



A COLLECTION OF  
**STORIES**  
FROM  
**WEST AFRICA**

Compiled and Illustrated by  
David A. Naff



# HUNTER'S BIG HOUSE



## Copyrights and Creative Commons license

The license used here makes 7 important provisions.

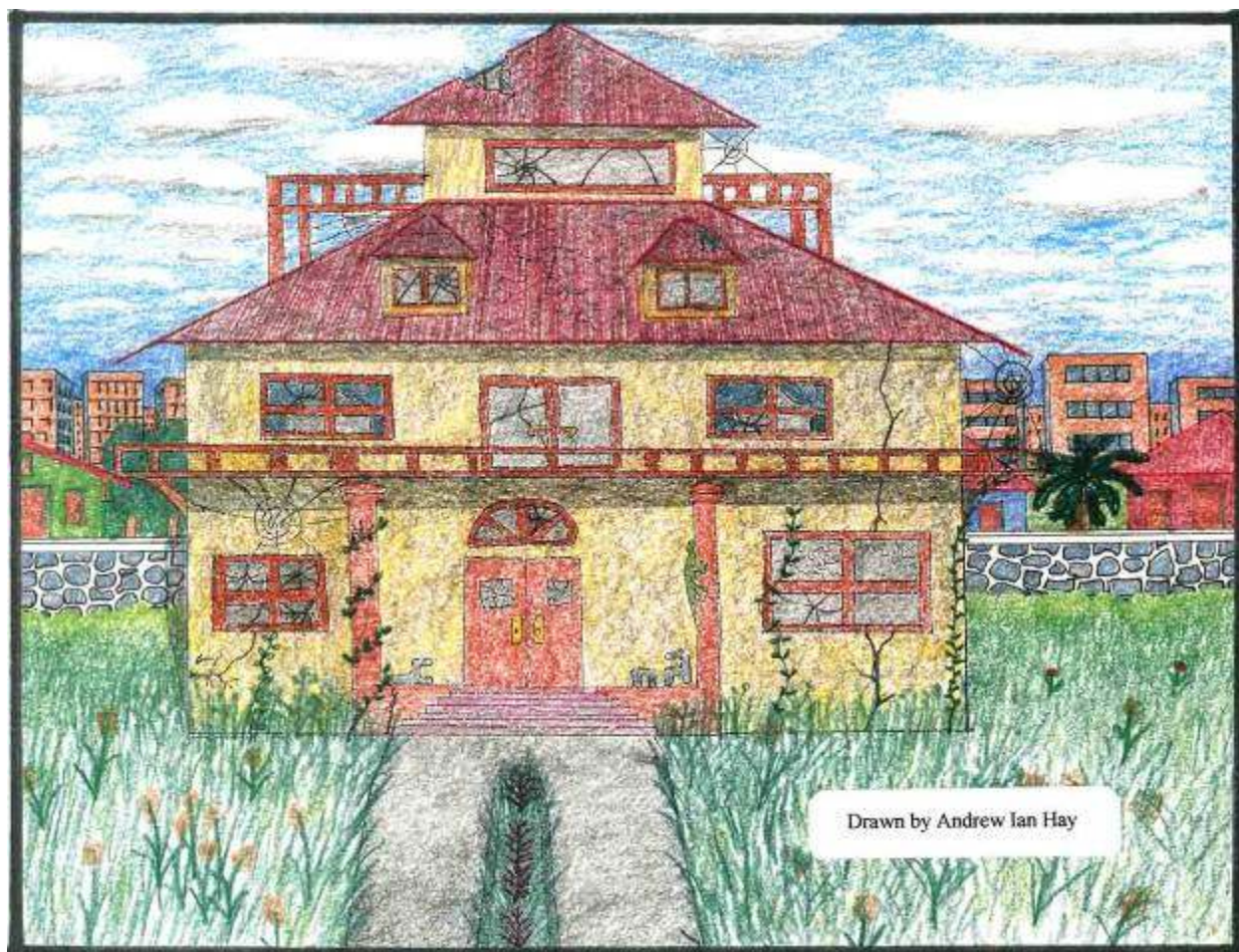
You are free, indeed encouraged, to do the following:

- Copy, print, distribute, display, and teach from Spark materials in any way you wish.
- Make changes for your own use and for distribution to others.
- Make any sort of non-commercial copies, ministry copies, or personal copies, from any Spark material, without further notice.

Under the following conditions:

- You properly cite the original authors of the material you find here. Pages on [www.vernacularmedia.org](http://www.vernacularmedia.org) without a clear authorship should be cited to [vernacularmedia.org](http://vernacularmedia.org) on your copies.
- You must retain the BY-NC-SA license on your copies of materials copied from [www.vernacularmedia.org](http://www.vernacularmedia.org). (You must not trample the commons.)
- You must not change the license. (You must not steal from the commons.)
- You must ask for permission for use of Spark materials outside of this list. (You need permission to take work out of the commons.)

**By Spark Team**



## HUNTER'S BIG HOUSE

(John Tamba - Kissi)

Note to the reader: Words and phrases typical of West Africa are retained, and indicated by italics.

There was once a famous hunter. He was *too clever for the hunting business*. He always had *plenty meat* for his own use. He also sold *plenty meat* in the market. He was able, after some years of saving his money, to buy a big house in the city. He thought having this wonderful big house would make him an important and respected person.

Now, the house was very big. It had been very beautiful, but no one had lived in it for a long long time. Some of the windows were broken out. The wood was rotting in places. It needed painting. It needed lots and lots of fixing.

Because he was a hunter, the man spent most all of his time in the bush. He did not have the time or skill to fix the house so he rarely used it. If he did stay in the house for a while and did not hunt then there was no meat and no money to fix the house. The house really did not help him any. It was a burden. Therefore, after thinking plenty, he decided to sell it and get a pick-up truck. That would be more help to him than a big house.

The hunter went to a rich friend who sometimes bought old houses and fixed them up *too fine*. Then he would sell them for plenty money.

He said, "Hello my good friend. *How the body* today?"

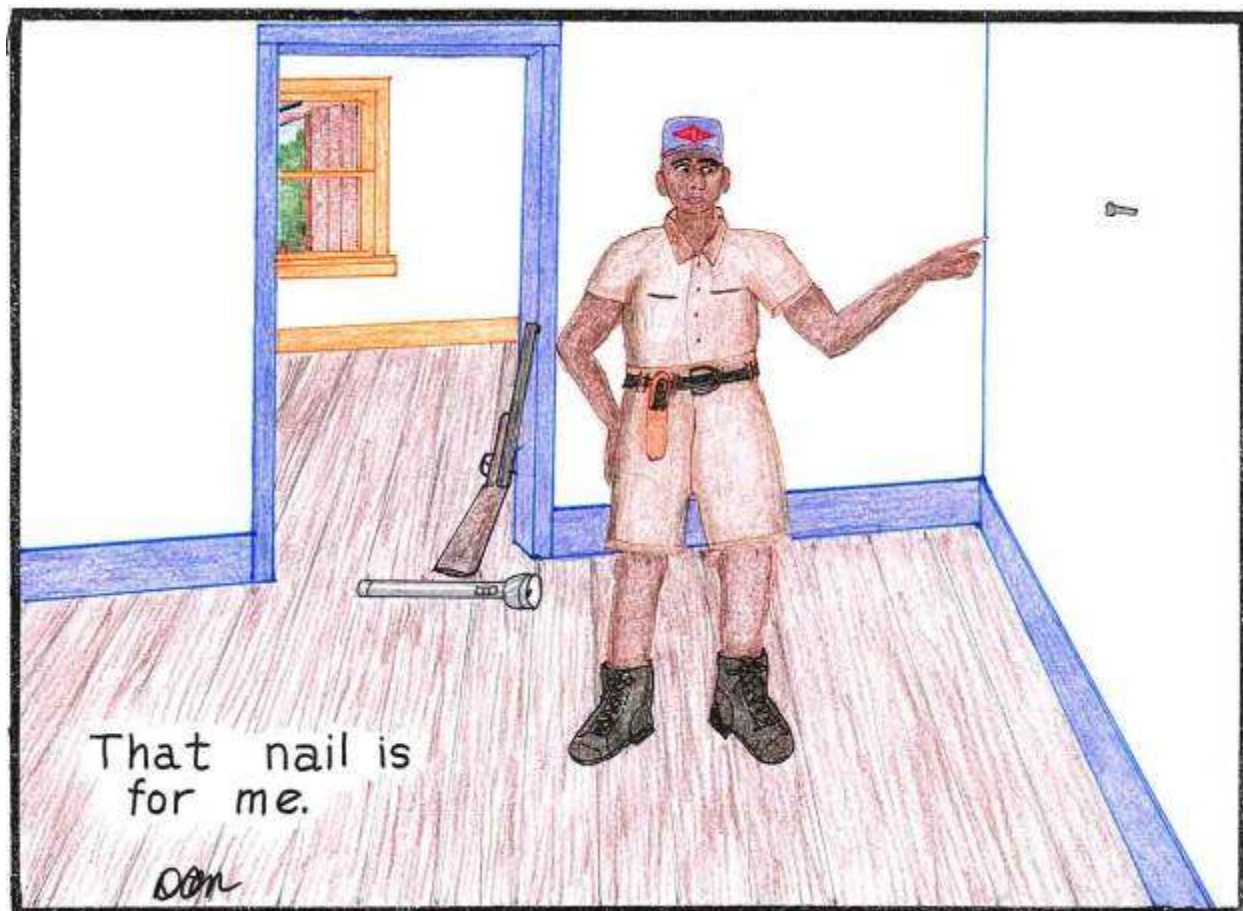
The friend answered, "*I be fine too much. How be* the hunting business today?"

Hunter replied, "*It be good too much*. I was able to buy one big house in the city. But then, how can hunter live in a big house in the city? He can live there, but he *no can hunt* there. So, *I be thinking I make big mistake* to buy the big house. I need a pick-up truck. *I come to you* today. I want you to buy my house so I can buy a good pick-up. You will buy my house to help me?"

The rich man answered, "*I no need* house. I have fine house for myself and my family. *We be happy too much* there."

"No, no," replied the hunter. "*I no want* you to buy my house for yourself and your family. I want you to buy it to fix up *too fine* and sell for plenty plenty money." Then *all two of us* will be happy. I can buy pick-up and you will have more money."

"Oh, now I understand you," answered the rich man. "*That be fine too much*. I have carpenters, masons, electricians, and painters working for me all the time, but often I do not have



work to keep them all busy. If I buy your house I can keep all busy all the time. I agree. I will buy your house. I will tell my lawyer today.”

Finally the title deeds, surveys and all the other paper work was *fini*. The house now belonged to the rich man.

“Now,” said the rich man to the hunter, "I will give you part of your money. But before I give you *all your part*, I want my friends to see how I can fix the house *too fine*. When it sells, I will give you the rest of *your part money*.”

The hunter really wanted all of his money so he could get his pick-up. But he didn't want to *make palaver*, so he finally said, "That is *some kind of way* ok. But, since you are not giving me all *my part money* now, I will keep one *small small* part of

the house for myself.” He pointed to a big nail in the wall in the main room and said, “See this nail? This space and this nail *can be for me* until you pay all.”

“That’s fine,” said the rich man. As he walked away he thought to himself, “ I see no problem with one *small small* nail.”

On the nail the hunter hung up his smelly dirty hunting coat. It was the coat he would wear if it was rainy or cold when he was out in the bush hunting. He wore it too when he was skinning and cutting up an animal.

When people came to look at the house, they noticed the coat but said nothing. They probably thought it belonged to one of the workmen for there were carpenters and electricians and plumbers and masons working all over the house. They were fixing everything *too fine* just like the rich man wanted.

And, many people were coming now to see how well the rich man was fixing up the house. Some of them were thinking about buying the house when it was finished.

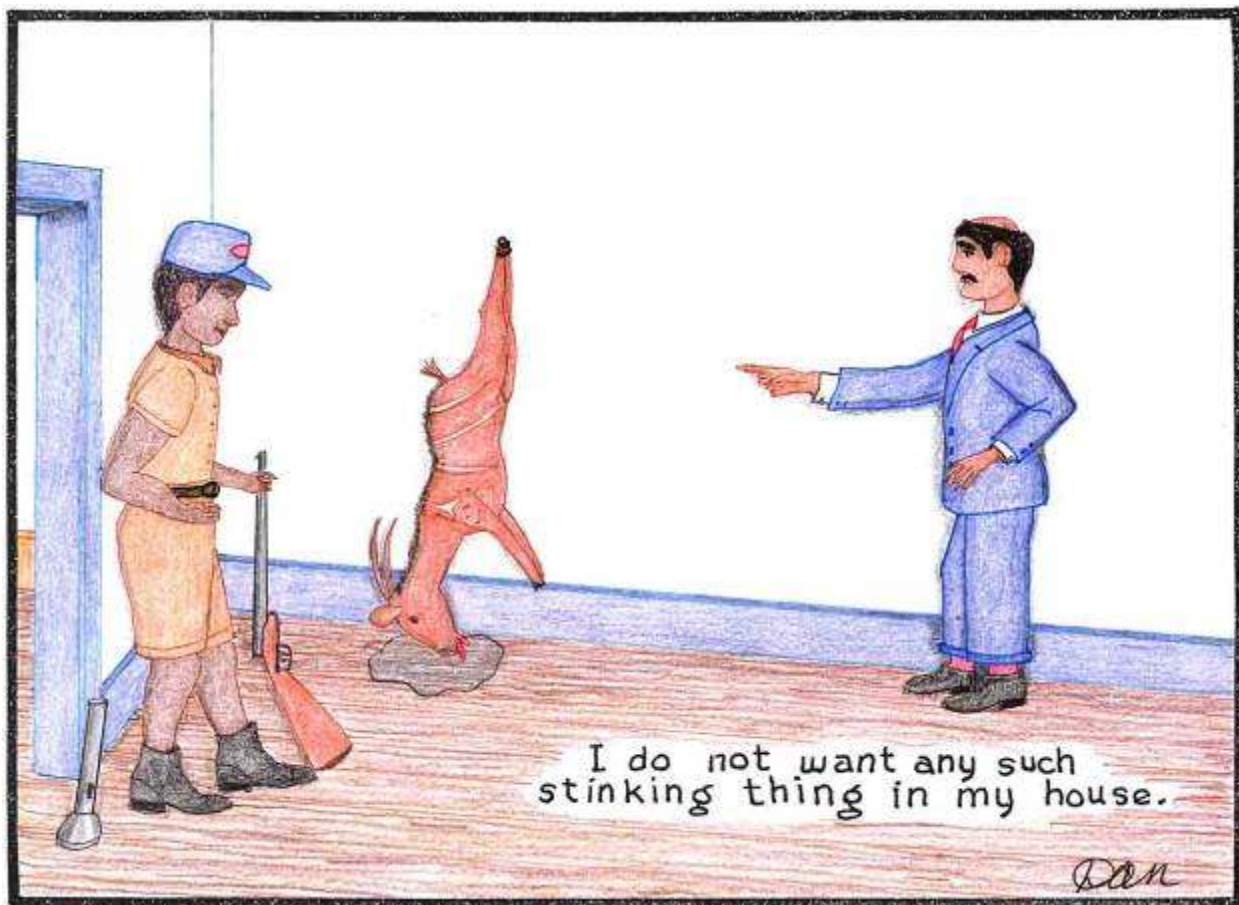
Some weeks after this the hunter went out and shot one very large red deer. He brought the deer to the house and hung it up on the nail in the big house so everyone coming to see the house could see what he had shot. He wanted them to see what a good hunter he was.

The first day everything was all right.

Some people said, “Look what a fine meat.”

“Yes,” others replied, “The hunter who shot that was a very good shot. See, the bullet went straight to the heart!”

On the second day the deer began to drip and to smell a little. On the third day the smell became very bad. On the fourth



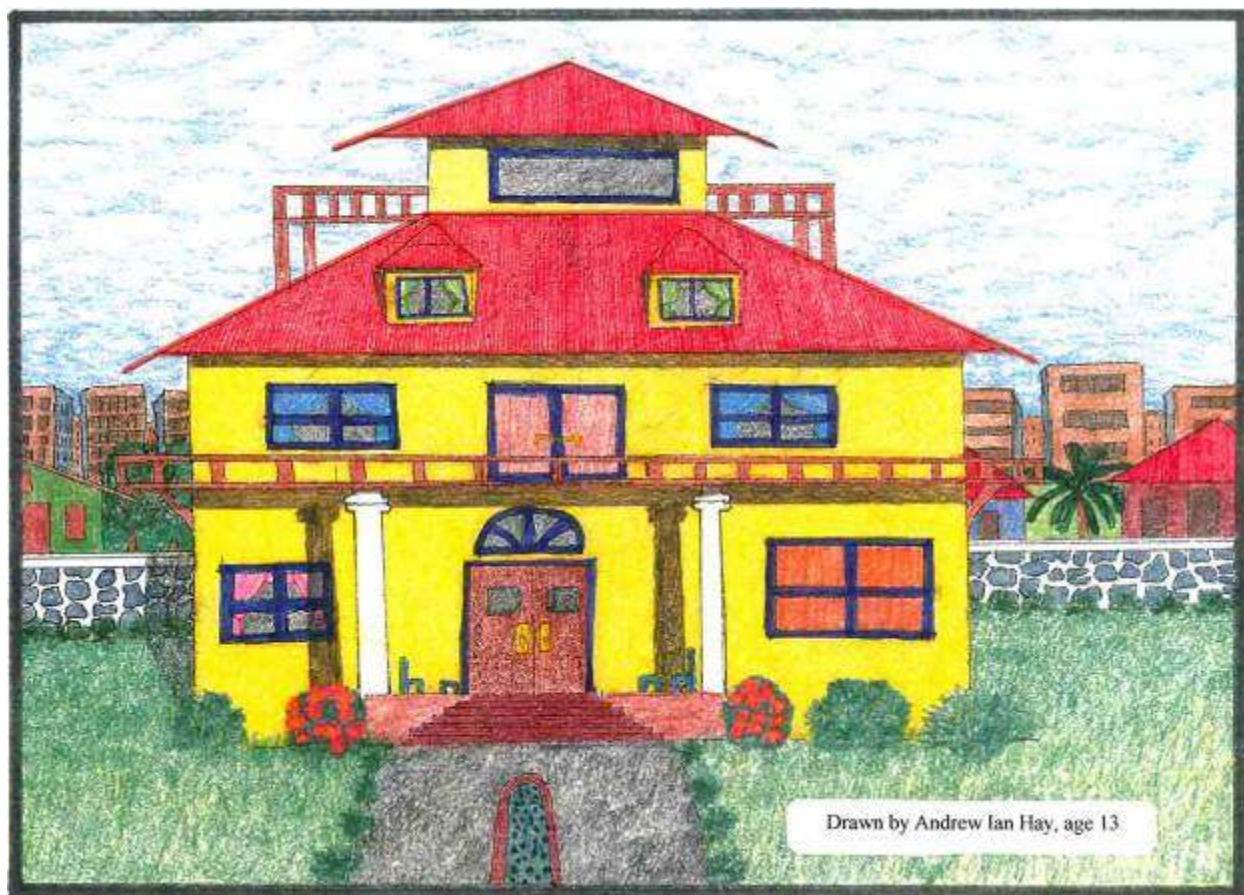
day the smell went through the whole house and was awful. People who came to see the house did not stay.

"What kind of bad smell in such a beautiful house," they said, as they went out without looking at anything.

Even the painters and carpenters, the masons and electricians said, "This is too bad. We quit. It is too awful to work in that house.

The rich man came to see why people were not looking at his beautiful house and why the workers had stopped work on his house. "What an awful smell," he said. "Who put that dead animal in here?"

"I did," answered the hunter. "That nail is still mine. I can put on it whatever I want. You have not paid me all *my part money* so that nail is mine."



"No! *I no can agree for that one,*" the rich man angrily replied. "If you want me to buy your house, I must have it ALL, including the nail. I do not want any bad smelling thing in the house I am making beautiful."

The hunter retorted, "That small part money you gave me can not buy a good pick-up. I must have all my money just now. When I see the money. When I know *for true* I can buy a good pick-up truck. Then I will take that dead deer away."

So! What do you think about that? It looks like there will be *big palaver* between the rich man and the hunter. It looks like the rich man must pay all if he wants all his house.

Jesus has bought us out of sin for a great price. We should belong to Him. We say that we give ourselves to Jesus, that we

belong to Him, but often we keep *some small something* for ourselves. That part that we keep for ourselves, the nail that Jesus does not have, can make a bad smell in our lives. It can really mess us up. Jesus must have all of us.

Joshua 24:15 says, "If you think it is wrong to serve (belong to) the Lord, choose today whom you will serve (belong to) .... But as for me and my family, we will serve (belong to) the Lord."

And 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 asks, "Do you not know that your body is a house of God where the Holy Spirit lives? ... Now you belong to God. You do not belong to yourselves. God bought you with a great price. So honor God with your body. You belong to Him."

Jesus wants to make us beautiful, a glory to Him-self. When we keep some small nail for our own selfish use, it can spoil all the beauty He is putting there. People will notice the one bad thing and forget all of His beauty for God is changing us into the image of His Son.

©1997, 2003 David A. Naff

All scripture quoted is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW LIFE VERSION, Copyright © 1969, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1986 *Christian Literature International, PO Box 777, Canby, OR 97013. Used by permission.*