

Khahari Discovers the Brilliance of Janae

[**Art Note:** Khahari waves at his bus]

“Hey son! Enjoy your last day?” Khahari’s dad asked.

“It was okay. Mrs. Cortez gave me a plant for spring break. She said to take care of it, but it’s boring to me.”

“Your plant’s not boring. Let me see it.”

“It IS, Dad.”

“It looks cool to me. I bet I know someone who might like it.”

“Who?”

“Your cousin Janae. Uncle Myles planned a surprise visit. They’re coming tomorrow.”

“Yay!” Khahari shouted.

“Uncle Myles says Janae is really into science now. Maybe she’ll help with your plant.”

“I just want to see her. I don’t want to play with plants. They’re no fun. What can they do?”

[**Art note:** The next morning, Khahari is awakened by the sound of a honking horn.]

“Dad, they’re here! They’re here!” Khahari shouted.

Outside, Aunt Brenda, Uncle Myles, and Janae smiled and waved.

“Hey, Khahari! Man, you’re big,” Uncle Myles said, giving him a hug.

[**Art note:** Janae is busy looking at the trees surrounding Khahari’s home.]

“Hey, Khahari! I love the trees around here,” Janae said. “It’s like **Wangari Maathai** lived here.”

“Who’s that?” Khahari asked.

“She was a scientist who cared about the environment. She helped people in Kenya by planting trees,” Janae said.

“How does planting a boring old tree help people?”

“Trees aren’t boring. They’re plants, silly. Do you know how important they are?”

“No, but my teacher gave me one for spring break. It looks boring.”

“Show me this boring plant.”

Authors Note:

There are three volumes in the Khahari Discovers series. Volume one, The Joy of Family, is a fun-filled, rhyming story about a family welcoming their new child to the world. Volume two, The Meaning of Autism, is a heartfelt story about a boy being accepted by a new friend. Volume three, The Brilliance of Janae, is a S.T.E.A.M inspired story, led by an intelligent black girl and her love of plants.

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