

I walked down to the creek after adadoda said he was going on a trip and would not be back for a few weeks. He left me with unitsi and little papoose, to feed and watch as the man of the house, adadoda always says I am made to protect them. So I went to the creek for food, I dipped my hand in the water and felt the cold water slip past my fingers. The cold made them numb so I climbed in and floated towards a fish with the intention to catch it. As I got closer to the fish he started moving away so i hopped over and grabbed him with my numb fingers barely touching his tail. I stanced him out of the water and ran with my numb legs down to the house. I burst through the door and unitsi showed the large bass and hopped around. She smiled at me and started a fire and plopped the fish on a hot stone. I let unitsi and papoose eat first then i took the little amount left grateful for what i had gotten. Then I ran to my cott and fell.. Fast....asleep. When I wake up tomorrow unitsi is in the garden and papoose is playing with her cloth doll. I walk to her and breath in the fresh prairie air. I look over at unitsi and go into her arms and give her a hug. I decided to run to the plains and grab some wheat for unitsi to crush up for bread I sit down then think about adadoda as I Fidget with the grass. Thinking about him and why he left for the big world, and left me with unitsi and papoose. I started to head back to the hut I heard a rattle and thought nothing of it. Then I heard another and another. I turned around and there it was a rattlesnake right behind my tail the whole time. I see the snake I turn around and bolt for the hut thinking nothing of it. I look behind me and it following behind nipping at my heels. Then Pause for one second and chuck the rock at the snake continuing to grab more. Then I grab a five pounder and drop it right on his head. I pick up the snake and pound it on the

ground to make sure its dead. Then I pick it up by the tail and carry it home with more food. I burst through the hut to see unitsi laying on the cots. I run over and see bumps surrounding her face and down her arms and legs and look into her eyes and scream. I tell her to wait as I go to the doctor. I ran faster than when I saw the rattlesnake. I ran as if my own life depended on it, because it truly did. I see the doctor and cry what has happened then we run to unitsi as I see her so close to death. I cried to the doctor and said a few prayers and held papoose as she wept. Mom was carried to the medicine hut and given natural medicine. I cried as we left and I cried as I cooked the food on the large rock that unitsi has always done, then I thought about how important she was to me. We said our prayers and I put papoose in her cot then I layed down and cried until sunrise. The sun rose just like any day, the set hours later. Numb was the only feeling in my heart and head. I crushed the wheat then made the dough, and set it out to bake it rose just like sun did and baked in the hot summer sun we took some to unitsi but couldn't see her, hug her or anything. The sun rose and set for weeks on weeks. No sign of unitsi or adadoda. I wept with papoose and imagined hugging unitsi and adadoda. Suddenly we heard stomps powerful than the drums. We run outside in amazement to see adadoda and the rest of the men in the tribe with smiles as they ride from the sun riding on beasts. Huge furry animals, all stomping to a new home of victory father jumped off and handed the rope to me, "yours," was the word that first left his mouth and I ran to him and hugged as if I was hugging unitsi. Then I started to weep and tell him the tragic of almost losing unitsi and how she's barely holding on to life. He looked to me and said word that made my heart warm with happiness and realized unitsi may be

okay. I looked up and the large adadoda gift had brang for me. I looked into its blue eyes and stroked its long dark tail and looked at its unfamiliar teeth and feed it grass. I hugged again adadoda, then hopped on the beast keeping it calm. I felt the large broad body run through the grass and pound on the ground with it hooves. I hooted and howled in to the prairie air and screamed with rejoyce. I smiled with all my teeth and it all suddenly stopped. For i heard adhatoda yelling for me so I grabbed the house and rode back. adhatoda ran to me crying with happy tears. We were outside in the grass he was crying and hugging me i walked in the hut. And there she was month after month, unitsi.