



ALBERT'S STORY

A TIME TO STAND

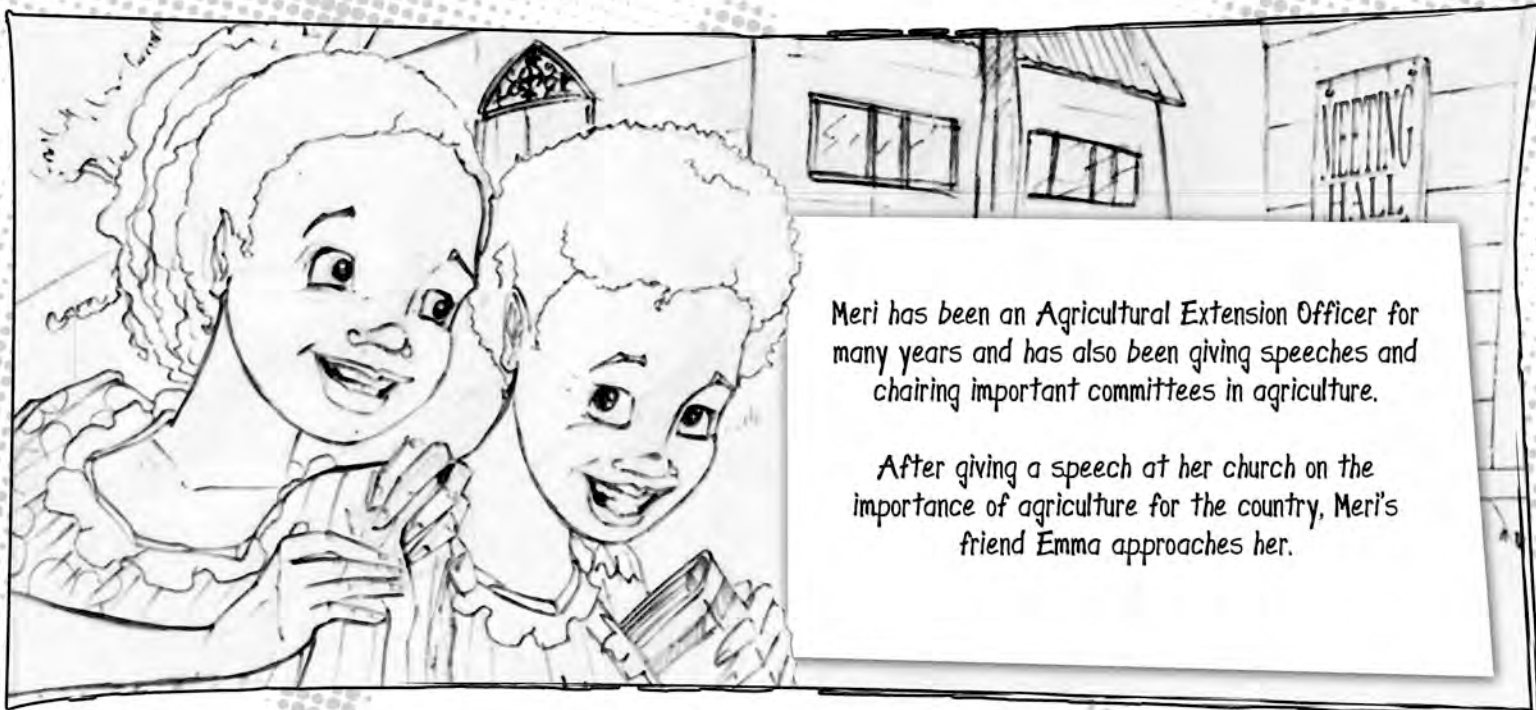
ISABELLA'S STORY



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MERI IN: A TIME TO STAND





Meri has been an Agricultural Extension Officer for many years and has also been giving speeches and chairing important committees in agriculture.

After giving a speech at her church on the importance of agriculture for the country, Meri's friend Emma approaches her.



That was such a great speech, Meri. You should really think about speaking at our Agricultural Conference next month.

The Conference? Isn't that a political meeting?



Well, we talk about the importance of agriculture. And we also pick a candidate to support in the next election.



I don't know...

Me?...

...speak at a political meeting?

HAHA!!

I thought you only speak at those things if you're standing for the election?

That's what I'm suggesting.



What?! Stand for election?! Are you serious?! I could never do that!

Why not? You're honest, hard working... and you're not corrupt. You're exactly what we need.

But I'm a woman!

The Party wants a strong woman candidate who speaks well and has a good record. That's you!



And what about my husband? What would he say?

ASK HIM!

MERI'S HOME...

You've been quiet since your meeting yesterday.

I just have a lot on my mind...

Something happen?

Are you going to tell us or not?

They've...

...asked me to stand for Parliament.

WOOHOO!!!

NO WAY!

Why shouldn't I do this, Billy?

Because your job is here... at home looking after your children.

I work as an agricultural officer, and I still look after all of you.

That's different. You do that because we need the money.

But they said I could help make a difference...

The party says they will support me to run.

And I said NO!

NEWSPAPER

MERI'S HOME...

My own mother, in Parliament. It's so exciting!

I wouldn't do it because it's exciting
Tina, I would do it because I think I
can make a difference.

If I'm in parliament
maybe I can make
changes happen.

I've never heard of a woman in Parliament before.

There have been women
Parliamentarians, Peter. Not
many unfortunately.

But women's voices also
need to be heard.

MEANWHILE... AT THE PUB

Haven't seen you
in here for a long
time, Billy.

Did the woman
finally kick
you out?

Meri has been asked
to run for Parliament.

Meri? But she's a woman!

I told her
she couldn't
do it.

She can't do that to you!

Next thing,
she'll tell you
how to spend
your money.

She probably would be good
in Parliament though.

But Billy, if you let
her, then all of our
wives are going to
want to do crazy
things too!

Yeah.
It's
crazy.

I don't know.

MERI'S HOME...

Billy? Is that you?

Of course it's me. Who else would be coming in at this time of night?

I'm not allowing you... to stand up.

Are you all right? You sound... drunk.

WHAT?

What are you saying?

We all feel...

all my friends feel that our wives should not stand up for the election.

WHY NOT!?

This is not some meeting, this is Parliament. You might become some big Parliamentarian, even a minister! What does that make me?

If I get into Parliament, everyone will know that it was with your support. Yours and our whole family.

No standing up!

THE NEXT MORNING...

Papa, if Mama did stand, would she be the kind of candidate you'd vote for?

She's not standing.

No, but if she did? Would you vote for her?

I would!

She's... you two go to school! You're making my headache worse!

would she be the kind of candidate I'd vote for?

Billy... please?

I'm going to sleep.

MERI'S HOME...

Lord, I need your help.

Please give me the strength to make the right decision.

I've been thinking...

...I know what I said before.

But I had a chance to think more about it. I know how much this means to you.

And to us!

We all hope you will stand for office.

Billy, are you sure?

You won't be ashamed of me?

I would be very proud if you stand.

And even more proud if you win!

Oh no, I told Emma that I couldn't stand! I don't know if they'll even still want me now!

Call her now, mum!

CALL HER!!

I think I'm in!

YAY!!!

PARTY OFFICIAL'S OFFICE

Hello Meri. It's nice to finally meet you.

Thank you, sir. It's an honour to meet you.

The seat we want you to stand for is very important for the Party, Meri. We haven't won this seat for the last two elections.

I know. That makes it a very big challenge for me.

Yes it does. And that's why the Party needs to focus more of its resources on our other candidates.

What? Meri may be new to politics, but the people know her and trust her.

I need to know that the party supports me as a candidate...

Of course we support you for this seat and the party will give you the resources that you need, Meri. And yes, we feel you are the best candidate for this seat.

...not just because I'm a woman, but because you believe I'm the best candidate.

Well now we have to really start planning and implementing our campaign.

I hope you're ready?



Isn't this great? I got all of the association members to come to our Party office to start fundraising.

But Emma how did you get all these people here?

By using our network of supporters in the Party. They all want a candidate with a fresh approach.

I don't know what to say.

You better think of something. You need to say a few words to thank them and motivate them.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the time and effort you're putting into this campaign. I want to be your representative in Parliament... a representative you can depend on. Together we can make this the country we all want it to be.

With the money you're raising- and most importantly with your time and effort - we can do this! We can win this seat in Parliament!

CLAP! CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP!

See? I knew you were the right person for this job.

Thank you Emma.

And thank you all for your support!

CLAP! CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP!

MERI'S HOUSE

That looks like a lot of work

It is but I'm enjoying it. I'm working on a campaign speech.

Wow. What do you tell people?

I tell them that if I get into parliament I'll push to put more government money into agriculture so that young people can get jobs, which will also help improve the country's food supply.

And if you win, you can make all that happen?

I can propose something in Parliament that could lead to these things happening.

But the candidates always make a lot of promises of what they'll do.

Sometimes they do. But I want to be a candidate who makes realistic promises so that people trust me. And so I can actually deliver what I promise.

No, I can't promise that.

You tell everyone what you believe. You tell them what your policies are and what you will push for and why they should vote for you.

So you can't promise jobs for everyone?

AT THE RALLY

Meri, are you all ready?
Hey, what's the matter?
You look nervous.

I am nervous, but I'm ready.

Mama? Remember what you told me when I
had to give a speech in class?

I told you to be confident. To be sure of
yourself and what you were talking about.

Thank you honey.

You also told me that
crowds are just made
of people. These people
all want the best for
their families. I believe
you're the best for all
our families, Mama.

MERI'S SPEECH

I'm not standing for this seat to become rich or to give favours to my supporters.
I'm here because I believe in something I think many of you believe too.

Too many of our youth haven't found their purpose. You are the future of
this nation. Agriculture is one way for you but there are also many other
ways. Together we can build up this country and move it forward!



What do you think of
your mother, Tina?

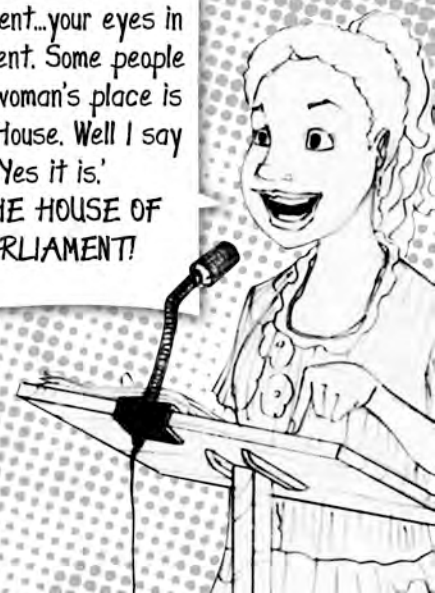
Papa, she's so wonderful up there.

LOOK AT EVERYONE!

They're listening to
every word she says.



If I can make one
promise, it is this:
I promise that I will be
your voice in
parliament...your eyes in
parliament. Some people
say a woman's place is
in the House. Well I say
'Yes it is.'
**IN THE HOUSE OF
PARLIAMENT!**



MERI'S HOME

The children are already in bed. I don't think they've even seen you since the weekend.

I'm sorry, Billy. I mean we knew it was going to be hard and take a lot of time, but I guess we didn't realise I would be away from home so much.

RING!!
RING!!

Billy, they want me at a Party meeting tomorrow night.

I've been supporting you through all of this, Meri.

I know Billy, you've been wonderful. I could never have done all this without you

You spend time with the children in the afternoon and we'll have an early dinner. After your meeting you and I will catch up.

Are you sure?
You're okay with that?

HERE WE GO
AGAIN.

You can't get elected to Parliament if they kick you out of the Party, now can you?

'Thank you for being so understanding Billy. And I'll be home as soon as I can after the meeting... for our catch up'

ISABELLA IN:

IT'S TIME TO STAND



Isabella is a young woman who has never voted. In fact, she left school just over a year ago. She did very well in school, but still hasn't been able to find a job. She knows that there is an election coming up, but she doesn't understand the importance of voting. Isabella's friend Joy has already registered, and she tries to convince Isabella to vote.

The
EVE

Why should I register to vote? Nothing ever changes.

BREAD STOP

But what's the point, really? How is my vote going to make any difference?

If you want to change things you have to get in new leaders, right? To get new leaders in, you have to vote. And to vote, you first have to register. You can't vote if you don't register

If we all vote for someone who will do what we want them to do, then maybe things can really change.

But they make voting so difficult. I don't even know what to do.

It's not hard at all. I'll show you.

SOMEWHERE IN TOWN...

@ VOTER'S REGISTRATION

Congratulations. I see you've registered. Now you can really help your country.

I want to tell you how you can make the right choice and help yourself too.

I hope so.

How?

My candidate understands how hard it is for young people. He promises that if he wins office again, he'll make sure you all get jobs.

He's going to help all young people get jobs?

Yes. And he wants you to know how grateful he is that you'll vote for him. So he has asked me to offer you some money as a 'thank you.'

Come on, let's go!

Joy, just take it!

It's a bribe, Isabella. He's trying to buy our vote!

Who cares?

We should choose the best candidate. Not the one who gives us money. He's been doing this for years, and he keeps winning. And nothing changes. You'll still have no job but no future.

ISABELLA, HELLO! I JUST WANTED TO ARRANGE TO DROP OFF THE GIFT WE DISCUSSED.

I've decided that I don't really want your gift... your money.

WHAT?! THIS IS JUST A THANK YOU FROM OUR CANDIDATE! HE WILL MAKE JOBS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

He hasn't done it before. No, thank you, but I can't take it.

ISABELLA'S HOME

Isabella? Who was on the phone?

It was a man about the election. He offered me a gift of money to vote for his candidate.

Well, you tell him no.

Yes, papa. I did.

Papa, I want to find out what all of the candidates say. I want to find out which of them can help create more jobs.

I expect you to do what I say while you live in my house!

GOOD.
I've already decided who you should vote for.

ISABELLA'S HOUSE



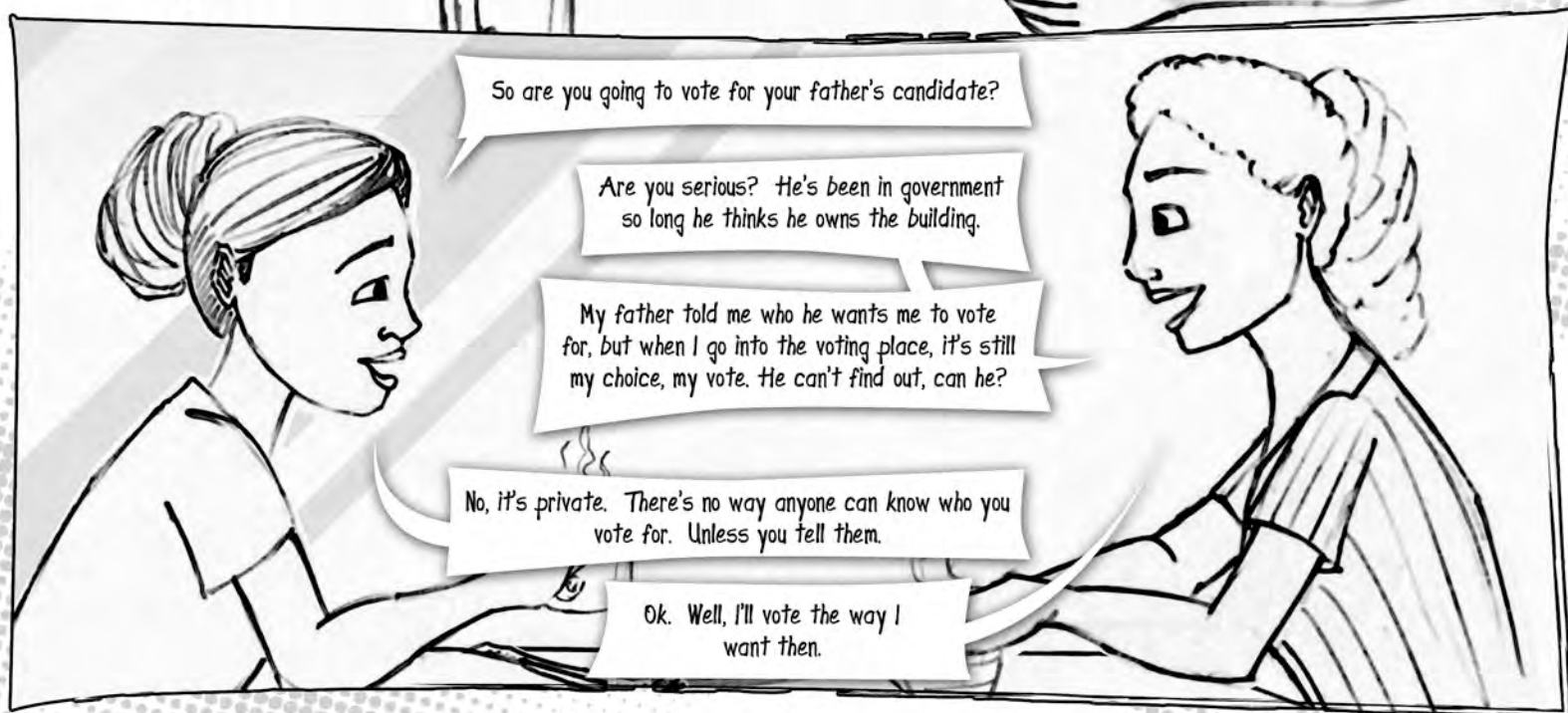
I've written here the names of all of the candidates. Then here I've written their party. Then here I wrote whether they've been in Parliament before.

Oh my God Joy, you're really doing this like a school paper!

We write here the issues that we think are important. We put that here, then we write here what each candidate said about that issue



Well I know my father only chooses the candidate that helps him. Probably gave him money.



So are you going to vote for your father's candidate?

Are you serious? He's been in government so long he thinks he owns the building.

My father told me who he wants me to vote for, but when I go into the voting place, it's still my choice, my vote. He can't find out, can he?

No, it's private. There's no way anyone can know who you vote for. Unless you tell them.

Ok. Well, I'll vote the way I want then.



We'll find candidates who share our concerns.



Like jobs for young people.

THAT'S RIGHT!

MEETING HALL

So which candidates are speaking tonight?

They're candidates from the party that's currently the main party in government.

Oh no! I see my uncle, my father's brother. Just walk!

What's the problem?

I'm not supposed to be here, remember?

We'll just go out that side door.

Isabella!

Uncle Atu! How are you? I didn't know you were here.


Why are you here, Isabella? Does your father know you're here?

I'm just listening to what the other candidates have to say.

Your father will be very disappointed to know you were here. **VERY** disappointed.


I'm sorry, Uncle

ISABELLA'S HOME



You don't show me respect Isabella, by going to that political meeting. No respect! I've told you who you should vote for.


I do respect you, papa. But I'm old enough to vote. I have the right to choose someone who I feel is the best candidate.



What do you know about politics? You're just a young girl!

Papa, I'm trying to learn. That's why Joy and I went to the political meeting. We want to see who they are and hear what they will do if they win.


There is only one person running who will do something for us. Our candidate has helped us before and he will help us again.



These politicians all make promises. They all tell you what you want to hear. You have to look to the ones who have proven that they will help us.

I will, papa.

And that's what's important. Our people. Our family. Remember that.



I will, papa.

ISABELLA'S HOME

What's wrong, Isabella?

My family doesn't want me to do anything except vote for the candidate who they think helps us.

This isn't about you not respecting your father. It's about you making a decision that will help your family and your country.

OK, but who thinks like that? Most people just pick the person who makes the biggest promises.

I mean, do you really believe that your vote will lead to change? I mean really?

Nothing will change if we do nothing. If we don't at least try then new people will never get in, and everything will stay the same.

But ours are only two votes, Joy.

We can begin the change, Isabella. It can start with just a few voters. It can start with just us two.

Wow, you really did listen in school.

Don't be silly. You know I'm right.

I know. You're right. Let's get a newspaper and see if there's anything in there about the candidates.

ISABELLA'S HOME

I can't believe it! They're all the same!
They're nothing but bloody lying thieves!

Papa? Uncle? What's wrong?

The shopping centre! It won't
be built on our land now!

What happened?

The minister is saying the
investors postponed the deal!
But now the centre will be built
on someone else's land!

I borrowed money, knowing that money
from the land rent would be coming! Now
I can't pay the loan!

Can't you report it, Papa?

Report it?! For breaking
a promise? You think
anyone will listen to me?
They won't do anything!

The election is coming up. We can vote him out of Parliament.

Yes! We can get our community to vote against him.

Isabella, you've been
listening to the other
candidates. Find one who
will help our family.

Ok, papa. I'm glad I can help
the family. We want to make
sure we don't support someone
like him ever again.

SHOP

EVERYTHING

SOMEWHERE IN TOWN...

So now your father wants you to go to political meetings?

HAHA...

He wants me to find a good candidate so that he can then tell me who I should vote for.

I've heard there's a woman candidate as well.

Me too! I heard her on the radio. I'd really like to hear her speak in person.

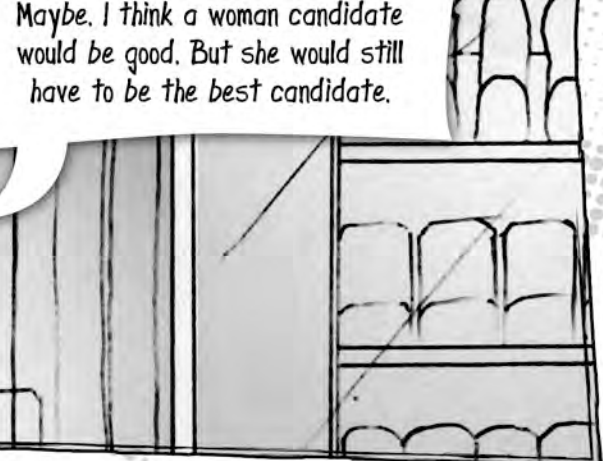


EVERYTHING SHOP

BREAD STOP

Do you think your father would vote for a woman if you tell him she's the best candidate.

Maybe. I think a woman candidate would be good. But she would still have to be the best candidate.



EVERYTHING

BREAD STOP

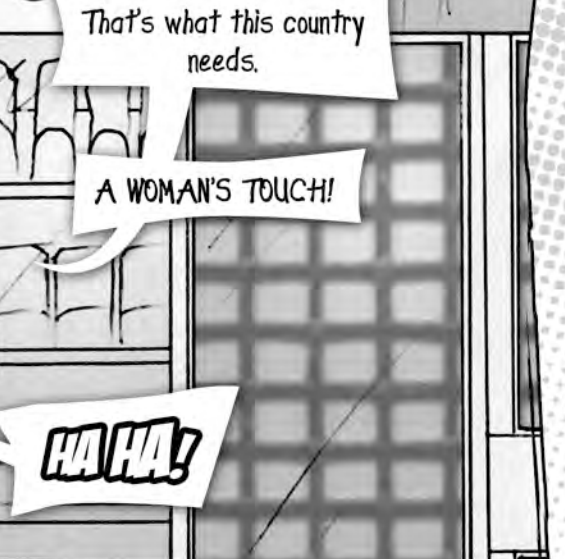
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Well, we need to hear what she has to say then. I think I would be comfortable with a woman candidate. She would definitely bring a different perspective to Parliament!

That's what this country needs.

A WOMAN'S TOUCH!

HAHA!



Have you decided how you'll vote?

No... well maybe. I don't know. How about you? Have you told your father who the best candidate is?

SOMEWHERE IN TOWN...

I told him the ones I thought were the best. He's even open to the female candidate! He thinks she's honest.

Yes, she seems to be.

His only concern was that she hadn't been in Parliament before.

But how do they get experience unless they get elected the first time?

That's true.

Well, we both have choices to make.

And we don't even have to tell each other what it is!

That's true. Only you will ever know who you voted for.

WILL MERI WIN THE ELECTION?



WHO WILL JOY AND ISABELLA DECIDE TO VOTE FOR?



WHO WINS AND WHY THEY WIN ARE CHOICES FOR THE VOTERS.

A TIME TO STAND!

Brought to you by:



EUROPEAN UNION



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



EVERYTHING SHOP