



The greatest photographer in Nova Xamba

Nova Xamba was a little town, where everyone was a born gossip, eager for news and novelties of any kind.

When Yankee Doodle came to town, the crowds pressed up against the shiny new display window of his photography studio.

Yankee Doodle, dressed like a dandy, introduced himself:

“Good day to you! I’m proud to announce the opening of the finest photography studio in town! I’d like to thank you all for turning up in such large numbers to have your portraits taken. My name is Yankee Doodle and my camera is a veeeeery special one. Its lens not only shows people as they are on the outside, but as they are on the inside too! Have your photo taken by Yankee Doodle, a photographer like no other in Nova Xamba.

*My pictures are the best, you’ll see.
Now you can have yours taken by me.
My pictures are the best, you’ll see.*

When they heard this, there was a commotion in the crowd, but in the end, since the people of Nova Xamba were good folk at heart, they decided that the first to try it out should be Sevensardines, a shabbily-dressed beggar, and a very nice man, who would at least get his portrait done for free.

Yankee Doodle ushered Sevensardines into his studio. He got him to sit still and smile - and CLICK! He took his portrait.

“You can be on your way, Sevensardines, I’ll hang the portrait that shows you as you really are, and as you wish to be, up in the window.”

THE GREATEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN NOVA XAMBA

When the people of Nova Xamba saw the picture of Sevensardines, they let out a collective gasp of admiration.

The picture showed that Sevensardines, deep down, was a wealthy, elegant and generous man: kindly, smiling and content. If it weren’t for the fact that the face was definitely his, they wouldn’t have recognised him.

Of course, people began pushing and shoving to have their picture taken. / Everyone in Nova Xamba wanted a portrait that would show them as they really wanted to be! One that would show the rest of the town what was hidden behind the face they wore every day.

"They say he makes the old look young and the stout look slim - and that he gives bald men a fine head of hair!"

"They say he takes such wonderful photographs of children - they look like cherubs!"

"But they also say that there are some, however angelic their faces may be, who he shows up as the shameless ne'er-do-wells they really are!"

*I'll show you how you really look,
my great camera will read you like a book.
All it takes is a click of the shutter
to make the whole town whisper and mutter.*

That was when Yankee Doodle really started to have fun. His camera didn't just automatically rejuvenate the old, plump up the skinny, or make the poor rich – his photographs also revealed every secret, every bit of tittle-tattle or gossip that was going round Nova Xamba.

And before very long, things came to a head, and four citizens of Nova Xamba, furious at the portraits Yankee Doodle had made of them, broke into the studio of that very peculiar photographer. They found his camera, and set about taking it apart, piece by piece, to find out the trick behind those automatic portraits that were more real than reality itself. But they didn't find anything strange: the lens, the shutter and the body were exactly the same as those of any ordinary camera.

As for Yankee Doodle, the photographer who had taken the portraits, they could find no trace of him, as if he'd magically melted into the air. He'd disappeared!

If they'd paid closer attention to the pictures on the walls of the studio, which had opened and been torn down in a single day, they would have found a portrait of Yankee Doodle in one corner, a portrait that showed him as he really was: a mysterious-looking character, with a very sly expression, dressed in the finest of clothes...who was hiding his two little horns under a wig.... and who had a neat little bow tie around his neck... made from the tip of his long red tail!

Because the trick of those portraits wasn't inside the mechanism of the camera, but in the mysterious blue monocle that the devil known as Yankee Doodle wore in his left eye, which allowed him to see what people were really like.

*The man who people thought so wise
was, in fact, the devil in disguise.
The man who people thought so wise
was, well yes, the devil in disguise.*

My name is Yankee Doodle and my camera is veeeeery special. Its lens not only shows people as they are on the outside, but as they are on the inside too! Have your photo taken by Yankee Doodle!

Script: Teresa Duran