

MELODY LOSES HER MOJO

Keith Saha

BLESSING: I first came to England when I was fifteen ... all by myself. I thought I was going on holiday to see my aunty ... None of my brothers could understand why I had been the special chosen one ... because they were all older and they went to school every day and did their homework, ... but Blessing was the naughty one ... why did she get to go to England? They were so jealous. I had only been with my aunty for about ... what ... three days? And she dropped me off at this strange woman's house ... and that was it. I never saw her or any of my family again ... This woman ... she locked me indoors and made me clean all day, every day ... and look after her children, wash the clothes ... cook the food ... I had no money ... I didn't even have my own clothes ... and when I complained ... she beat me ...

I thought that I had been kidnapped and that nobody back home knew where I was ...

And all that time when I was in that house, on my hands and knees ... I dreamt of being back home. And that is all that I lived for.

And about six months ago I escaped ... I slept on the streets until eventually I found some help.

And last week ... they told me I was going back ... and that they had found her ... I was so happy. But when I spoke to her on the phone ... I found out that I had not been kidnapped ... she had known where I was all that time ...

She sold me for money ... it was a business deal ... she sold me as a cleaner ... a domestic servant ... because I was the naughty one. I don't want to be sent back there. That is why I took your money.