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My Name Is Ushi



Short story based on “One Home”

We Speak NYC • Season 3

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SEASON 2

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SEASON 3

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<i>My Name Is Frantz</i>	Under One Roof

My Name is Ushi



My name is Ushi.

I grew up in China.

Now, I live in Sunset Park in Brooklyn.



This is my husband Bao.
We are music teachers.
I play a Chinese instrument.
It is called an erhu.
That's me playing erhu.



This is our new apartment.
We just moved in.
Everything is still in boxes.



We are expecting a baby.
That's right! I am pregnant.



This is our neighbor, Jojo.

Jojo works in an air conditioner
repair shop.

She is a musician, too.

She sings and plays guitar.



This is Jojo's brother, Paco.

In this picture, he is on a TV talk show.

Paco is sitting on the left.

He is a CUNY student.

He goes to the New York City College
of Technology.



Paco is with friends on the talk show.

They are talking about the **environment**.

They are members of **sustainability clubs** at CUNY.

environment = the natural world
sustainability clubs = people who come together
and take action to protect the environment



This is Keisha Khan.

She is the host of the TV program.

It is called “Local Voices, Global Voices.”



Keisha Khan is interviewing Paco and the other CUNY students.

They are talking about **global warming** and the **climate crisis**.

global warming= rising temperatures all over the world
climate crisis = heat, fires, droughts, floods and other problems from global warming



Keisha shows pictures of global warming:

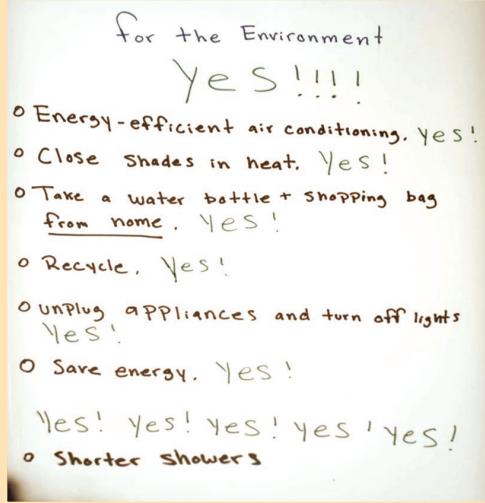
- rising temperatures
- droughts
- fires
- floods
- people forced from their homes

These problems are called the “climate crisis.”



I want to protect the environment, too.

I know people who lost their home
because of the climate crisis.



This is Paco's family at home.

He is talking with them about sustainability.

Paco has a list.

He says, "These are things we can do to protect the environment."



Paco's parents are listening carefully.

But look at Jojo.

She is looking at her cell phone.

She is looking at a picture of a car.

She wants to buy it.



Paco is upset.

He is not happy with the car.

He thinks it is not necessary
because Jojo does not need a car
for work.



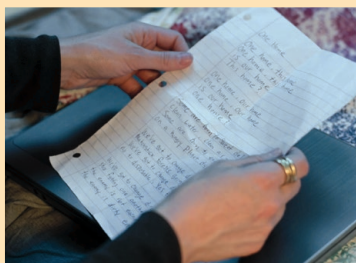
The car is not an electric car.

It uses gasoline.

Gasoline causes global warming.

Paco says the car is not **sustainable**.

sustainable = good for the enviromnent



Later, Paco writes words for a song about the environment.

Paco asks Jojo to compose music for the song.

Jojo doesn't want to.

She is thinking about insurance for the car.





This is Frantz.

He is the super of our building.

He **maintains** the building.

maintains = keeps in good condition



That is me in the building lobby.

I am talking with Frantz about recycling and composting.

Recycling is reusing bottles, paper, and other things.

Composting is making fertilizer from food scraps and organic trash.



Frantz and I talk about solar energy, too.

Solar energy is clean energy.

It is good for the environment.

Paco and I want the landlord to put
solar panels on the roof.

We need clean energy.



Frantz agrees with Paco and me.

Frantz says **fossil fuels** make
the temperature **rise**.

fossil fuels = coal, gas and oil
rise = go up



This is me, walking upstairs.

I feel a little dizzy.

I need to sit down.



Paco and his mom help me.

They give me a glass of water.

When I feel better, they help me
stand up.

They help me walk to my apartment.

I am grateful for my neighbors!



That evening, Jojo brings me some homemade tamales.

Tamales are a Latin American food.

They are made from corn and other ingredients.

They are wrapped in leaves.



Jojo and I talk about music and work.

We also talk about global warming
and the climate crisis.

There is loud noise and **car exhaust**
from the street.

Jojo closes the window for me.

car exhaust = fumes from cars



I tell Jojo about people who lost their home because of global warming.

The sea level is rising and there are more floods.

I hope electric cars become cheaper so people can **afford** them.

Jojo listens carefully.

afford = have enough money to pay for something



Jojo knows that I am pregnant.

She sings a lullaby in Spanish to
the baby in my womb.

She has a beautiful voice.



Jojo asks me to sing in Chinese.
I sing her a lullaby from my country.
We enjoy singing together.
We are becoming good friends.



Paco is on TV again!

Guess who is with him this time!



It's Jojo!

She has a guitar.



And Jojo has a friend, too.

The friend is me!

And I have my erhu.



Jojo and I are on Keisha Khan's program.

We are singing a song about the environment!

Who do you think wrote the song?

Who do you think composed the music?



Paco wrote the words, and Jojo wrote the music.

Jojo **changed her mind** and did it.

changed her mind = changed her decision



The song is beautiful.
It makes Keisha cry.



After the show, Paco and Jojo are walking home in Sunset Park.

Jojo sees a Citi Bike.

She says, “I don’t want the car.
Maybe I will get an electric bike!”



She is an environmentalist now!

She wants to protect the environment,
like Paco and me.

Words used in this story

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> air conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> expecting a baby | <input type="checkbox"/> neighbor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> fertilizer | <input type="checkbox"/> organic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> appliances | <input type="checkbox"/> fires | <input type="checkbox"/> pregnant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> because | <input type="checkbox"/> floods | <input type="checkbox"/> protect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> changed her decision | <input type="checkbox"/> food scraps | <input type="checkbox"/> recycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> changed her mind | <input type="checkbox"/> forced | <input type="checkbox"/> relatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citi Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> fossil fuels | <input type="checkbox"/> repair shop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean energy | <input type="checkbox"/> fumes | <input type="checkbox"/> rise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> climate crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> global | <input type="checkbox"/> sea level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> global warming | <input type="checkbox"/> singer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compose | <input type="checkbox"/> grateful | <input type="checkbox"/> solar panels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> composting | <input type="checkbox"/> heat | <input type="checkbox"/> song |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUNY student | <input type="checkbox"/> homemade | <input type="checkbox"/> stairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dizzy | <input type="checkbox"/> host | <input type="checkbox"/> sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> droughts | <input type="checkbox"/> husband | <input type="checkbox"/> sustainability club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> electric | <input type="checkbox"/> ingredients | <input type="checkbox"/> sustainable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> energy-efficient | <input type="checkbox"/> instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> talk show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environment | <input type="checkbox"/> interview | <input type="checkbox"/> tamales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmentalist | <input type="checkbox"/> local | <input type="checkbox"/> temperature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> episode | <input type="checkbox"/> lullaby | <input type="checkbox"/> trash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> erhu | <input type="checkbox"/> maintain | <input type="checkbox"/> voices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> exhaust | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> womb |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> musician | <input type="checkbox"/> wrapped |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> necessary | |

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