

LU · INDONESIA

Nina Bobo

Key: C ~62 BPM Guitar & Piano

VERSE 1

C F C
Nina bobo, oh Nina bobo,
F C G7
kalau tidak bobo, digigit nyamuk.
(Sleep, Nina, oh sleep, Nina – if you don't sleep, the mosquito will bite.)
C F C
Sleep now, sleep now, little one, sleep now,
F C G7
or the little mosquito will come and give a bite.

VERSE 2

C F C
Adik manis, adikku sayang,
F C G7
bobo lah bobo, di ayunan.
(Sweet little sibling, my beloved sibling – sleep, oh sleep, in the cradle.)
C F C
Sweet little one, my darling, my beloved,
F C G7
sleep now, sleep now, gently in your cradle.

C

Nina Bobo is the best-known lullaby in Indonesia, so deeply woven into daily life that its title lent its name to the very act of singing a baby to sleep. Playful rather than solemn, it warns — half-teasingly — that mosquitoes await anyone who doesn't drift off quickly enough, a gentle nudge dressed up as a bedtime story.

Traditional Indonesian lullaby (kroncong style). Lyrics and translation adapted from the well-known traditional text.

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