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BEGINNER
LEVEL
ENGLISH

Bee's Story

Families and the Law
in Australia

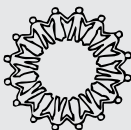


**family
peace**

Learning Law + Language

BEE'S STORY

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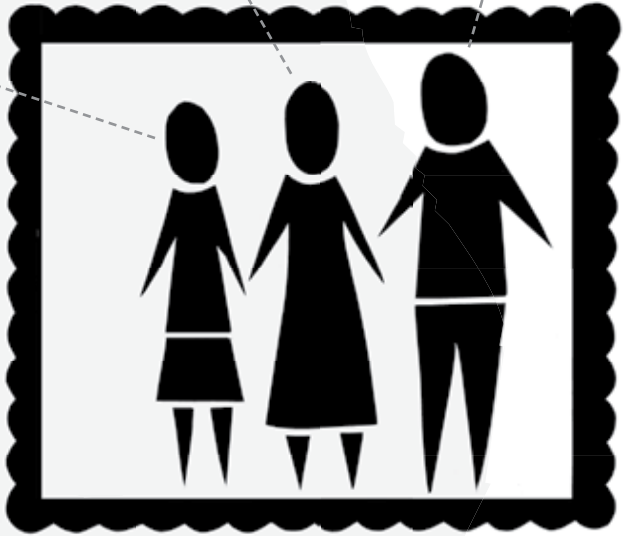
Introduction

This is **Matria**,
Bee's mother.

This is **Patri**,
Bee's father.

This is **Bee**.

Bee is Matria
and Patri's
daughter.



Matria and Patri are Bee's parents.



This is **Jay**.

Bee and Jay met in Australia.

This is a story about family life and
family law in Australia.

Chapter 1 – Love and Marriage

Bee, her father, Patri, and mother, Matria, came to live in Australia two years ago.



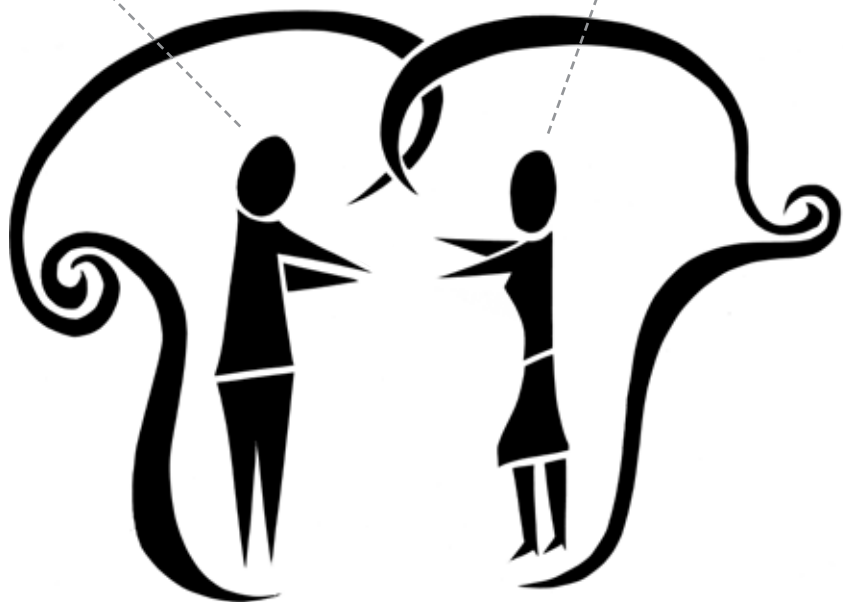
When Bee was twenty years old she met an Australian boy called Jay. They spent a lot of time together and were happy because they liked each other very much.

One day, Jay said,

*I love you, Bee,
will you marry me?*

Bee said,

*Jay, I love you too but
let me think about it.*



The next day, Bee told her parents that she wanted to marry Jay.

Her parents said, “**No.**” They wanted Bee to marry her cousin.

Bee was very upset.

*In Australia, I can choose my husband
and get married when I'm eighteen.*

Your parents should choose your husband!

*In Australia, I can even live with
a man without getting married!*



Bee ran out of the house, screaming,

I want to spend my life with Jay because I love him!

She slammed the door behind her.

Bee ran to Jay and told him what her parents had said.

I think we must talk to your parents and persuade them.



Two days later, they went to see Bee's parents.

Bee, you must allow us to choose a husband for you.

You must marry someone from the same religion and culture.



I love Bee very much and want to marry her. Bee can keep her culture and religion. That's not a problem.

We want to get engaged first and wait at least a year before we get married. We understand that we must think carefully about this.



The next week, Matria and Patri spoke to some leaders from their community but different leaders had different opinions.

Matria and Patri thought about everything carefully.

Finally, Matria and Patri agreed to the marriage.
Bee and Jay were very happy.







Chapter 2 – Raising Children

A year after the wedding, Bee and Jay had a baby daughter called Kayelle.

Jay worked long hours and Bee often felt lonely and scared raising the baby by herself.

One day, Kayelle fell out of the cot.



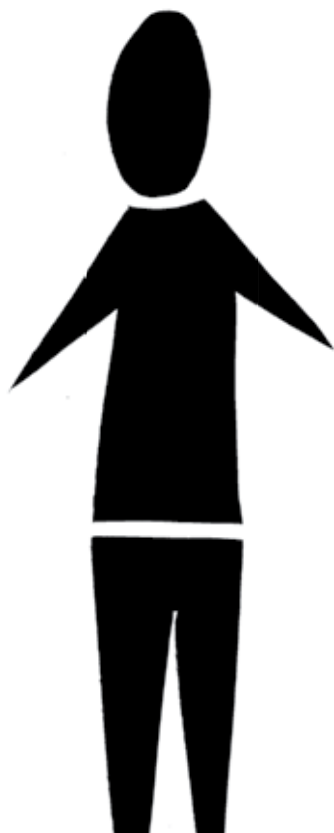
Kayelle's face was badly bruised so Bee took her to the hospital but the doctor said that she was okay.



I fixed the cot. Everything will be fine now.

I'm scared. I heard that the government sometimes takes children away from their parents.

Bee, go to the local community centre to find out about this.





The staff at the community centre told Bee about a parents' group. Parents met regularly to talk about raising children. Bee felt shy but joined the group.

The parents said there was no need to worry about the government. They talked about different ways to care for their children and how to teach them to behave without smacking.



Bee was given some information sheets called '*Tools for Parents*' to take home and read and a '*Key Contacts*' list of useful telephone numbers.

Bee and Jay had no problems from the government after Kayelle's accident.



**TOOLS
FOR
PARENTS**



**KEY
CONTACTS**



Chapter 3 – Marriage Problems

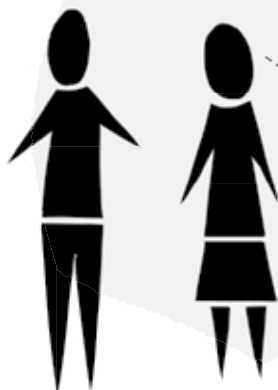
Bee and Jay's daughter, Kayelle, was four years old.

Jay worked at a plant nursery and Bee looked after their daughter at home.

One day, Jay lost his job. He was very upset.



He went home and told Bee.



*Don't worry.
I'll look for
a job too.*

Two weeks later, Bee hurried home and said to Jay,

I've found a great job. I can work and you can stay home and look after Kayelle.

But I am the man! I should work and you should stay at home and look after Kayelle!



After a long silence, Jay said,

Umm I suppose it'll be okay for a short time while I look for another job.



Jay liked to cook the meals but was not good at cleaning. After work, Bee always had to clean the house when she was very tired. This made her angry.

Also, Jay was upset because he could not find a job so he and Bee often shouted at each other. Kayelle always cried when this happened.



One day, Jay slapped Bee across the face. Bee fell to the floor and started crying. Straight away she got up, grabbed Kayelle and ran to her mother's house.

Jay felt very bad because he loved Bee and Kayelle.



Later, at Matria's house,
Bee called her best friend, Lily.



Lily asked Bee,

*Do you need
a doctor?*

Bee said,

*No, I'm okay.
I'm just upset.*



When Lily went to Matria's house, she hugged Bee and told her that in Australia it is against the law for Jay to hit her.

You can tell the Police, Bee.

Bee didn't want to tell the police.

*You can go and get some help from Legal Aid.**

What is Legal Aid?

Legal Aid gives free advice about the law.



Bee decided to stay with her mother and think about everything for a few days.

A week later, she told her mother and Lily,

*I love Jay and I want to stay married.
I want Kayelle to live with her two parents.*



I agree with you, Bee. I'm very upset that Jay hit you but he's a good husband and father. He loves you very much.

Maybe you can go to counselling services together. They can help you to talk about your problems.

Finally, Bee and Kayelle went home to Jay.
He was very happy to see his wife and daughter.
He gave them both a hug to welcome them.

I'm so happy you came home. I was very worried. I'm so sorry for what I did. I promise it won't happen again. I don't want to lose either of you. I love you!



Bee and Jay talked for a long time
then agreed to go to counselling.





They learnt to discuss their problems and what to do when they felt upset and angry. After this, Bee, Jay and Kayelle spent more time together.

Jay kept looking for another job but
also learnt how to clean the house.

*We really love your cooking, Jay.
I hope you will keep cooking for us.*

*Of course I will. I love to cook for
the two beautiful ladies in my life.*



Jay and Bee were excited about their future
together and Kayelle was happy again.

Chapter 4 – Teaching Teenagers

Bee and Jay were happily married. Their daughter, Kayelle, was fifteen.

Kayelle liked Patrick, a boy in her class. She often went to the shops with Patrick and her other friends after school but always told her parents she was studying at her friend's house.



One day, Bee had coffee with her friend, Lily.

*I saw Kayelle at the shops after school
with some friends. I saw her holding
hands with a boy.*



This made Bee very upset because Kayelle
had lied.

Later, when Kayelle arrived home,
Bee and Jay were very angry.

You told us that you were studying at your friend's house. You were at the shops. You were holding hands with a boy! We trusted you but you lied to us! We are very angry!

*You don't understand!
I'm not doing anything wrong!*



You still have to obey your parents! You're grounded for a week because you lied to us! You can only leave the house to go to school!

You must come home straight after school each day.

The next day after school, Kayelle went to the shopping centre again with her friends.

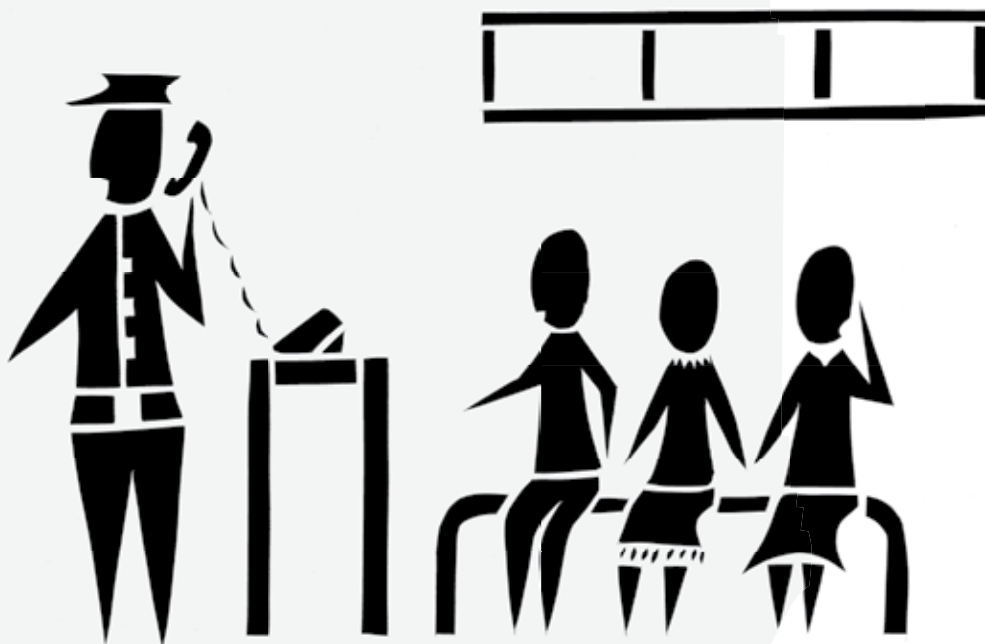


Her friends said,

We're going to steal some DVDs. Look out and warn us if someone comes.

Kayelle was scared but agreed.

A security guard caught the group and called the police.



When the police arrived, they called Jay so he left work and hurried to the shopping centre. The police questioned Kayelle then gave her a caution.

When they got home, Bee and Jay talked to Kayelle.

You will be grounded for two months and have to do extra chores!

I'm sorry I lied. I'm sorry I got into trouble with the police. Can I still see Patrick after my grounding is over?



You must follow the rules and then we will trust you and you can bring Patrick home to meet us.

Kayelle burst into tears and hugged her father. Afterwards the family made plans to talk more and spend more time together.

* * *

