

## *The Iroquois Indians Attack*

The name of the white man was Hawkeye and he lived in the forest with two Mohican Indians. He had lived all his life with the Mohicans, but now there were only two Mohicans left in the world; Chingachgook, the Indian in war paint, and Uncas, his son.

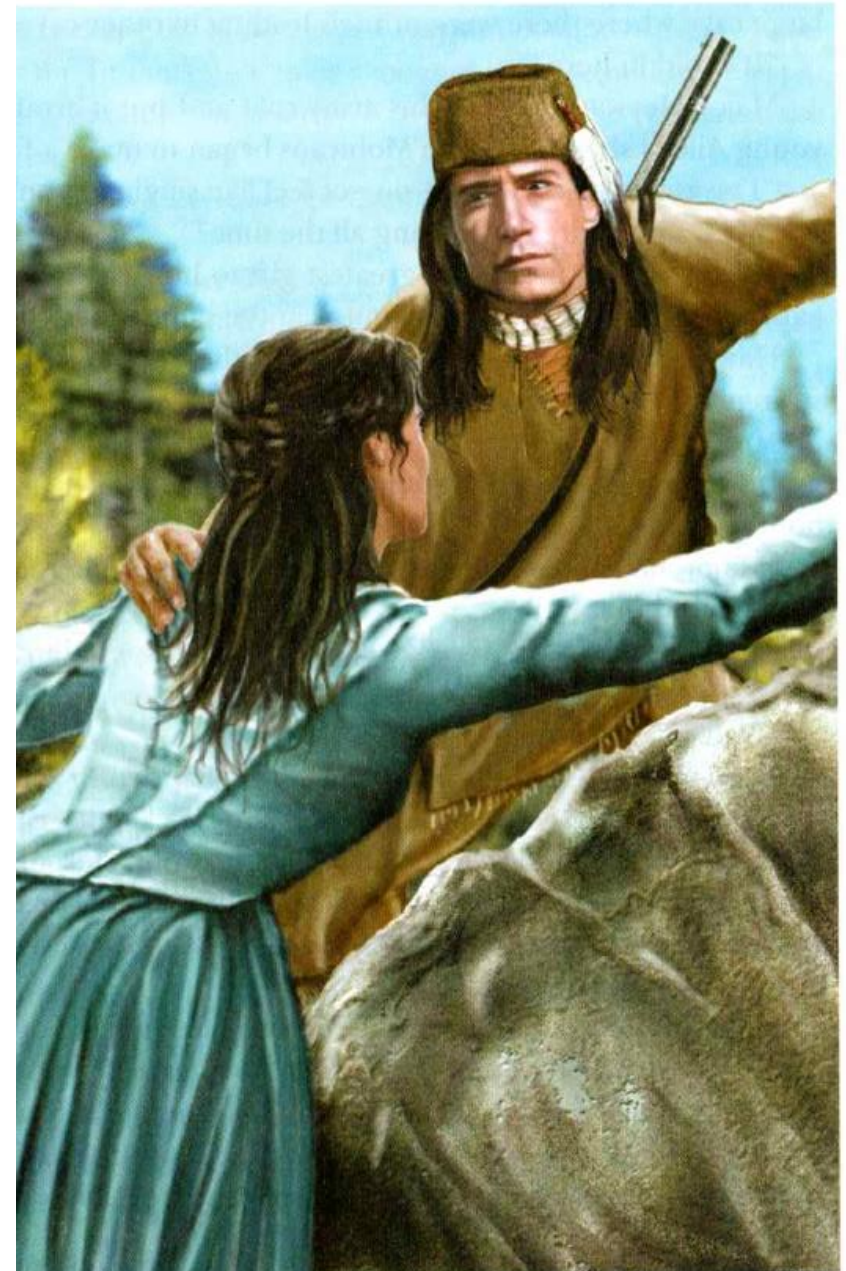
When Hawkeye and the Mohicans saw Magua in the forest, Magua threw his tomahawk at them. Hawkeye fired his rifle but only hit him on the arm as he ran away.

Hawkeye told Major Heyward that Magua was a dangerous Indian and that they should not trust him. He said he would take them to Fort Henry in the morning because the forest was dangerous at night. It was getting dark and they heard the sounds of wolves howling. Major Heyward agreed that they should find somewhere safe to stay for the night.

They tied the horses to some trees and went up the river in their canoes to the Mohicans' secret hiding place. It was a cave underneath a big waterfall. The sound of the falling water all around was so loud outside the cave's entrance that it was hard for them to hear each other.

"Uncas, take everyone inside, and I'll get us something to eat!"

Cora's dark hair and skin made her look more like an Indian than an Englishwoman. Uncas offered her his hand to help her over the difficult rocks, and she smiled and accepted politely. Major Heyward helped Alice, and soon they were all inside a



large cave where there were tunnels leading to other caves.

"It's cold in here."

Major Heyward took off his army coat and put it around young Alice's shoulders. The Mohicans began to make a fire.

"This is one place where I do not feel like singing a song."

"Mr Gamut, why do you sing all the time?"

"Cora, singing is a man's greatest gift to himself. He can express his feelings and create music at the same time."

Hawkeye appeared at the entrance of the cave. He had a strange look on his face.

"Iroquois."

It was only one word, but the Mohicans immediately took out their knives.

"Major, take the women to the back of the cave. There are beds behind that wall."

The Major did what Hawkeye said. Alice whispered in his ear:

"Duncan, I'm afraid."

"Don't worry, Alice. I won't let anything happen to you."

While Heyward was behind the wall at the back of the cave, he heard gunshots and wild Indian yells at the front. He looked out and saw Hawkeye, Chingachgook and Uncas fighting hand-to-hand with a group of Iroquois Indians. Gamut was on the ground and his leg was bleeding.

Heyward took out his gun and ran to the front of the cave. An Iroquois jumped on his back and they started fighting. They fell to the ground. The Iroquois had one hand round Heyward's neck and with the other he raised his knife to kill him. Then, Uncas kicked the Indian hard and he fell into the water below.

Hawkeye, the Mohicans and Heyward fought off the Iroquois, but the Indians stole their canoes and they could not escape. More Indians climbed down both sides of the rock near the cave.

"We have no more gunpowder. They'll be here in a few minutes."

"What shall we do?"

Cora came out from behind the back wall. She had heard what Hawkeye and Heyward had been saying.

"Jump into the water. They'll follow you and we'll be saved. They don't know we're here."

It was a dangerous plan, but the Mohicans knew she was right.

"I go, Hawkeye."

Chingachgook jumped.

"Heyward, you and Gamut will stay with the women. If you see any Iroquois, kill them. You don't want to know what they will do to you if they capture you."

Hawkeye jumped into the waterfall and disappeared in the water below. Uncas did not move. Cora spoke to him softly.

"Aren't you going?"

"I stay here."

Cora knew that he was doing that for her. She did not want him to die for her and she thought he could help them only if he left.

"Please, find my father. Bring him here, for me."

She squeezed his hand and looked deeply into his eyes. Uncas did not need anything more. He let out a loud Indian cry and jumped into the waterfall.

