The cat who wanted to change her tale

– English version -

1. Intro

This is the story of four creatures, a cat, an owl, a lizard and a mouse, none of whom loved each other, who lived in the same banyan tree in a forest in India. Banyan trees are very beautiful and grow to a very great height, spreading their branches out so widely that many people can stand beneath them. From those branches roots spring forth, which, when they reach the ground, pierce it, and look like columns holding up a roof, and in an especially fine banyan tree, outside the walls of a town called Vidisa, our four creature had all taken up their abode.

2. Lizard

The lizard loved to lie and bask in the sunshine, catching the flies on which he lived, lying so still that they did not notice him, and darting out his long tongue suddenly to suck them into his mouth. He made his home amongst the roots on the south side of the tree where it was hottest, yet he hid from the owl because he knew full well that, tough though he was, he would be gobbled up if the owl happened to be hungry...

3. Owl

The owl roosted in a mass of foliage at the top of the tree near the nest in which his wife had brought up their children, he too felt pretty secure as long as he remained up there; but he had seen a cat prowling about below him and was very sure that, if she should happen to catch sight of him when he was off guard seeking his prey and obliged to give all his attention to what he was doing, she might spring out upon him and kill him.

4. Pre-nightmare of Raton

The lizard did not have to go far for the flies on which he lived, whilst the mouse had a very dangerous journey to take to his favourite feeding place, a field a short distance from the banyan tree. The mouse was the only one of the four creatures in the banyan tree who did not feed on others; for, like the rest of his family, he was a vegetarian, that is to say, he ate nothing but vegetables and fruit.

The mouse was in constant fear of the cat and the owl. He knew that both could see in the dark, and he would have no chance of escape if they once caught sight of him.

The cat and owl knew full well how fond the mouse was of the field, and they kept watch, creeping stealthily about expecting any moment to see the poor little mouse darting hastily along.

The cat never dreamt that any danger could come to her, but she was quite wrong in thinking herself so safe, for it so happened that there was a hunter, whose great delight was to kill wild creatures, and who was very clever in finding them.

5. The trap

The mouse, small and helpless though he was, was a wise little creature. He saw the owl fly up into the tree, and knew quite well that if he did not take care he would serve as dinner to that great strong bird. He knew too that, if he went within reach of the claws of the cat, he would suffer for it. “How I do wish,” he thought to himself, “I could make friends with the cat, and get her to promise not to hurt me if ever she gets free. As long as I am near the cat, the owl will not dare to come after me.”

“Cat, I do not like to see you trapped.“ he said in a squeaky voice, “It is true we have never been exactly friends, but I have always looked up to you as a strong and noble enemy. If you will promise never to do me any harm, I will do my best to help you.

When the cat heard what the mouse said, she could hardly believe her ears. She was of course ready to promise anything to anyone who would help her, so she said at once:

“Little mouse, if you wish to help me nibble through that string which is killing me, I promise that I will always be your friend, and however hungry I may be, I will starve rather than hurt you.”

6. Befriending

The next day the cat went to for the mouse. She began to purr as loud as she could, to show the mouse she was in a good humour, and called out, “Little mouse, come out of your hole and let me tell you how very, grateful I am to you for saving my life. There is nothing in the world I will not do for you, if you will only be friends with me.”

The mouse only squeaked in answer and took care not to show himself. He stayed quietly in his hole, and only came out after he had heard the cat climb up into the tree again. “It is all very well,” thought the mouse, “to pretend to make friends with an enemy when that enemy is helpless, but I should indeed be silly to trust a cat when she is free to kill me.”

“Little mouse, if you wish to help me nibble through that string which is killing me, I promise that I will always be your friend, and however hungry I may be, I will starve rather than hurt you.”

7. End

The cat made a good many other efforts to be friends with the mouse, but they were all unsuccessful. In the end the owl caught the mouse and the cat killed the lizard and the owl and the cat both lived for the rest of their lives in the banyan tree.

Cat – No!

Narrador - Hurumph!!!! I said, in the end, the owl caught the mouse and the cat killed the lizard...

Cat – No! I am not going to eat the mouse...

ALL – QUE?!

Cat – I said, I am not going to eat him...

Owl – Of course you are! Listen, the Cat kills the lizard and I eat this little mouse.

Cat – Who says so?

ALL – Um,...

Owl – The story!

Cat – OK, so I'm going to change the story.

Lizard – Um, can it be changed?

Cat – Of course it can, I mean I'm tired of always being the "baddy"

Mouse – But you are bad!

Lizard – Watch out, he's trying to eat you

Cat – I am trying to help you, just like you helped me.

Lizard – Do you really trust her?

All – I wouldn't trust that cat, She's not good/ Come with me/ I would run if I were you

Mouse – Basta! I'll trust everyone

Owl – SO what do we do now?

Lizard – (laughs) Dance

8. Epilogue

And for this evening the cat, the mouse, the owl and the lizard made their peace and went back to their homes in the Banyan tree, but tomorrow will they change the tale...?

CREDITS

Voice over Dutch

Joris Smit
Evgenia Brendes

Sound recording voice over

Hans Poel