

A stylized black and white line drawing of a tropical island. In the foreground, several tall palm trees with detailed fronds stand prominently. In the background, two thatched-roof huts are situated on a hillside. The sky is filled with stylized, layered clouds. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century children's book illustrations.

LAKI
AND THE
GOLDEN
COCONUTS

LAKI AND THE GOLDEN COCONUTS

Story adapted from the old fairytale

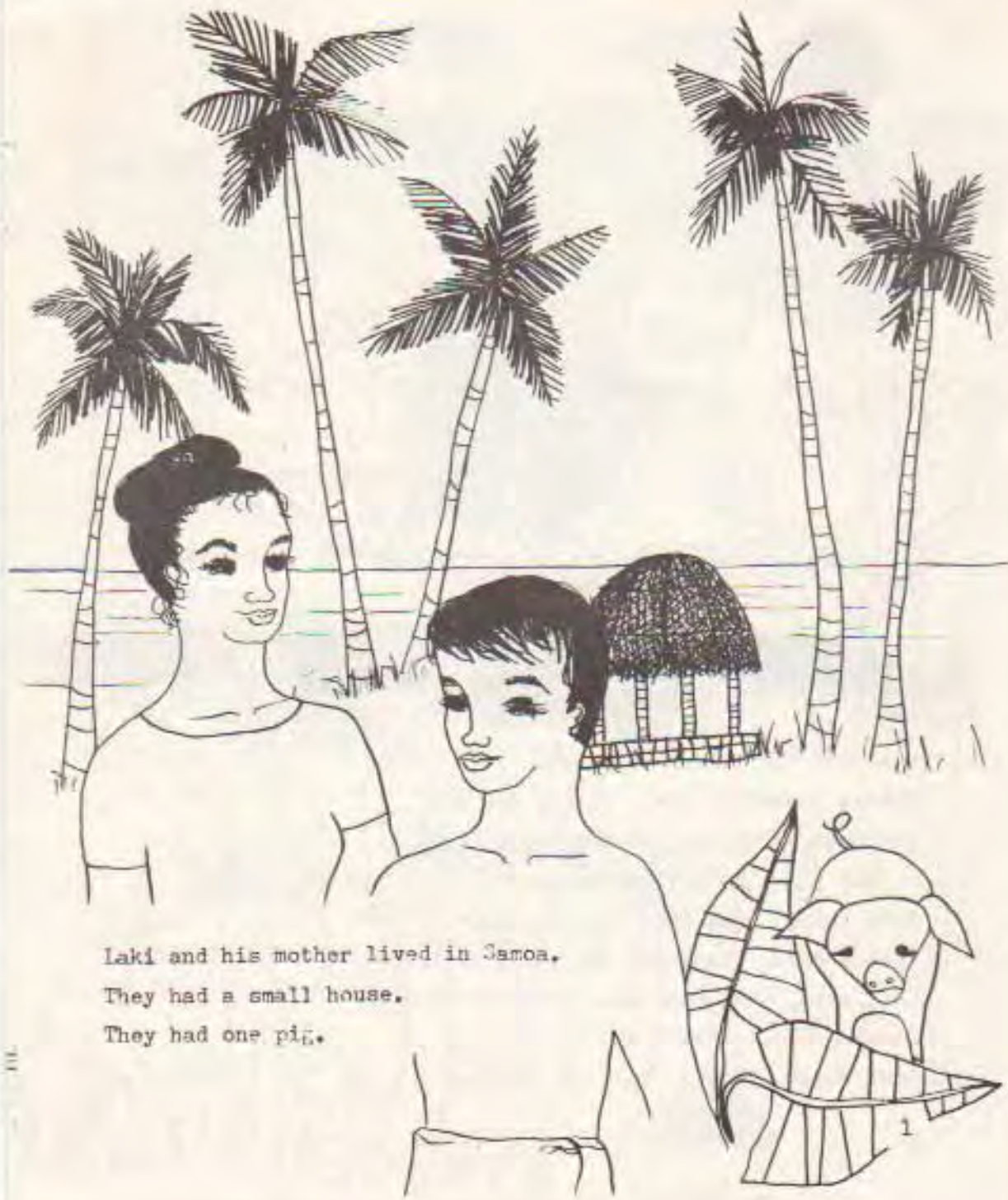
"Jack in the Beanstalk"

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Illustrated by Laurie Flynn ✓

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Laki and his mother lived in Samoa.
They had a small house.
They had one pig.



Laki ate his banana and fish.

Tatala looked at him. Tatala was sad.

She said, "My son, we must sell
our pig. We have no money."

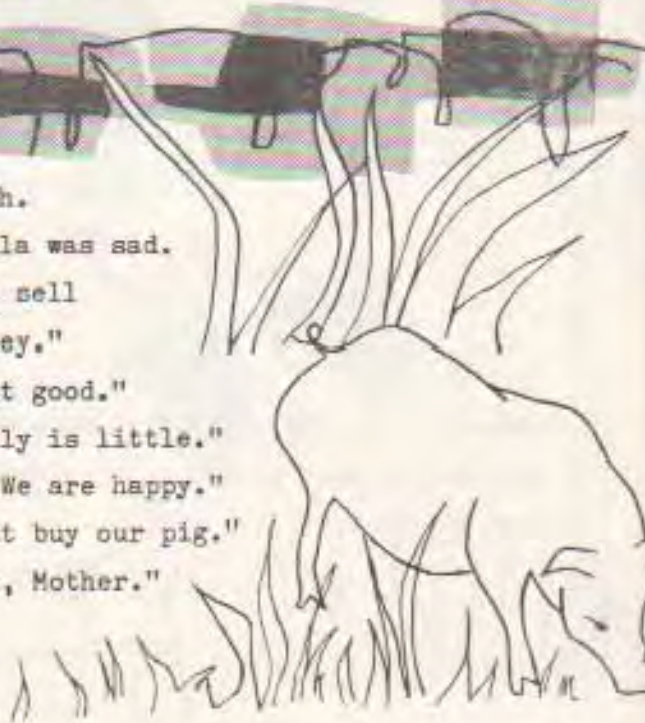
Laki said, "The land is not good."

Tatala said, "And our family is little."

Laki said, "We can work. We are happy."

Tatala said, "Somebody must buy our pig."

Laki said, "I will sell it, Mother."



Early in the morning Laki got up.
He went out to get the pig.
He walked along the road. The pig walked with him.
Laki said to the pig, "Who will buy you?"
He looked down the road. He saw an old woman.
He saw an ugly old woman.
The old woman stopped him.
She said, "What are you doing with that pig?"
Laki said, "I am going to sell my pig."
The old woman laughed. She said,

"You will give the pig to somebody.
You can't count ten pennies."

Laki looked in the old woman's basket.
He saw coconuts in it. He said, "I can count.

Ten is five coconuts in each of my arms."
The old woman said, "Oh, you are a quick boy.

Look at these coconuts."

Laki saw the yellow coconuts. They were not brown.
They were pretty. He touched them. He wanted them.
The old woman laughed again. "All right.

You can have them. Give your pig to me."
Laki took the coconuts.

The ugly old woman walked down the road with the pig.
Laki went home. He was happy.
Laki whistled.



Laki called to his mother.

Tatala said, "Where is the money?"

Laki said, "Look at our coconuts. I sold our pig
to a woman. She gave these pretty coconuts to me."

Tatala looked angry. "Laki, you are a bad boy."

She threw the coconuts out of the house.

She threw every coconut out.

Laki went to get taro. He worked hard.

Tatala did not talk to him. She was still angry.

At night she said, "Go to your mat."

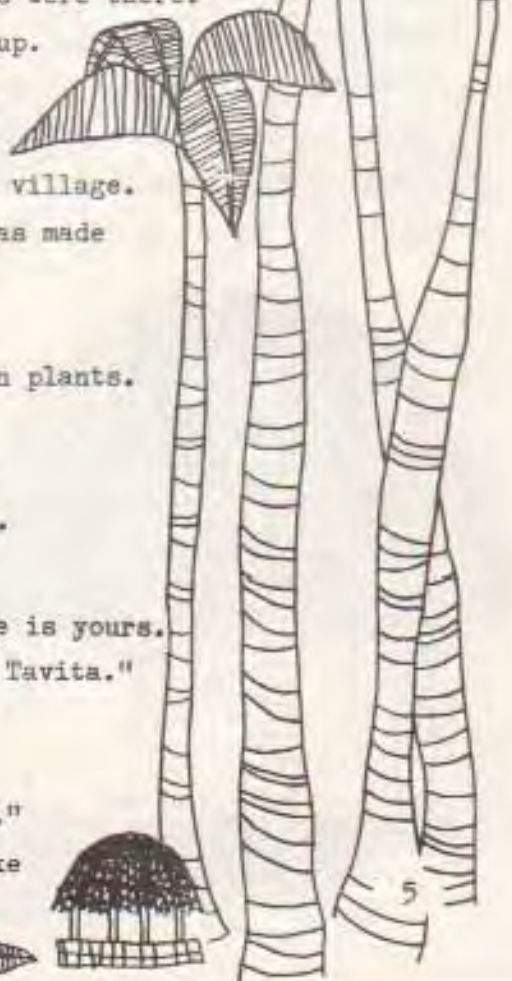
Laki was sad. He wanted Tatala to talk to him.

At last he went to sleep.





In the morning Laki was awake early.
Birds were singing. Laki looked out of his house.
Many trees were there. New trees were there.
He rubbed his eyes. Yes, many new trees were there.
Laki went out of his house. He looked up.
He could not see the tops of the trees.
He went to a tree. He began to climb.
He climbed to the clouds. He came to a village.
Everything was different. Everything was made
of gold. He saw golden coconuts.
He saw golden coconut leaves.
There was a golden house. He saw golden plants.
Laki heard a boy speaking.
The boy said, "Come to your village."
Laki looked into the eyes of a tall boy.
Laki said, "My village?"
The young boy said, "The Golden Village is yours.
You have the golden coconuts. I am Tavita."
Laki said, "I am Laki.
My coconuts are yellow.
But these coconuts are made of gold."
Tavita said, "One golden coconut is like
many fine mats."



Laki said, "My mother can buy many things."

Tavita said, "Come and look at everything."

Tavita gave him a golden coconut

and a golden sea shell.

Laki was very happy. He said, "I must go home now."

Tavita said, "You must not tell anybody about

The Golden Village."

Laki went down a tree. He saw his mother.

Tatala said, "I was calling you."

She was looking at the trees.

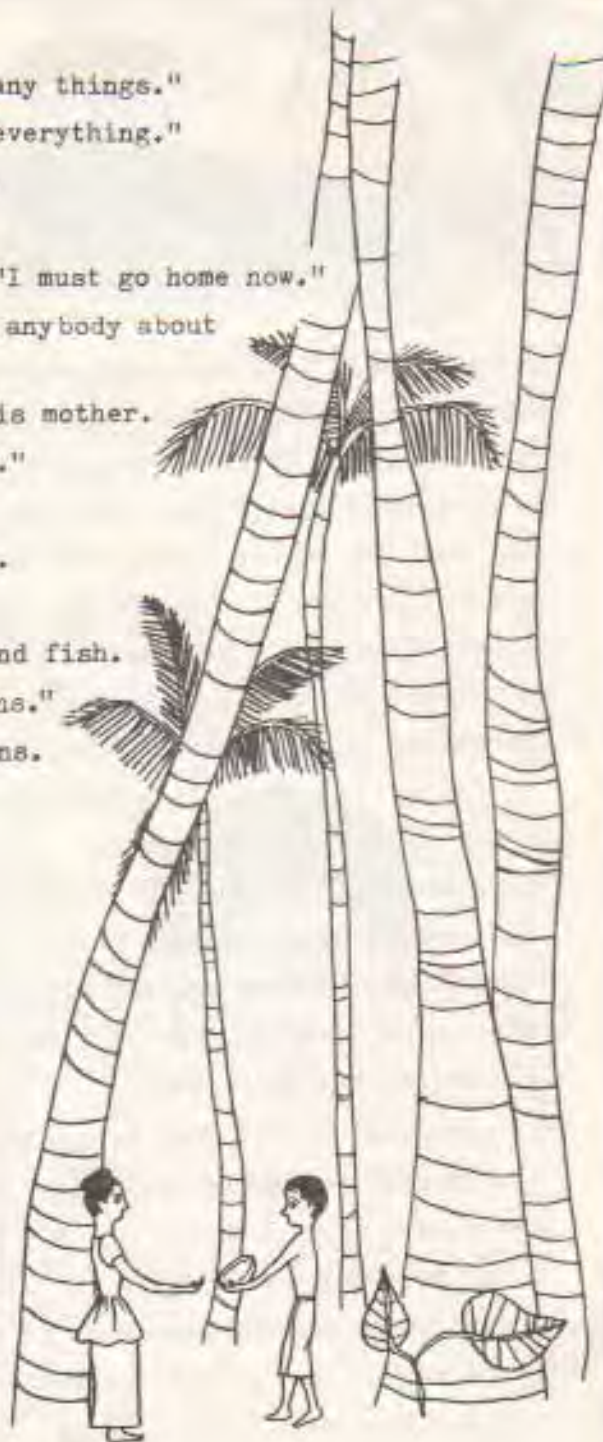
Laki gave her the golden coconut.

He said, "You can buy things."

Tatala said, "I will buy taro and fish.

I will buy bananas and chickens."

She didn't have time for questions.





Each morning Laki climbed to the Golden Village.

He talked with Tavita. One day he told Tavita

about his taro plantation.

Tavita said, "What is green ?

Are the plants green?"

Laki said, "Come and see."

But Tavita did not go. He was afraid.

Then Laki said, "Look. Let's play a game."

Laki and Tavita played a game.

Laki was very happy. He said, "I must go home now."

Laki went down a tree. He saw his mother.

Tatala said, "My son, tell me about the golden coconuts."

Laki gave the golden coconut to her.

He said, "Ask a man to start a new house."

He did not tell about the golden coconuts.

Tatala said, "I will ask a man to work."

She did not have time for questions.





Laki went to The Golden Village every day.
One day he said, "I must go home now."
Tavita said, "Do not leave me."
Laki said, "You must come with me."
But Tavita did not go. He was sad.
Laki went down a tree. It was late.

Laki saw his mother and the pastor.
Tatala said, "The pastor is here. He wants
a golden coconut. He wants to start a new church."
Laki said, "I will get one for you."
He did not want to tell about The Golden Village.
He looked in the dirt. But there were no golden
coconuts.
Old brown coconuts were in the dirt.
Laki was sad. He told his mother and the pastor.
He told them about The Golden Village.
Tatala said, "Tomorrow you must get many golden
coconuts. We will give them to the pastor."





Laki got up early in the morning. He climbed
a tree to The Golden Village. He saw Tavita.
But he did not see the golden leaves.
He did not see the golden house.
They were gone.

Tavita said, "Someone knows. You must go.
You must go now."

Laki pulled Tavita. He pulled Tavita down a tree
with him.

They looked up. The trees were gone.

Tavita looked at Laki's house. He looked at the taro.
"Are these green leaves? They are beautiful."



Tatala looked up. She did not see the tall trees.
But she saw small trees,

New trees with good coconuts were there.
They grew from the golden coconuts.

Laki said, "I will dig a golden coconut."

Tavita stopped him. He said, "Don't dig.

There are no more golden coconuts."

Tatala smiled. She said, "We have good trees.

I like them more than gold."

She smiled at Tavita. Tavita was happy.

Tatala said, "We must have food. Laki, go and get
a pig and six chickens. Bring bananas and
breadfruit."

Laki smiled at Tavita. Tavita said, "I will help."

Tatala said, "No, the food is for my new son."

And they had a very happy day.

Tatala, Laki, and Tavita lived many happy years together.
They always had good food for their family.



Words to Talk About

page 2	sad happy buy sell land	page 6	questions everything anybody
page 3	early ugly quick whistled	page 8	start
page 4	angry	page 9	every leave
page 5	awake rubbed tall different gold golden	page 10	dirt
		page 11	someone

