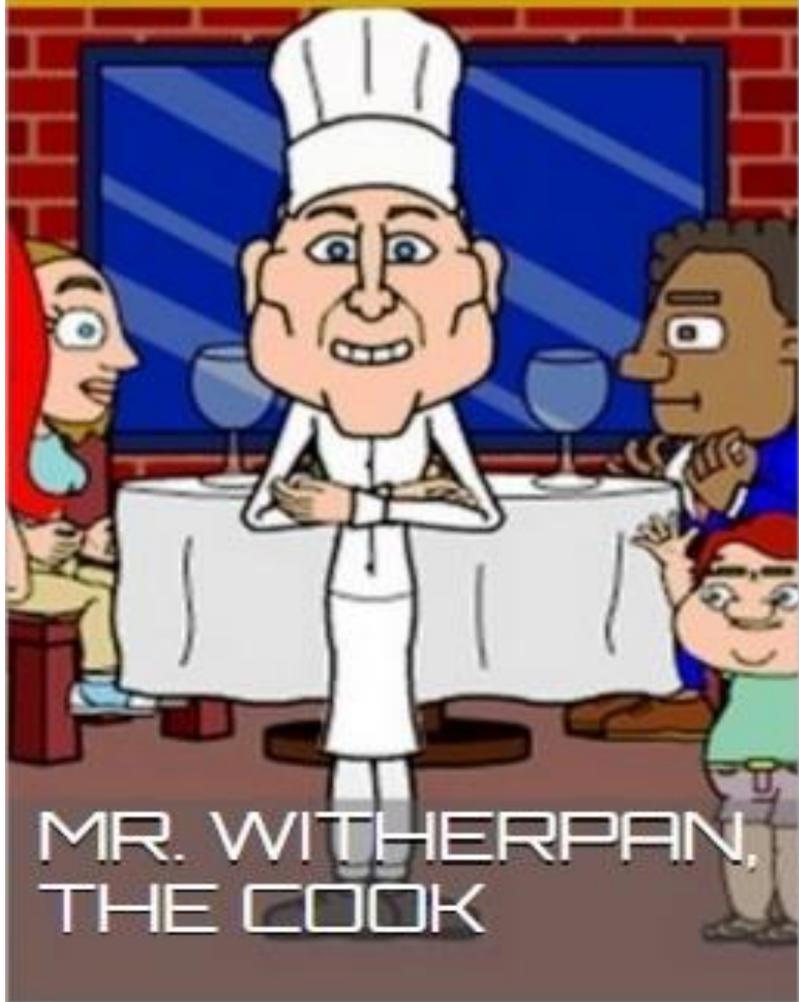


NISHA PILLAI



MR. WITHERPAN,
THE COOK

Once upon a time, there stayed an old man named George Witherpan.

Mr. Witherpan was one of the richest in the city.

After retirement, he spent most of his time in the garden growing flowers and vegetables. When he wasn't in the garden, he spent time cooking which was one of his favourite hobbies. He would cook new dishes and make his housemaids taste them.



“This is delicious sir.” They would say to which Mr. Witherpan smiled proudly.

Mr. Witherpan enjoyed inviting people to his villa and made them food himself.

People would be happy to get invited to the luxurious house and would get fascinated when they get to know that the old guy had prepared the entire meal all on his own.

One day Mr. Witherpan met two guys at the store.

“You look new to this place.” Mr. Witherpan asked them.

“Yes we are, sir. We just moved in a week ago.” One of them replied.

“Lovely. I would be happy to get to know you guys better. Would you like to join me tomorrow for lunch at my home?” Mr. Witherpan asked.

The men looked at each other and happily agreed.

The next day when both guys arrived, they were surprised to see the majestic view of the house.



“You have a beautiful house Mr. Witherpan. Do you stay alone?” They asked.

“Yes. My children moved away for work. I stay all by myself.” Mr. Witherpan informed. “Are you boys hungry?”

“Yes we are.” One of the men replied.

The men followed Mr. Witherpan to the dining room and were surprised to see the variety of dishes on the table.

“Wow! You made all these food all by yourself?” One of the men asked.

“Yes I did. I love cooking. Also you would be happy to know that all that vegetable you see on the table are from my garden.”

“That is amazing!” One of the men said fascinated.

“Let’s not keep the food waiting.” Mr. Witherpan said and signalled the men to sit.



The food was served by the maid. It was all silence till the meal was over.

“So how was the meal boys?” Mr. Witherpan asked.

“It was delicious, sir.” One of the men said.

The other one said, “The food was great. I guess we should leave now.”

“It was fun to have you here. What are you doing tomorrow evening? We can plan dinner together!” Mr. Witherpan asked excited.

“Oh! Tomorrow... it’s a busy day. May be some other day, sir.” One of the men said and both of them left.



It was usual for people to join Mr. Witherpan for a meal and then, never come back.

Mr. Witherpan never gave it a thought.

One day, Mr. Witherpan’s son called him to inform that one of his friend’s family were visiting the town.

Mr. Witherpan decided to get them for a meal. They were a couple with two children.

When the family arrived, Mr. Witherpan merrily welcomed them.

“You have a beautiful house Mr. Witherpan.” The lady said.

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