thefts and violence. Everyone in the village suspected that it was Bunsie and Dookie who were responsible but there was no evidence. No one had actually seen them commit the act. The entire area felt a fear as to whose home would be next. Some of the villagers had placed gillpins, *lathis* (sticks) and knives under their pillows, and mattresses in the event of an attack.

"Look dem, look dem," it was the cry of the village shopkeeper Ramu. Two figures with caps scampered into the canefields.

"Look dem running in the cane" - he cried again, "It look like Bunsie and Dookie." "Nah it look like Lowtan," cried another. Soon all the villagers were excited and heading towards the field.

Ramu shouted, "They just thief in meh shop and beat me up when ah catch dem," showing his blistered face. "Is tonight we going to beat dem, is blows like rain," exclaimed Big Boy the body-builder. They gathered around the field, each person intent on capturing the thieves.

"Set the cane on fire," Big Boy shouted, "They will run out." "But how we going to bun down the cane just so, that is Sawak cane," replied Ramu the shop-keeper. "That is the only way we could catch dem," Big Boy shouted. "Owright, who have matches," asked Ramu. "Here," shouted someone from the crowd. Big Boy took the matches and set the cane on fire. As the flames increased someone screamed, "All yuh ah coming out." Everyone turned to the direction of the speaker.

*lathis - sticks*



THE VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER SAY LOOK DEM. LOOK DEM. " TWO FIGURES WITH  
CAP RUN INTO THE CANE

Out came a figure with patches of his shirt on flames, a dozen or more *lathis* found their target extinguishing the flame. "It's Bunsie, it's Bunsie," someone shouted, the blows ceased.

"Where the other one," the village shopkeeper shouted. They all turned to see if the other person had ran out.

Dookie was inside the cane and was scared. He thought about the embarrassment and licks if he was caught but his will to survive was stronger. He started running towards safety but this seemed impossible sure the cane was alight from all sides. His shirt caught on fire. He tried to put it out, while doing this he heard the sound of the matches in his pocket. He thought of a trick to save himself. Dookie took out the matches and set the cane on fire. He stood aside while the cane burned. After a few minutes he went through the burnt area and stood in the middle.

The fire grew but was unable to reach him since the area where he stood was already burnt. He remained there for sometime while everyone outside assumed that he was fatally burnt and they left for their homes.

He calmly but cautiously came out and headed for his home.

Recorded with:  
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