

## A YEAR LATER

Adadoda has left for another war but there is no peace lately between us all. The whites have taken the land and killed the animals just for the supplies. It's terrible to see these lands disappear right before our eyes.

I've been hearing father in the tents talking about treaties. I'm not sure exactly what they are, I'm planning on asking adadoda, or unitsi but they have been gone and running and moving a lot because we are running out of resources and men too fight for us. It's been scary but unitsi tells me to never ever lose hope in the land, or in our family, and i know I have never givin up on our family. Not for a second. Lately papoose has been having terrible nightmares. She wakes up almost every night with something new to tell.

It is probably from all of the terrible things happening with adadoda and all his fighting. He has never been a man of war, he is always caring about his neighbors and others around him, and that's the sad part. He left three days ago and we haven't seen him since he left, I'm scared for him but i'm certain he'll come back, right. Lately it's been lonely, with adadoda gone, i have to get all of the food now and all the herbs in the fields we've only had three attacks in the past year, it's three to many than there ever should have been.

I'm trying to protect papoose but she's an adventurous one and there's nothing you can do to stop her. She doesn't quite understand fear yet. The only fear she has witnessed is those night mares and that's the least of our worries right now. For dinner I decided we would have some of the vegetables growing in the patch i went and grabbed the green stuff and red stuff, mother never taught me the english words for these vegetables and fruits.

I sure know their tasty. There is really no baking involved. That's why I find it easy to make. And papoose enjoys it. Unitsi has been away lately with the other women of the tribe. She is finding answers. I take down the cots for me and papoose for the long night of rest. I close my eyes to find myself fast asleep.

I hear screaming from the other side of the hutt and look over at papoose and surely enough she is sitting there rocking on her bed. Its bed enough one night but its been happening frequently and it makes me sad i wish i could take away her problems she's still a baby. She's only a child a baby child as my mother always calls her. I hope these dreams are not as terrible as she explains them to me. She explains that she has died in many of them and so has her family members.

Mother has not been around to braid our hair. Mine had been down for days with nothing protecting it it's nice to fly free. Father always let his hair down at the end of the day, he always told me he did it to take a rest. But nowadays he never rests. He's always gone like i said earlier. They are taking more and more of the land. The buffalos are dying off slowly and now i'm even more scared the buffalos give us all of our food and all of our necessary supplies.

Every day i go to the same spot to write in my journal and today there was a white man with a gun. He looked at the baby buffalo and i hid behind a rock he must of heard me cause he shouted out these unknown phrases that i've never heard. Unitsi has taught me a lot of phrases but not this one this one was like words of a dragon scary yet calm. He counted down from three to make me pop out but i only saw him pointing the gun at the buffalo so i ran out and showed my face.

He grabbed my arm and started laughing and shouting gibberish and he started pulling me towards the buffalo and he lifted the gun right to the buffalo's head and loaded the gun. I was screaming and kick by that point as the men and women of the tribe started to come gather he shot the gun.

**A week later**

Ever since the shot, everyone has been in a panic. Adodado had come home a few days ago. But doesn't mean we see him. He is still running about the tribes and talking with all the other men. After the man shot the buffalo he just left into the forest. Everyone was weeping and there was no happiness at that moment and now i see the problems of this. It is terrible to see all of this happen the way it's happening. I wish i could stop it but when i sit outside of the tent all i hear father talking about is treaties and the pale face men.

He says that they had offered land and food and shelter. And money. We already have so much worth just alone and i feel we need nothing for what we already have and what the land has given us, but father has talked about it too much to know.. I miss sitting on the grass with my friends, on the wet grass chasing each other into the sunset. Those were the happy days and nothing could be done to get that back.

Even though everything is messed up i still need the hope my father always taught me to have even though it's hard to keep my head held high and keep myself well enough to maintain my own priorities and my sisters. Its difficult to see myself with such a life like this.

I finally asked father what treaties are and now i decided everything will be okay. We should never trust another but this, this is true this will help. I know it will father said it would thats why we will sign papers and celebrate. Then we will go to our new home and see asa new beginning for all of us. That makes me happy. Especially if it makes all

of my family happy, we will now be free from all of this we will have more money and more land. More freedom. That's promise.

### **ONE MORE WEEK LATER**

We leave tomorrow and know I'm a little scared. They are going to take us to the land. There are some houses that are already built and ready for families, they will give us food and water. If this doesn't work out, the whole tribe will be ended and we will have nothing for that matter and if we have nothing then we still have each other right so we will pack that's what we're doing now and we will leave for the long journey tomorrow.

### **THE NEXT DAY**

We left we are gone and i'm writing as we travel through the dark nights and the harsh weather. We stopped down by the creek to get some water, and shed our last tears at our land but this is a new beginning for all of us and that's the great part for the all of us.

Everyone says it will be great and sometimes i question that but I also believe with them. About all of this stuff we have about three more days of travel.

### **TWO DAYS LATER**

There was a snake, a big snake. Not a baby big, huge, it was terrible. It almost bit adadoda when we were walking. It snuck up behind him and coiled up, and it struck but someone stepped on it tail and stamped it's head with the bottom of her shoe.and threw it. So now we have a little food, we've stopped out at the creek a few times. We

have collected water and fish for the past days. No one has attacked us yet and that's the great part, we could have died. We have limited supplies, so that means we have limited defense options. We have one more day to find the way there. It's been a long journey but i think it will all be worth it at the end.

### **THE DAY**

Today we see our new homes and food and gardens. Father said they have been building for a while to prepare for are arrival, that makes me hopeful. It's around this hill, our new life is around this hill. We walk around the hill and there were big building made out of logs there were four to be exact.

Pretty big, biggest i've ever seen, but i've heard of bigger. We put all of our stuff by the end of the building and all the children walked into the child's building and all of the men and women went into their buildings to put all of there stuff in their "bunks" i put my stuff by papoose and we laid down. But then a man bursted through the door with a pair of clippers and some orange suits.

He grabbed prancing squirrels head and explained the importance of a shaved head he screamed as he cut it to the skin. Then he tackled another and another so me and papoose ran out and ran to papa but he was nowhere to be found so we ran to the women's house, there was noone. So we walked back to the cabin to find everyone with no hair, weeping on the ground. We ran to all of the kids to help and we cried with them until all the adadoda's and unitsi's came back all bald too.

They were crying along with adadoda and unitsi, but father wasn't crying with tears his sole was crying. And he was so angry he took knife and ran the blade across his hand and stood on the rock he took my hand and papooses hand and yelled family and took the blood and wiped it on his face mine and papooses face, we all held hands, father held my hand as we all collected hands, as he spoke our native language he spoke of sole, he explain how we need no hair to be family, and be together we need each other.

No one is more important and that's what matters. That night there was no fire there was no teepees it was just us in a circle, hair gone, and in our orange suits, we all sat. no noise nothing but sound of nature, our favorite sound.it shows our culture, it gives us all life, we all slept like never before. Nothing is more important than this family.

### **EARLY THE NEXT MORNING**

We all woke up after a loud bang. We tried to find the source of the bang but it was nowhere to be found then we looked around the hill there was a man lying there. We thought that adodado had shot a man, but he was the man that was shot. Mother ran over by him and covered his wounds quickly with her skirt then she ran over to the hut made for medical reasonings like this. The medicine man pushed us all away as he worked in there for hours.

Unitsi and papoose were sitting outside of the hut waiting for adodado and i was over getting food from the creek. The doctor came out side after many many hours with a terrible look on his face. We knew the news already we just listened to make sure. He told us he was barely holding on. We needed to just see him. No talking just... looking, it was a terrible shot. Terrible terrible, worst thing, i can't unsee it either. We all headed back to the camp and went to bed separate rooms no teepee just wall.

### **THE NEXT MORNING**

He's dead. Adodado is dead.