



The Elephant in My House



One morning, Botom and her mother were tending their fields. Suddenly, they saw a young elephant running towards them!



The elephant ran straight into their house and began to eat. Botom grabbed its tail and yanked hard. "Get

out of there! Go back to your home!" she shouted.



But Botom's parents ran in and told her to stop. "The poor elephant!" her mother cried. "He must be starving and lost." Her father agreed. "We should be friends with this elephant. We will call him Sakor."

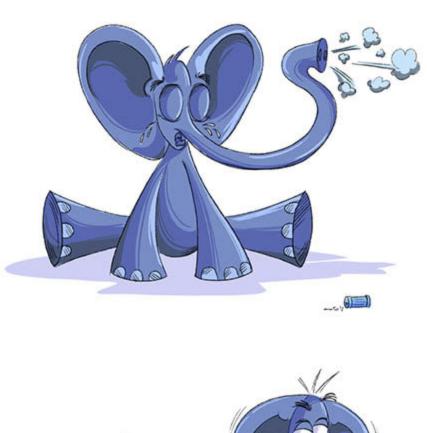


Botom was envious of how much attention and good food her parents gave to Sakor.





Sakor followed Botom everywhere, he was a real pest! Botom wondered if he would ever go home to the forest.





Botom thought if she was mean to Sakor, he might leave. So she put pepper in his trunk, making him

sneeze, and teased him with ants to make him scared.



One morning, Botom wanted a guava to take to school. But she could not reach them! The young elephant

reached up with his trunk and picked one for her.



Botom was very surprised. "Thank you!" she said. "But I am going to be late for school now." Her mother

shouted from a distance, "Why don't you ride Sakor to school?"



With Sakor's help, Botom arrived at school on time.





After that, Sakor came to school every day. Botom and her friends loved to play games with him. Tug of war... Jumping rope...



Sliding... Hopscotch...



Sakor even joined the class! One day, Botom's teacher asked, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"



Botom answered, "I want to be a forest worker so I can help elephants like Sakor and protect our land."

Suddenly, there was a big noise from outside. "Whoom! Whoom!"



Everyone ran outside to see what was happening. Sakor's mother had found him!

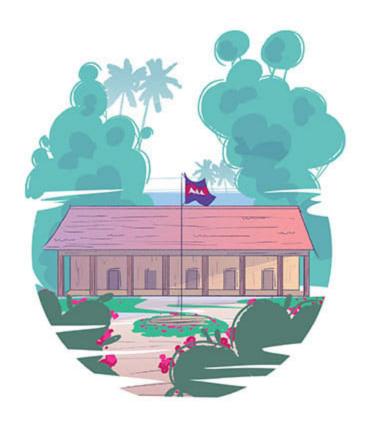


It was time for Sakor to return to the forest. Botom was sad to say goodbye, but she knew her friend

would be happy to return to his home and his family.



Sakor was sad to leave too, now that Botom treated him kindly. But his mother reminded him he could come back to visit now that Botom understood how to be a friend to elephants.







More About the Environment Conservation International (CI) has been working in Cambodia since 2001 to conserve the rich biodiversity of Cambodia. From the Cardamom Mountains in the southwest, home of some of the few remaining Asian elephants in the country, to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest inland fishery in Southeast Asia, to Veun Sai Siem Park National Park, home of the yellow-cheeked gibbons. For more

information:

https://www.conservation.org/where/ Pages/Greater-Mekong-region.aspx https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=XGlTHR8aD-o https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=xgqsniNBhgs Additional environmental information provided by Conservation International in collaboration with The Asia Foundation



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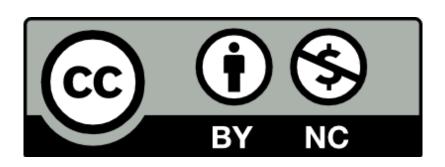
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