Ma, Is That You?

Based on the story by Aakanksha Mittra, Parth Nadkarni



Bibi, Azeem, Juzer and Thei Thei are having a meeting in their secret meeting place.



They hear a voice at their door. "Hello beta, it's Ma! I brought snacks for you and your friends. Please open the door." "You don't sound like Ma," says Thei Thei. "What's the secret knock?"



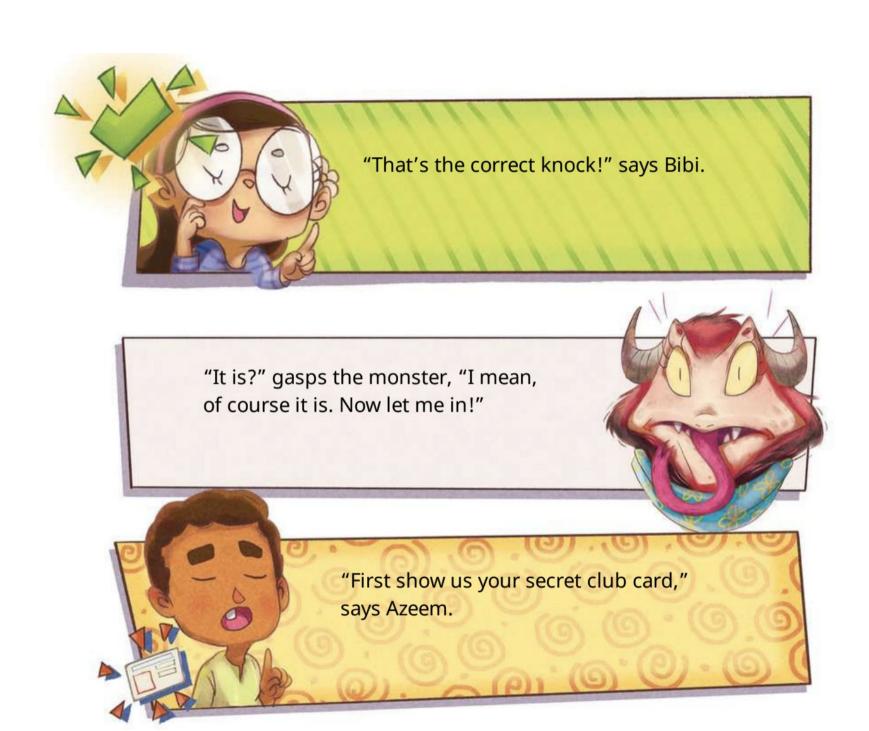
BAMBAMBAM. "That's not the right knock. Sorry, we can't let you in!" says Azeem. ROOOAAAR "I will get in one day!" shouts the monster from behind the door.



A few moments later... "Hello beta, I bought a new game for your secret club! Please let me in!" "What's the secret knock?" asks Juzer.



RAT TATATA RATA.



"That's the correct knock!" says Bibi. "It is?" gasps the monster, "I mean, of course it is. Now let me in!" "First show us your secret club card," says Azeem.

The monster slips a card under the door.





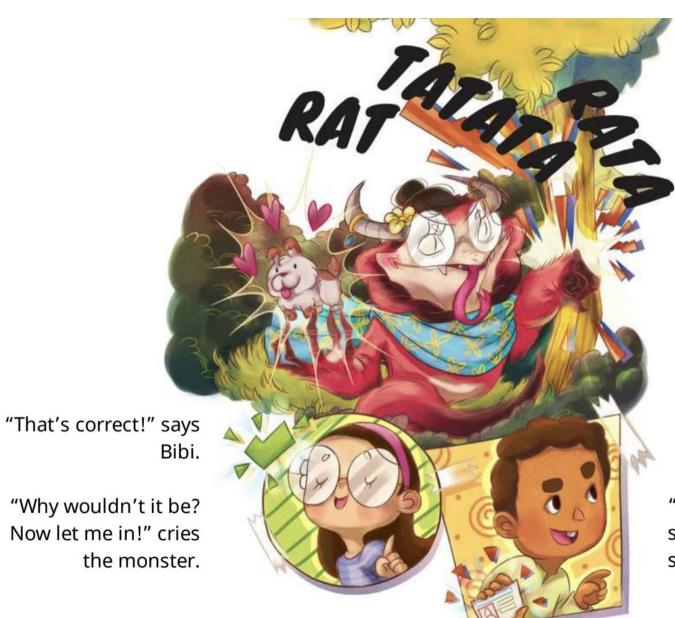
The monster slips a card under the door. "Sorry, wrong card!"



The monster bangs on the door. "I'll get in soon!" she cries.



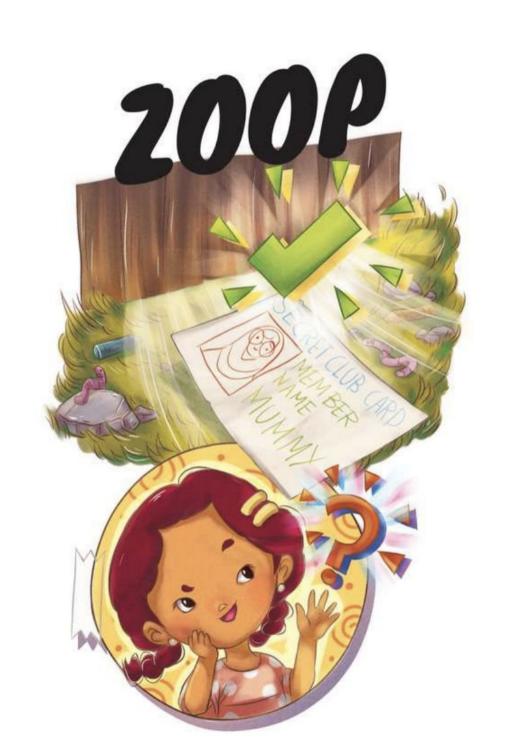
A while later, there's another knock at the door. "I found a puppy for you," says the monster. "Please open the door!" "What's the secret knock?" asks Bibi.



"First show us your secret club card," says Azeem.

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"That's correct!" says Bibi. "Why wouldn't it be? Now let me in!" cries the monster. "First show us your secret club card?" says Azeem.



The monster slips a card under the door. "That's the right card," says Thei Thei. "Now show us your handprint.

Place your hand against the window pane."

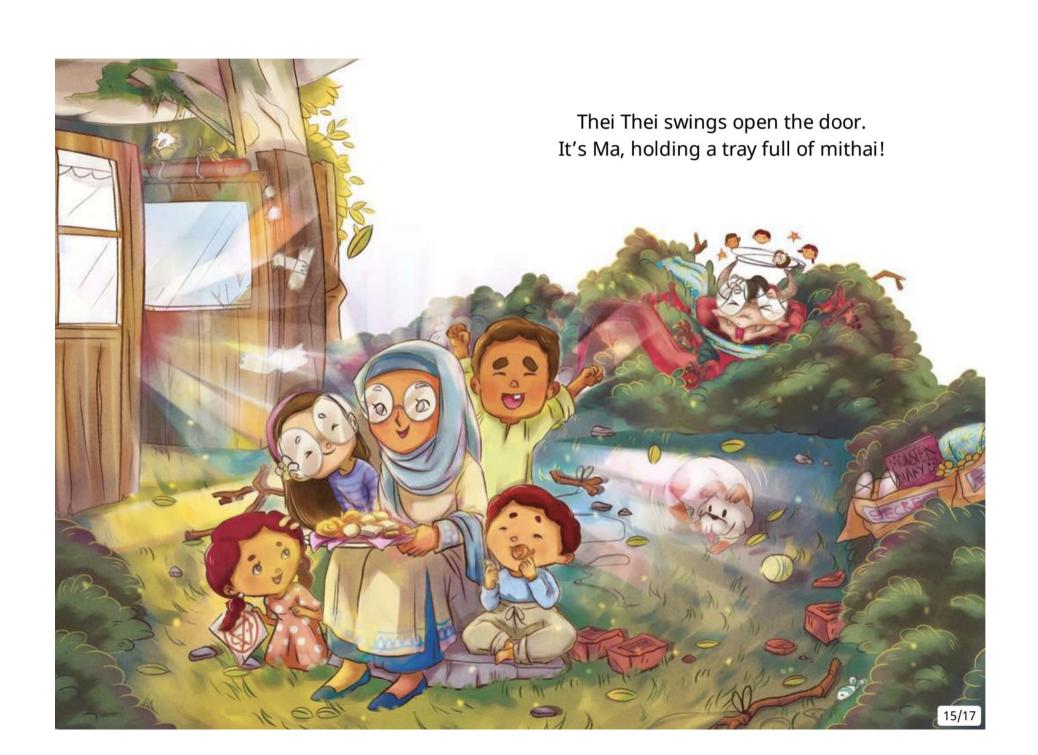


THUMP! A large, furry paw with long, sharp nails appears on the glass. "That's not Ma's hand. Go away!" say the four children. "ARRRRRR!" replies the monster, shaking her fist. "I would have gobbled you up if it wasn't for your passwords!"



A few minutes later, there is one more knock at the door... It's the right knock. A piece of paper slips under the door. It's the correct secret club card.

Then—THUMP!—a hand print appears against the glass of the window. "That's Ma's hand!"



Thei Thei swings open the door. It's Ma, holding a tray full of mithai!