

OVARYACTING!

A Devised Theatre Production by Methodist College Colombo

Written and directed by Piumi Wijesundara

Lighting by Jayampathi Guruge

Characters and cast:

Narrator	: Acsah Kulasingham
Sasha	: Tahsha de Silva
Period	: Keilah D’Rosairo
Sasha’s Mother (Janaki)	: Khadeejah Irishad
Sasha’s Father (Sarath)	: Amanda Siriwardena
Sasha’s Brother (Malli)	: Amandhi Marasinghe
Sasha’s Sister (Nangi)	: Shanoli Ratnayake
Sasha’s Grandmother (Achchi)	: Ambisha Varatharasan
Teacher	: Laila Suleiman
Classmates	: Aneeka Razeen Leanne Melder Maria Edirisinghe Prashali Tharmendra Sayumi Jayasuriya Yumna Hussein
Classmate, Advert Jogger	: Dewanga Manchanayake
‘The’ Akka	: Lauren Bastians
Akka/ Aunty/ Ensemble	: Hashendri Wanigasooriya
Akka/ Aunty/Advert Jogger	: Sahlah Anees
Akka/Aunty/Advert Jogger	: Zuleika Buhar
Akka	: Sara Shibly
Mudalali	: Dhyani Hapuarachchi
Shop Assistant	: Adele De Silva
Customer	: Shainsa De Silva

Crew:

Nimshee Fernando
Shaariha Fazeel

PROLOGUE:

This is the tale of a girl.... Scratch that...

This is the tale of EVERY girl when that special “friend” enters their life. Ovaryacting is the tale of a young girl, in search of answers for her curious predicament. Who has the answers? What is the answer? Let’s see if she finds out...

SCENES:

- 1. New Friend**
- 2. Health Lesson**
- 3. The ‘Akka’**
- 4. Procuring Products**
- 5. The ‘Talk’**

SCENE 01: NEW FRIEND

Narrator: Once upon a time there lived a girl named Sasha. [ensemble enters one by one doing various activities] She used to love doing things that every little girl loved to do: read booksdress up..... play with dolls kick ass at martial arts....ride bicyclescode on her computer ... basically...everything little girls her age loved to do.

[Period enters and looks for the best candidate]

But little did she know... that one day... she would go through tremendous change.

[Period spots Tasha, taps her on shoulder]

Period: Hi!

[All girls in ensemble get period pains... start moving out of stage. Sasha left with Period who starts prancing around. Sasha groans in pain]

Malli: [Running] Akki? Err.. akki ...? Are you... ok?

Sasha: I’m fine [period attacks again, and her tone changes to happy] I’m fineee

Malli: Akki... are you.. sure

Sasha: [period attacks again and this time Sasha is mad] I’m fine okay! I told you I’m fine..

[this period attack continues for a while until both notice something. Blood. Both notice. Scream]

Sasha and Malli: AMMAAAAAAAAAA.....

[Sasha's mother and sister all run in from all directions at the same time panicked]

Mother: akki what's wrong? What's wrong is everything ok?

[both Malli and Sasha are talking over each other]

Sasha: mama my stomach is killing me-

Malli: she was dancing like the devil-

Sasha: and then it went to my legs-

Malli: and then she was screaming

Sasha: and I have so many cramps-

Malli: and now there's ... there's..... AND I THINK SHE'S DYING...

[Mother suddenly notices the period realizes and tries to get a word in but everyone else is panicing]

Mother: "it" happened!

Malli: it happened?

Sis: it happened...

[Father enters]

Father: what happened??

[notices something is very wrong]

Father: Janaki....Janaki...Now Janaki I keep telling you to send this child to church

Mother: Sarath what...

Father: Can't you see what's happening to her?

Mother: What?

Father: THE DEVIL HAS GOT HER! The devil... the devil!

Mother: Sarath! What are you saying? This is our daughter you're talking about!

Father: Yes, yes... daughter only Janaki... now, you wait...

[starts chanting our father who art in heaven]

Sister: [panicked] oh no mama is ...is akki dying?

[Sasha's sister and Mallither panic and start praying for sister]

[while all this is going on period is still with Sasha]

Mother: [tries to calm everybody down] will everybody please SHUT UP...

[Father still fanning Sasha]

Father: Interrupting my prayer also...

Mother: [to malli and nangi] What are both of you still doing here? Get up and go to your room!

Malli: *Akki mareida?* (Is Akki dying?)

Mother: JUST GO!

Mother: [trying to explain] Sarath... Sarath... it has happened!

[Father keeps interrupting]

Father: What has happened Janaki? Be clear. Will you?

Mother: You know... our little girly...

Father: Which girl Janaki? There, one left... One still here... we have two girls!

Mother: You know what... Sarath... I need some time to think.

Father: [taken aback] *Think?* Ahhh... so you're asking me to leave, no? Ahh... so, you're saying you can handle this [pointing towards a writhing Sasha] 'situation' alone?

Fine.

Karaganna!

Karaganna! (do it yourself!)

Mother: No, Sarath... wait...

Father: *Na... na... na ... oyaama karaganna* (no... no... no you do it by yourself)

[Mother sighs. Turns to Sasha]

Mother: erm... now Sasha now this is normal ok ... you go freshen up...

Sasha: But amma! What's happening to me..?

Mother: Erm... you go freshen up love, I'll tell you. I'll come and explain, alright?

[Sasha and Period exit. Grandmother enters]

Achchi: *Puthaaaa! Mokadda putha wela thiyenne?* (Child what is happening?) What is happening?

Mother: ah.. amma... you know our little girl Sasha...

Achchi: ye...s?

Mother: Well... she's not little anymore-

Achchi: Ah now I always tell you she's not little ... *koheda! Oya thoththa kara kara nalawanawane!* (It's you who always mollycoddle her like a toddler.)

Mother: No...No amma... she's BIG now....!

Achchi: [thinks, and realizes] Gasp! [claps one of her maids onstage]

[maid appears with a scroll of generational wisdom. Achchi whips out scroll and starts reading a list]

Achchi: [to mother] so er.. what time did this happen?

[mother baffled]

Mother: er.. amma what? Why is that important?

Achchi: Why?? We must look at her hosroscope [reads off list]

[Aunties start appearing on stage]

Aunty ensemble: *Apey puthaata hariyai* (good match for our son)

Anaagatha nandamma... (you're future mother-in-law)

Achchi: [reading scroll] have to stay in her room for seven days.

[Aunty ensemble vigorously agrees] *Dawas hathak.* (seven days)

Achchi: *Kannadiya balanna baa...* (she can't look at her reflection in the mirror)

[sounds of shattering glass in the background]

Aunty Ensemble: *Anna hari... kadanna kadanna... okkkoma kadanna* (That's right. Break it all)

Achchi: Can't eat oily food, or the *Kalukumaaraya* will get her... [to mother] Can't you remember, he came for you also.

Maid: *Dan nona... babata kevim kanna ba... kokis kanna ba... malu kanna ba... thel kanna ba...* (Now madam the little can no longer eat oily food, coconut oil, fish...)

Aunties: *Pol kanna puluwanda?* (can she eat coconuts?)

Maid: *Kauda ban me dawaswala pol kanne? Poluth baa, theluth baa...owa dan ba*

(Who would eat coconut during this time? No coconut, no coconut oil!)

Achchi: She cannot look at men...

[Sarath is coming back to see Sasha and is chased by Aunties]

Aunty Ensemble: *Thaththawath balanna baa... yanna... yanna... YANNA!* (can't even look at her father...out...out....out!)

Achchi: she cant sit with her legs spread

Aunty Ensemble: *Cheee... chee chee... kakul deka eliyee daagena... hamotama penna...* (Disgusting! So that everyone can see her legs?!)

Achchi: Can't wear shorts.

Aunty: *Apey kaaley oya choottang kaali andagena hitiyoth... ussagena yai!* (if she'd worn those short shorts in our day she would be abducted!)

Achchi: Can't do sports where she spreads her legs too much!

Aunties: *Ehenan kella monada karanne?* (then what can the girl do?)

Achchi: Board games are fine!

Aunties: *Ahhh chess karanakota kakul diga arennaane...*

Chess nevei... lassana gauwmak mahanna...uyanna igena gaththanan ethi...

(Ahh no spreading legs required for chess. What chess? Just let her learn how to sew a nice dress... or cook a good meal.)

Achchi: *Thathage odokkuwe indaganna baa...* (can't sit on her father's lap)

Aunties: *Chee... cheee... cheee...*

Eh madiwata thaththage odokkuwe!

Putu thiyenakota ei odokkuwe indaganne?

(Disgusting!

And her father's lap of all places?

Why do you need a lap in the first place when there's so many chairs?)

Achchi: Can't run around, not a little girl anymore...

Aunties: [chasing running girl offstage]

Sumathi... kossa denna...

Kossak athin allawath na...

Gihin gedara athugaanna... duwanawa methane....

(Sumathi... give her a broom...

She hardly knows how to handle the broom, go sweep the house instead of running around!)

Achchi: Can't eat pineapples!

Aunties: Acid acid acid acid!

It affects your respiratory system... reproductive system... all these systems... I got this message on Whatsapp I swear

Anna hari... oya okkoma leda tika hadenawa (That's right she's bound to fall sick)

Mother: Amma! What are you saying? We are not doing any of those things let's just tell her!

Achchi: [offended and disgusted] All these 'modern woman' things only...

Achchi: Cannot play with the neighbours sons anymore... They are **boys**, no.

Aunties: He's a boy, she's a girl. NO.

Ammo! Podi lamai podi lamai ekka sellam karoath... thawath podi lamai hadenna puluwan!

(Good lord! If little ones play with little ones, they are bound to produce even more little ones!)

Achchi: Can't play with dogs!

Aunties: *Balla burai. Hapai. Kai. Boi. Nidagai. Kella marei.*

(The dog will bark. Bite. Eat. Drink. Sleep. The girl will die.)

Achchi: Have to call the closest aunt.

Aunties: *Kauda.... Ara meyage nangi... ahhh ara somapala bande... GEETHA!*

(who? ah that one's sister? The one who married that Somapala. Ah. GEETHA)

Achchi: Ah! Geetha! She'll be very happy to hear this ... *Kaalekin katha kareth naa* (couldn't have a chat in quite a while)

[takes out phone to dial]

Mother: Amma don't tell aunty Geetha she's tell the entire neighbourhood!

Achchi: So good noh putha... whole neighborhood will come for the ceremony...

Aunties: *Gamatama partiyak!* (The whole village can party)

Mother: amma what ceremony??

Achchi: [on phone already] hello Geethaaaaa! *Panividayak kiyanna gaththe...*(I'm calling with some news)

[comes back to mother] she can't breathe too loudly.....

Aunties: *Ow ow ow.. gaanu lamayek... ganu lamayek!*

(that's right. She's a girl. She's a girl)

Mother: Amma what!

Achchi: She can't even think without our permission...

[Grandmother exits reading her list]

Aunties: *Dan amma... weda godai!*

(Now mother dearest! We have lots to do!)

[chases mother offstage with lists of other instructions]

Pol gedi dekai... dawas hathai... biththara kopi ekai!

(Two coconuts... seven days... one egg coffee!)

TRANSITION 01: ESCAPE FROM ROOM TO SCHOOL

[Sasha and Period are trapped in a small room by the Aunties who form the rooms walls]

Narrator: Sasha's world had turned upside down. Why was she suddenly in the confines of her room? This was all so strange. She was determined... she knew she had to escape....

[Sasha breaks her door down and escapes. Period follows]

Amma: [entering the empty room] Sasha?!

[Aunties and amma go out looking for Sasha the run-away]

This was all so confusing... Things were happening to her body that she didn't understand... and her family? Her family was acting (to put it rather mildly) ABSOLUTELY LOONEY! And she just couldn't seem to get rid the strange things going on in her body all day and all this pain... [period symbol and more action]. She knew she had to find answers... and so she went to the one place that always seemed to have answers...

[School scene transition happens as they are walking in. Crew members walk in and out like school kids. The classroom scene is set up. Kids start arriving...Sasha takes a seat. Teacher arrives...]

SCENE 02: HEALTH LESSON

Teacher: AAAAayubowan lamai!

Kids: Aayubowan Miss....

[Teacher bashfully thanks]

Boy 1: Miss... you're wearing a nice saree Miss...

Teacher: Right now... children did I give you any homework?

Boy 1: Miss this is health... you never give us homework for health...

Teacher: ah ... [nervous giggle] ehehehe ... yes putha you sit... now children ... where were we..... tell me which page we were at last...

Kids: 68...

Teacher: Right now somebody read... you...at the back...read...

Boy 3: [speedreads the extract on health book about puberty and menstruation]

Secondary sexual characteristics of males these appear between ages 13 to 16 years old action of testosterone is responsible for this....pubertal hair grows on face chest genitals larynx enlarges...secondary sexual characters in females these appear between ages 10-14...hair on armpits ...,mammary glands grow... realeasing ova from ovaries.. the cycle of men- [interrupted]

[children lightly giggling and unease in both students and teacher while reading goes on]

[teacher looks uneasy]

Teacher: Ah hari hari hari hari puthe eh athi thank you... meh.... Hari page 68 neda... hari good.. very good okay... [flustered] exams also close noh... why don't we quickly head to page 77... so little time children

Girl 1: but Miss...

Teacher: now now exams also coming up must cover syllabus...

[all kids a bit disturbed]

Girl 2: but Miss we skipped two chapters...

Boy 2: miss we didn't finish noh.....

Teacher: [talking over him] now here this is why I tell you to go for classes .. I don't have all the time in the world... ... you go learn in your classes or ask your mothers...now page 78...[starts reading]

Girl 3: Erm... Miss...

[Period enters classroom and starts prancing around. Sasha in pain]

Boy1: Miss.... Sashata podi awulak....

Teacher: Sasha... now what's this...

[Sasha and Teacher go to a corner... and Sasha points at Period]

[several different reactions from mates]

Teachers: My God child! [whispers] Can't you see there's boys in the class [louder again] erm.. so Girls ... I have to take Sasha to the girls room...

Kids: Miss I'll take her!

[a boy and a girl volunteer. Teacher notably ignores the boy and signals for the girl. One girl accompanies her to the 'girls' room. Period follows.]

TRANSITION 02: SCHOOL TO BIG GIRL'S DEN

[crew walk around school scene being changed. Children leave classroom... chairs being taken away...Sasha strikes up a conversation with the girl accompanying her]

Narrator: Sasha thought school had answers but it only confused her even further... so she thought she would turn to a friend...

Sasha: Amani wait... I've been feeling terrible lately... My body is doing all sorts of strange things.. one Motherent I'm happy ..one Motherent I want to kill everyone around me... and then there's the [points to period dancing with red ribbons] and my family's acting so weird..

Girl 3: [Looks all knowing] now now.... No need to worry... You see it happens to everyone... so normal ane..

Sasha: It has happened to you?

Girl 3: you listen will you... so now this is very normal ok... there's so many remedies for this [points at Period] .. eggs and coffee... paracetamol...Panadol... lime juice... chocolates..[drones on a list]

Sasha: all that will get rid of [points at Period] so you've tried this?

Girl 3: Tried and tested darling. Not me. But well. People. Anyway... like I was saying so normal ane nothing to worry...

Tasha: so it has happened to you?

Girl 3: No no so..it hasn't happened to me.. I heard this from that grade 11 akka?...

Sasha: What akka?

Girl 3: [looks around to see if anyone is looking] THE akka... listen wait I'll give you an address... [takes out paper and scribbles] don't tell anyone where you got it from... you should probably go there alone... she doesn't really like little girls like us... so when you do find out let me know too

Narrator: And so Sasha took her friend's advice, and made her way to meet the mysterious, seemingly all-knowing, Akka. She hoped that at least here... she would find more answers to her curious predicament....

[atmosphere changes and dark and seedy place is set up... there is one don: the Big Girl and her entourage of big girls who are at her beck and call.]

SCENE 03: THE 'AKKA'

BG4: Name?

Sasha: Sasha....

BG1: Age?

Sasha: fourteen...

Akka: [looking at entourage...we have a bit of a late bloomer here...

[entourage looks at each other giggle...mutter]

[Akka silences them]

BG3: hmmm... so date of occurrence?

Sasha: to...today?

[all the girls are agasp]

Akka: How and why aren't you in your room???

Sasha: I escaped... but please... please they tell me you know everything they tell me you know the answers... [doorkeeper comes and warns not to speak over the line]

Big Girl gets up

Big Girl: First off.... You must swear a solemn oath as you are now part of this holy organization....

[all big girl members keep palm on their chest....everyone mechanically repeat oath]

I AM NOW A WOMAN AND I WILL SHUT UP ABOUT IT!

Right.... Now that you're sworn in.... let me enlighten you... I see [looks at period] nasty one... but that's alright...it's your first time..... [starts speaking in cryptic language] There is a place you must venture to find the vendor [all big girls nod in agreement and repeat 'the vendor'] And from the vendor you must procure some [looks around to see if anyone is listening...] things... [entourage repeats 'some things']

[Period begins acting up. Akka looks at the period and makes a snide remark]

Hmmm... Looks like a bit of a nasty one.

[Period gets angry and starts to fight back. All Akkas cover to protect the 'Akka']

BG1: Calling for back up class 11-A.... Class 11-A!!

Akka: [regains composure] So... as I was saying.... From the vendor you must procure the 'things' ... I'll give you a tip... ask for the 'things' with wings.

Sasha: [confused] ermm... what things?

Akka: [looks around at her entourage] see the thing is I usually stock up a supply so I can give newbies like you... but the thing is...[looks at all her entourage who look guilty]... the thing is we are all... [looks at each other] at the same time..

Sasha: what things??

Akka: [shushes her]... the things. Now now dear one.. I know you're confused but not to worry... this happens to everyone... girls... boys... fruits ... flowers....

Sasha: erm... boys? Are you sure...

[the entourage shushes her from offstage]

Akka: So now what has actually happened is there's eggs.....so they've broken...hormones dropped ...and then fallopian tubes and then your wall is breaking and then the visceral implications connote that procreation is possible or not and... [blabbers on convoluted explanation]

Sasha: erm... what? I what?

Akka:[Shushes her again] now now don't worry... like I said normaaal process happens to everyone ..even boys [Sasha clearly confused and tries to interrupt] shhhh

Now... you will know you have arrived at the right place when he starts safely wrapping your thing so that noooo one sees... very important that no one sees... repeat after me

Sasha and Big Girl: very important that no one sees...

Akka: especially boys... very important that no one sees you buying the things,... Because if they see the things... especially men... *they will go*

BLIND!

[Big girl entourage gasps... some faint at the thought]

[Sasha terrified... keeps nodding]

Akka: Now go....

Leave...

Procure...

Procure... [Calls her entourage back in]

TRANSITION 03: WALK FOR PRODUCTS

[Sasha and her period are now walking out of the big girls den to find the place with the things. akkass move out and crew sets up new scene]

[A customer, mudalali, and helper (all men) are arranging products in their shop]

Narrator: And once again Sasha was on her way... this time in search of the 'place' with the vendor who had the 'things' with the 'wings'. Sasha felt that everything the Akka had said sounded rather cryptic... and although everyone seemed to think the Akka had all the answers... Sasha was not too sure. She didn't seem a very credible source, she thought, until... Out there before her...

[Mother enters shop exasperated]

Mother: *Mudalaali! Podi gaanu lamayek dakkada?* (Shopkeeper...did you see a young girl pass this way?)

[Shopkeepers look clueless. Mother continues her search for her daughter]

she saw.... Yes... it was the place! She edged her way closer...

SCENE 04: PROCURING PRODUCTS

Customer: *ala kilo hatharaiii...* (4kg potatoes)

Helper: [checks] *hariii....* (check)

Customer: *Brinjal gedi dekai* (2 brinjals)

Helper: *wambatu ...Hariiiii* (check)

Customer: Razor ekai....toothbrush dekai... signal ekai...

Helper: hari... hari... hari...

Customer: *Gaana daanna mudalali...* (how much?)

Mudalali: *Desiya panahai Mahaththaya...* (Rs 250 Sir)

Customer: [gasps]

Mudalali: *ehema thamai dan elawalu ganan ne mahaththaya...* (Vegetables are rather pricey these days Sir)

[Sasha and Period standing outside... period trying to steal food]

Mudalali: *Ah enna putha monada.. kiyanne chocolate toffee... poth pan pensal...* (come come child.. we have anything you want...)

Sasha: [awkwardly] Uncle.. do you have the things?

Mudalali: Tins? *Mona tins da puthe Salmonda....* (what tins? Salmon?)

Helper: Tinkiri? (Tinned Milk?)

Sasha: na na Uncle... meh [signals with her hand]

Helper: [notices period and shows the mudalali]

[Mudalali and helper realize what she is talking about. Look around and wait for other customer to leave... and discretely take something out....]

Mudalali: *Mewwane?* (These things?)

Helper: *ahhh....arawa!...* (Those)

[helper and mudalali disappear and reach out for things]

Sasha: Meh... Uncle... *Oka with wings thiyenawada...* (do you have that with wings?)

[a bunch of joggers in tight white pants appear on jogging track ... jogging muttering whisper under their breath they leave stage]

Helper: *Piyambanawada?* (is she flying?)

Mudalali: [tells helper] *Honda badu illanne....* (No, she wants the good stuff)

[The two disappear again. The strange advert girls in tight white pants appear again prancing]

Sasha: keeyada Uncle...

Mudalali: *haarasiya panahai* [450]

Helper: na na... *panseeyai* [500]

Mudalali: *dannadda.... Luxury tax ne* [don't you know... it's the luxury taxes]

[Sasha is looking for money gives the money and asks for the products]

Helper: *Ah poddak inna miss...* [hang on a minute]

Mudalali: *Paththara...* (papers...)

[helper hands and they start a ritual of wrapping it ...Sasha is waiting on the clock... they keep wrapping]

Narrator: Akka's words reverberated in Sasha's mind... the things... the wings... the wrapping... well... at least she seemed to have come to the right place....

[suddenly... boy appears on stage]

Toilet roll boy: Uncle!!!! *Gedara toilet paper iwara wela!* (The toilet paper supply at home has finished)

Helper: *Moo ayeh ewith nayata illaganna* (he's here again to ask for goods on credit)

Mudalali: *Maha waathayak bung...* (he's so annoying) [throws a toilet paper roll at the boy who catches it] *owa waling thaagi othapan* (go wrap your presents with that!)

[boy befuddled]

Toilet Roll Boy: Uncle... Bag?

Mudalali and Helper: *OWA WALATA BAG NA!* (NO BAGS FOR THOSE)

[They return to paper wrapping ritual of Sasha's pad packet. Sasha is confused]

Mudalali: *Paththara... patharaa.... Paththara.....*

[and Mudalali hands it over]

[Sasha tries to ask questions but they leave before she gets answers]

TRANSITION 04: BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Narrator: Baffled at the turn of events... her 'things' wrapped up in a zillion newspapers as if it were a ticking time bomb... she walked on..... she was disappointed that she still hadn't found all the answers she was looking for. All everyone seemed to give away were little bits and pieces of information... why didn't anyone want to talk about this? Why was no one telling her? Why was everyone whispering and overreacting?

Disappointed... tired... and hungry... not having found all the answers she was looking for...
Sasha thought she'd keep going....

[Choreographed scene of Sasha's search for answers with Period]

As she walked home she met so many people...

People had so many opinions... but nobody seemed to be able to help her understand what was happening to her. They didn't seem to want to understand themselves ... some people were kind and considerate... some were disgusted... some ran away... and some... were oblivious... She had almost given up hope...until... she heard a familiar voice...

SCENE 05: THE TALK

Mother: Sasha...

Sasha: Amma!!!

Mother: I was so worried... I was worried sick I thought I lost you... and on a day like this.. where were you... why did you leave... look at you you poor thing...

Sasha: Amma I was so confused... so many things were happening... and you were all acting so strange... and nobody was willing to talk to me...

Mother: I'm so sorry my love, it's all my fault... I should have just sat you down and had the talk first... it's the first thing I should have done ... I should've tried to remember what it was like for me... it was such a confusing time... and I kept wishing someone would explain things to me... like I should've to you...

Mother: It's important that you know this...

Narrator: And so... finally... Sasha begun to get the answers she had been looking for everywhere... in the comfort of her own home....

Mother: What you're going through right now... is puberty....

We all go through this at a point in our life... And what you're going through right now my love is menstruation.... It's nothing you should fear... or be ashamed of ... or hide... because it's a beautiful process of nature that every woman goes through.... Let's just say... your ovaries are acting up a little bit... periods are a sign that your body is just doing its thing ... we shouldn't have to be quiet about it... and this is not something that limits the things you did every day before this... You can still ride your bike (nangi comes in riding bike)...You can still do your karate... You can still play with malli...(malli comes in)

[choreographed scene with people entering from all sides to listen]

Narrator: Finally Sasha was beginning to see clearly... she could finally understand what was going on... Her mother explained the changes occurring in her body...and the reason behind her

mood swings. Her body was producing hormones that were telling her she could have babies!.... her uterus lining was shedding because she hadn't conceived...

This was so much information... why did no one want to tell her this?

Amma: whats that in your hand? Ah.. well yes, this is going to come in handy... but this is not all that you'll find out there ... there's all sorts of products out there now my love... [demonstrates pads... tampons... period cups]

Achchi: [butting in] *Owaa onnaaa... ape kale wage redi kallak dennako!* (You don't need all that! Just give her a rag like we did in our times!)

[Mother rolls her eyes]'

Mother: Amma! We live in the 21st century! We don't need to do all that!

[To Sasha]

It's important that you stay clean during these times... and malla.... Try not to give akki a hard time... nanga you too, because when your time comes... akki will help you through it...

And Sarath...me wage welawakata poddak kadeta yanna... I'm sorry I left you out... Sasha needs both of us and theres no need to keep her behind a locked door..

And they all realized looking around that someone they loved went through periods... friends... sisters... aunts... and of course their mothers.

They learnt that periods were not a sign of impurity, but a sign of life. It's a sign of your existence... my existence... the existence of the entire human race.

They couldn't share her pain, but they could make her feel good.

With this knowledge... Sasha was comforted.. and she lived happily ever after. Period.

Period: I'm sorry I never introduced myself... [shakes Sasha's hand and leaves]

[She turns back] Guess I'll see you next month kid!

[Period leaves. Everyone settles back in. Period throws in her red ribbon which lands on the lap of Sasha's classmate. She gasps. Everyone reacts... this time they just react. Not OVERreact.]

-END-