



# How Can We Live?

a corruption tale  
with a happy ending



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## **How Can We Live?**

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# A Student



My mother told me to give this money to my teacher. My mother believes the teacher will block my education if there is no gift

I know students who give gifts to the teacher. They don't do their studies. I'm a hard worker. Would the teacher really blocky education?

How can we live if we're always giving gifts? I could spend this money on something my family needs instead of giving it away.

# A Teacher

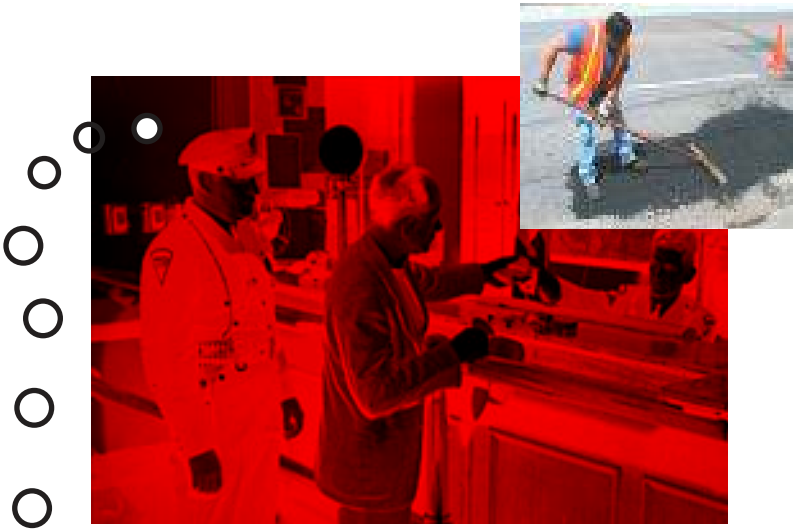


This policeman is stupid for stopping me. I was not driving dangerously. I was just steering around a pothole.

Now he'll expect a gift, and I hardly have any money left. I was hoping to get a gift from that student whose mother I met.

How do they expect me to live?

# A Policeman

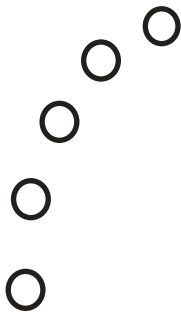


I need these road repair people to fix the pothole in front of my house. It's full of water since the rainy season started. It will wreck the cars of my visitors.

A big gift will probably be needed to get this public works contractor to do his job. It may take all the money I have right now.

How can I live on the money I have when even stupid teachers refuse to give me gifts?

# A Public Works Contractor



My contract with the city is almost over.  
I must give another gift to the Minister of  
Public Works now to get another contract.

I can't give him a Mercedes like I did last year.  
No money was left to fix the roads after I  
bought the cars for me and him.

I'll try just giving him a television this year.  
How else can we live?

# A Minister of Public Works



Why is this judge accusing me of taking bribes? I was just honoring my obligations.

I was so careful to hide the evidence.

I wonder how they found it?

Now I'll have to waste a lot of money on a gift for this judge. I hope I won't have to give him a car.

# A Judge



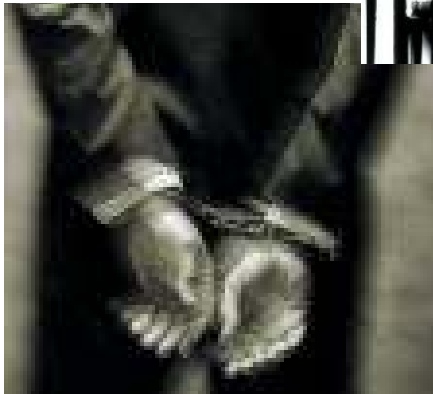
My daughter refused to give her teacher  
the gift my wife sent.

A daughter should respect her mother.  
And yet.....she makes me think.

We should value truth more than money.  
How else can we live?



# The Minister of Public Works



Five years in jail. It will ruin my health.

I did not need that Mercedes. I could have driven my wife's Lexus. I could have gotten the BMW back from my girlfriend. What good is a girlfriend when you're in prison?

I will see many of my friends in prison. They didn't know how to be satisfied either.

# The Public Works Contrator



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These days I'm working contracts instead of buying contracts. I feel useful fixing roads.

I don't have friends in the new government. I could make friends like my wife suggests.

But I am learning to do business with rules instead of friends. My wife is unhappy because I can't hire her cousins anymore.

# The Policeman



These days I only stop cars that break traffic rules. I want drivers to respect the law now that the roads are in good condition.

More cars fit on the road when drivers stay in their lanes. It's just like having more roads.

I earn less money than before. When my family complains, I remind them that they are wasting less money on giving gifts.

# The Teacher



I do not offer gift money anymore. I have less money because I no longer receive gifts.

I don't mind because things cost less at the shops now. Trucks bring more things in easily now that the roads are passable.

Some of the teachers here are unhappy with me. Soon they will see that they live better when they do not take money from students.

# The Student



Some of my teachers have good ideas about becoming a rich country. They want us to be like a football team where everyone runs their hardest.

Players do their best when they believe in the game. That means they expect the rules to be enforced by everyone involved.

That's how we can live.

## About the Author

Loretta Graziano Breuning is the founder of System Integrity Resources, which helps individuals and groups resist the pressures of endemic corruption. She is author of *Greaseless: How to Thrive without Bribes in Developing Countries*. Greaseless has been adopted for training purposes by non-profit organizations, universities and professional training programs. It has been translated into Chinese, Albanian and Armenian, and transformed into a card games that realistically models life choices and consequences.

Dr. Breuning is Professor Emerita at California State University, East Bay, where she taught International Business for over two decades. She spent a year in Africa as a United Nations Volunteer in an economic planning projects. She has also worked in international banking, and for the Japanese trading company, Itochu. She holds a B.S. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and a Ph.D. from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

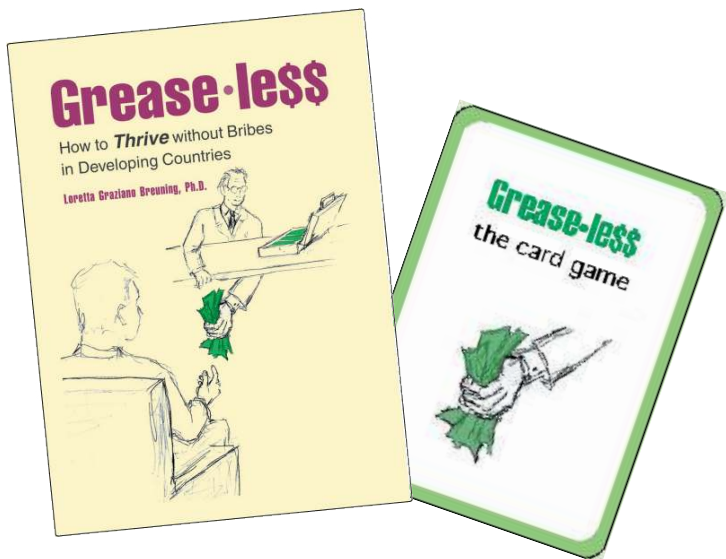
“Hundreds of people have honored me with their corruption stories. When I hear anecdotes about people who prevailed without corruption, they always seem to begin with the intention of insisting on the rules. My ancestors were also from a place (Sicily, Italy) where corruption devoured communities from within. I am grateful for all the people around the world who invest themselves in making systems work with integrity, even when their progress is not visible to the eye.”

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# How to say "Bribe" in 9 languages

la mordida



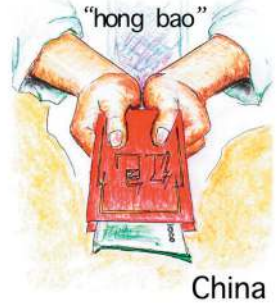
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