

FULL PERFORMANCE TRANSCRIPT

MARIGOLD AND REGAL

Told by Jeanette P Thompson

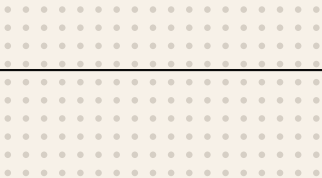
An oral storytelling archive transcript

07:47

ENGLISH

COMMUNITY · HERITAGE

A HEART CONSUMED BY PRIDE AND ENVY DESTROYS
HAPPINESS.



ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT

This transcript accompanies Jeanette P Thompson's recorded performance of Marigold and Regal, an original folk-tale-style story written and performed by Jeanette.

The wording follows the recorded performance. Jeanette's supplied script has been used as a reference for character names, the Salonga Rainforest setting and culturally specific terms. Punctuation and paragraph breaks have been added only to improve readability.

ACCESS NOTE

The timestamps are section markers designed to help readers navigate the recorded performance.

FULL TRANSCRIPT

00:01

Nestled in the Salonga Rainforest's rich, dense foliage, waterfalls bubbled and tumbled, cascading down into the rivers below.

High in the trees, Bonobo chimpanzees swinging, grinning from ear to ear.

Exotic African parrots squawking, calling; flowers' sweet fragrances drifting on a breeze.

00:34

There stood a village.

Its young leader, Chief Muteba, mourning the loss of his late father, had yet to prove his worth.

00:51

The villagers had seen him grow from boy to man.

His father had been loved, loyal, respected.

Would he be able to lead as his father before him?

01:13

By his side, his much-loved prize hen, Marigold.

He stroked her red and gold feathers as he held court.

01:28

"Today we hunt. The storehouses need replenishing before the rains come."

01:38

Stealthily creeping through the dense undergrowth, they came across a muster of peafowls, proudly dancing, prancing, displaying their blue and green translucent plumage.

"Wait! Stop! We catch as many as we can. They will make a wonderful addition to our village."

02:08

Sensing danger, their leader quickly emitted a high-pitched scream.

Quick as quick, the other peafowls and peahens raced through the undergrowth just as the net descended on only their leader.

02:29

Back in the village, Marigold was pecking at the corn scattered by the children as they stroked and played with her.

Her plump red and golden feathers were made more beautiful by the rays of the sun peeping through the trees.

02:49

Hearing the noise of the returning party, the children raced forward.

"Let us see! Let us see!" they called as they ran towards the Chief.

Marigold ran alongside the children but was almost trampled underfoot and was suddenly knocked to the ground.

Her lovely red and golden feathers were now covered in a thick brown dust.

03:16

"Let us see! Let us see!" the children continued as they raced towards the Chief.

The net was slowly lifted off the peafowl as he slowly turned and danced and pranced, his outstretched plumage beautiful to behold.

"Ooh!" the children cried.

The villagers could not believe the beauty that was before them.

03:47

Marigold tried to advance towards the Chief once more but was pushed aside.

He only had eyes for the new arrival.

04:00

"Look what I have brought you, my people. He will bring good luck to our village.

"Regal by nature, Regal he will be called."

04:16

Later that evening, back in the hen house, gentle mutterings.

"He was so beautiful, so wonderful, so majestic."

"What was so wonderful about him?" Marigold asked.

"You're just jealous, Marigold, because the Chief has now found somebody else to worship."

04:41

Days passed to weeks and Marigold did not lay, nor the next day, nor the next.

And when she did finally lay, her once beautiful golden eggs were a dull, dark brown.

[Gasps]

Jealousy was eating her up as weeks turned to months.

05:10

Regal continued to hold court.

He was more beautiful as the days went on, but the villagers did not notice the sadness in his eyes.

“Why have they kept me here? Why do they keep coming? Why do they keep stroking and poking and looking and gawking at me?

“I just want to be with my own kind.”

05:38

Something else had changed.

The rains hadn’t fallen in months.

Marigold’s once beautiful red and gold feathers had turned a dull grey as jealousy and envy continued to take hold.

[Gasps]

06:03

Rains hadn’t fallen. Foliage that was once vibrantly alive was now brown.

Flower petals scattered around. Their voices raised. Hungry bellies cried for food as the crops failed.

06:18

Villagers seeing Regal’s proud display day after day began to resent, began to feel that he had brought bad luck to them.

They blamed the Chief.

“It’s Chief Muteba’s fault. He brought this creature here.

“Look at him proudly displaying day after day while everything around us is being destroyed.”

06:52

“Catch him! Kill him!”

“They want to kill me now. Oh! Oh!”

Regal emitted a high-pitched scream as Chief Muteba ran towards the commotion.

“Stop! It is not his fault. It is I who brought him here. I who brought this disaster on my people.”

07:18

Turning, Chief Muteba slowly walked towards the hen house.

There he gathered a lifeless Marigold into his arms, placed his head on her body and wept.

07:37

A heart consumed by pride and envy destroys happiness.

— END OF TRANSCRIPT —