Pema and the Permission Portrait

A picture can be lovely and private.



AGES 4-7 | AN ORIGINAL MIMOMANGO STORY



Pema drew a portrait of Jun asleep on the train. His ears curled over his bag. His mouth made a tiny round O. Pema thought it was wonderful.



At art club, she pinned it to the display board. Jun arrived, saw the picture, and stopped. "Please take that down," he said. Pema's smile disappeared.



"But I worked so hard," she told him. Jun looked at the floor. "I know. I just don't want everyone seeing me asleep." Pema reached for the pin.



She put the picture back in her sketchbook. For a moment, she felt cross. Her best shading was hidden. Then she remembered that the face in it belonged to Jun.



"Would you like me to keep it private?" she asked. Jun nodded. "Yes, please." Pema closed the book. She did not need to ask him for a different answer.



The display board still had an empty space. Pema opened a fresh page and drew the view from the train: long fields, a red barn and a river bend.



Jun watched her draw. "I remember that barn," he said. He helped count its windows. Pema added them carefully, then shaded the clouds with the side of her pencil.



When the landscape was finished, she showed it to Jun. "This is the picture I will display." It had no sleeping passengers, only the places they had travelled through.



Jun brought his own drawing: Pema carrying an enormous stack of books. Before he pinned it up, he asked, "Are you happy for this one to go here?"



Pema looked carefully. "Yes," she said. "I like my wobbly book tower." She added, "Thank you for asking." They made space for both new pictures on the board.



At home, Pema put a paper band around her private sketchbook. She could enjoy a drawing without showing it to everyone. That was a new kind of choice.



The next time she drew a friend, she asked before sharing. Her pencil still travelled wherever her imagination led. Her pictures travelled only where permission let them go.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

Why did Pema take the portrait down?

Is making a picture the same as having permission to share it?

Choose a favourite moment and draw what happened next.

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