Ang Anghel ng Santa Ana

The Angel of Santa Ana

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Kambal sina Anita at Winona.
Sila ay nakatira sa Barangay Santa Ana
kasama ng kanilang mga magulang.
Parehong matalino at maganda.
Masipag mag-aral at maaasahan sa mga
gawaing-bahay sa edad na labing-isa.
Pareho nilang pangarap ang
maging artista.

Anita and Winona are twins. They live in Barangay Santa Ana with their parents. Both are smart and beautiful. Diligent at school and can be relied on with household chores at the age of eleven. Together they dream of becoming actresses.

Apat na taon pa lamang ang kambal nang mahilig sa panonood ng mga drama sa telebisyon at pelikula. Tuwang-tuwa sila kapag bata ang bida ng palabas na kanilang pinanonood. Madalas kasi nilang gayahin ang pag-arte ng mga iyon. Palakpak at papuri naman ang ipinagkakaloob ng kanilang ama at ina.

The twins were just four years old when they began watching television dramas and films in earnest. They were delighted whenever the main character in the shows they were watching was a child like them. As they grew, they often mimicked what they were watching, earning the applause and praise of their father and mother.

Sa eskuwelahan, naging bantog din ang kambal sa larangan ng dula-dulaan. Bagaman parehong mahusay, si Anita ang palaging nagiging bida sa mga palabas at drama. Tuwang-tuwa naman si Winona kahit palagi lamang siyang ekstra. Ang mahalaga raw ay napapasama siya sa listahan ng mga nagsisiganap.

In school, the twins also became known for their skills in play-acting. Although both good, it is Anita who is always the star in plays and dramas. Winona is thrilled even to just play an "extra" or minor role. What's important, she says, is to still be part of the cast.

Bagaman halos magkapareho ng hitsura at kinahihiligan, magkaiba ang ilang asal ng kambal.

Malakas ang loob ni Anita, samantalang si Winona ay mahiyain nang bahagya. May angking kayabangan si Anita, samantalang likas na mapagpakumbaba naman si Winona.

Though they look very much alike and have almost the same interests, the twins have certain differences in character.

Anita is gutsy, while Winona is a bit shy. Anita is quite proud, while Winona is naturally humble.

“Tama lamang naman na ako ang naging bida sa *‘Ang Magandang Prinsesa’*, hindi ba, Winona?” minsan ay sambit ni Anita nang mapili itong bida sa isang palabas sa eskuwela. “Ako naman talaga ang pinakamaganda sa hanay ng mga nagpresenta.”

“Oo naman, Anita. Ikaw ang pinakamagaling at pinakamaganda!” pagsang-ayon naman ni Winona. Kahit kailan ay hindi niya sinalungat si Anita.

“It is only right that I am the star of ‘The Beautiful Princess’, right, Winona?” Anita once said when she was chosen for the lead role in a school play. “I truly am the prettiest of all those who auditioned.”

“Of course, Anita. You’re the best and most beautiful!” Winona agreed. Not once did she ever oppose Anita.

Isang araw, may nagpaskil sa kanilang eskuwelahan ng isang papel na paanyaya. Ang awdisyon daw para sa dula-dulaang *'Ang Anghel ng Santa Ana'* ay bukas na. Ito ay isang dula-dulaang ginaganap taon-taon sa Barangay Santa Ana. Isang palabas na itinuturi nang tradisyon at pamana ng mga matatanda. Ang maaari lamang mag-awdisyon para sa papel ng anghel ay ang mga batang babaeng nasa edad labing-isa hanggang labindalawa.

One day, an invitation poster was put up. It called for auditions for 'The Angel of Santa Ana'. This is a play held each year in Barangay Santa Ana. It is a show considered to be a tradition and a legacy of the elders. The role of the angel can only be given to girls aged eleven or twelve.

Tuwang-tuwa ang kambal nang mabasa ang naturang paanyaya. “Winona, ito na ang hinihintay ko. Maaari na akong mag-awdisyon para gumanap na anghel! Tiyak kong ako ang mapipili roon, hindi ba?” masayang sambit ni Anita.

Ngumiti naman si Winona. Kumislap ang mga mata sa tuwa. “Oo nga, Anita, gusto ko ring subukang mag-awdisyon. Pangarap ko rin kasing gumanap bilang anghel sa dula-dulaang iyon!”

The twins got so excited when they read the poster. “Winona, this is what I have been waiting for. I can now audition to play the angel. I’m sure that I’ll be chosen, right?” Anita said happily.

Winona smiled. Her eyes sparkled with enthusiasm. “Yes, Anita, I too want audition. It is also my dream to play the angel in that play!

Kumunot ang noo ni Anita, saka sumimangot nang bahagya. “Bakit mo pa susubukan, gayong alam mo namang ako ang makukuha roon? Sumama ka na lamang sa amin ni Mama sa awdisyon. Panoorin mo na lamang ako at palakpakan.”

Anita’s forehead scrunched up, and she frowned a bit. “Why would you still try, when you know that I’m the one who’ll be chosen? Just come with me and Mama to the audition. Just watch me and clap for me.”

Walang nagawa si Winona kundi ang sumang-ayon sa suhestiyon ng kakambal. Hindi niya ito kayang salungatin sapagkat bukod sa magagalit ito, sa kanyang palagay ay ang kapatid ang tunay na mas magaling. Magpapaubaya na lamang siya kahit pa nga pangarap din niya ang maging bida sa *'Ang Anghel ng Santa Ana'*. "Sige, Anita, sasama na lamang ako sa inyo ni Mama," sabi na lamang niya.

Winona could do nothing but agree with her twin. She didn't have it in her to oppose her because other than her twin getting angry, she believed that her sister was truly better than her. She would give way even if it was also her dream to be the star in 'The Angel of Santa Ana'. "All right, Anita, I'll just go with you and Mama," she said.

Dumating ang araw na pinakahihintay ni Anita. Maaga pa lamang ay nakapila na sila sa parke ng Santa Ana. Sa entablado kasi nito gaganapin ang awdisyon para sa magiging bida ng dula-dulaan. Katulad ng inaasahan, kasama niya ang ina at ang kakambal na si Winona.

Isa-isang tinawag ang mga batang babae mula sa mahabang pila. Ikasampu si Anita. Bago sumalang sa entablado, suot na ng mga batang magpipresenta ang kani-kanilang artipisyal na kulay puting pakpak.

Anita's most-awaited day finally came. They came very early to the Santa Ana Park to line up. It was at park's stage where the auditions would take place to find the play's star.

One by one, the girls were called from the long line. Anita was the tenth in line. Before they went on stage, the girls were already wearing their costume white wings.

Labis ang kaba ni Winona nang makitang si Anita na ang sasalang sa entablado. "Sana ay hindi niya makalimutan ang mga sasabihing linya, Mama," bulong niya sa ina.

"Oo nga, anak. May kahabaan pa naman ang mga iyon," sagot naman ng ina.

Winona was a ball of nerves when she saw Anita about to go on stage. "I hope she doesn't forget her lines, Mama," she whispered to her mother.

"I know, my child. Her lines are quite long," her mother replied.

"Ako ang anghel ng Santa Ana. Ibinaba mula sa langit upang..." Napalunok si Anita. Nanlamig ang kanyang mga paa. Ano't bakit bigla siyang kinabahan? Nakalimutan tuloy niya ang kasunod na linya. "U-Upang... ahm..."

Nagpalinga-linga siya. Hinanap ng mga mata ang kanyang ina at si Winona.

Umugong ang mga bulungan mula sa mga manonood.

"I am the angel of Santa Ana. I descended from the heavens to..." Anita gulped. Her feet went cold. What is it and why did she suddenly feel nervous? She then forgot her next lines.

"To... ahm..." She looked around. Her eyes searched for her mother and Winona.

"I know, my child. Her lines are quite long," her mother replied.

Whispers rose from the audience.

Nakadama si Anita ng pagkapahiya. Dahil dito at dali-dali niyang tinanggal ang suot na puting pakpak at saka tumakbong pababa ng entablado. Hindi na niya inalintana ang pagtawag sa kanya ng mga hurado. Nagtungo siya sa isang mesa sa ilalim ng punong mangga at dito umiyak nang malakas.

Anita felt embarrassed. So she quickly took the white wings off and ran down the stage. She ignored the judges calling her. She headed to a table under a mango tree and here she sobbed loudly.

Maya-maya ay naramdaman niya ang pagdating ni Winona. Nakita niyang suot nito ang puting pakpak na kanyang hinubad. Pumuwesto ang kakambal malapit sa mesang kanyang kinauupuan. Hinawakan nito ang isa niyang palad.

Later she felt Winona come close to her. She saw her wearing the white wings that she took off. Her twin sat beside her and held her hand.

"Anita, ako ang anghel ng Santa Ana," saad ni Winona habang pinipigil ang pagtawa. "Huwag ka nang umiyak, batang maganda. Hindi naman dito natatapos ang iyong pangarap na maging artista. Maaari ka pa ring mag-awdisyon sa susunod na taon, hindi ba? Itigil mo na ang pag-iyak dahil papangit ka."

"Anita, I am the angel of Santa Ana," said Winona while holding back her laughter. "Don't cry anymore, lovely child. This is not where your dreams of becoming an actress end. You can still audition next year, can't you? Stop crying because you'll get ugly."

Nang dahil sa mga narinig mula sa kakambal, ang pag-iyak ni Anita ay napalitan ng pagtawa. Hanggang sa gumaan ang kanyang pakiramdam. Niyakap niya nang mahigpit ang kapatid. “Tama ka, Winona, sa susunod na taon na lamang ako babawi. Naiintindihan ko na ngayon. Hindi pala sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay ako ang pinakamaganda at pinakamagaling,” sabi niya.

Because of what she heard from her twin, Anita’s sobs were replaced by laughter. Until she felt lighter. She embraced her sister tightly. “You’re right, Winona, I’ll come back next year. I understand it now. It’s not all the time that I am the most beautiful and the best,” she said.

Napatuon ang pansin ni Anita sa suot na pakpak ni Winona. Sumilay ang ngiti sa kanyang mga labi at kumislap ang mga mata. "Winona, halika." Hinatak niya ang kanang bisig ng kakambal. "Pumaroon tayo sa entablado at mag-awdisyon ka! Bagay na bagay sa iyo ang pakpak na iyan at naniniwala akong mahusay ka."

Anita's attention was drawn to the wings that Winona was wearing. A smile bloomed on her lips and her eyes gleamed. "Come, Winona." She pulled her twin's right arm. "To the stage we go and you will audition! Those wings look great on you and I believe you're good."

Hindi na nagdalawang-isip pa si Winona. Nagtungo nga siya sa pinakahuli ng pila at inihanda ang sarili sa pagpresenta. Tuwang-tuwa naman ang kanilang ina. At nang matapos ang awdisyon, si Winona nga ang napiling gaganap bilang anghel ng Santa Ana.

Maligayang-maligaya si Anita. Hindi man napunta sa kanya ang papel ng pagiging bida sa dula-dulaang iyon, ang napili naman ay ang totoong anghel ng buhay niya– si Winona.

Winona hesitated no longer. She went to the end of the line and prepared herself for the audition. Their mother looked on happily. After the audition, Winona was chosen indeed as the angel of Santa Ana.

This time, Anita was overcome with joy. She may not have gotten the lead role in that play, but the one who was chosen was the true angel of her life – Winona.

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