

English Prisoners

Gamut had been shot in the leg, but it was not serious. He sat on a blanket next to Cora and Alice, singing a sad song quietly to himself. Alice was terribly frightened by the fighting. She sat on the bed crying in Cora's arms.

"I'm scared. I want to get out of here."

"It's all right. Father's coming. We'll leave in the morning."

An Indian had stabbed Major Heyward in the arm. His white shirt was now red with blood.

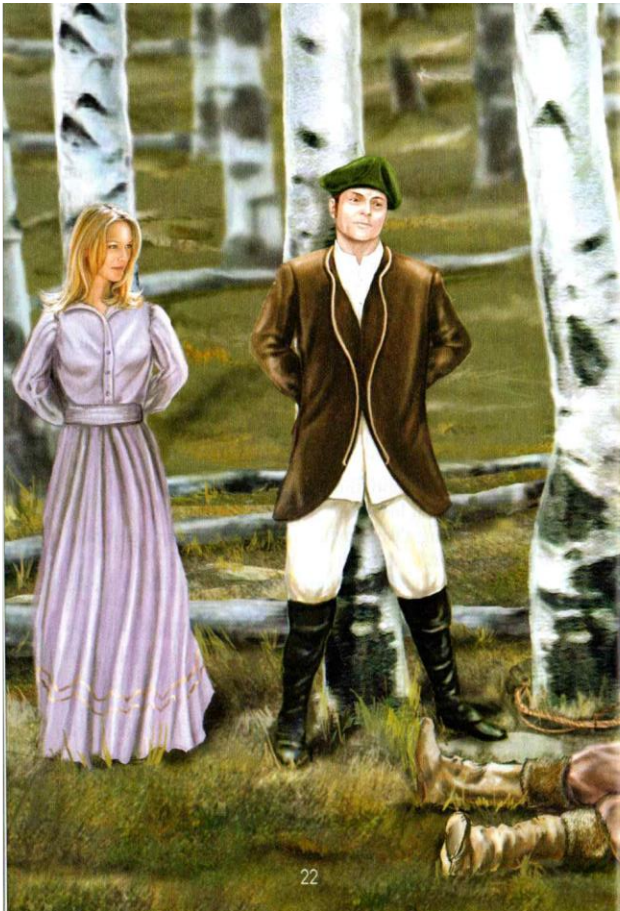
Heyward walked through the tunnels to see if there was another way out. He saw a big hole in the rock on the side of the mountain and he heard Indian voices outside. He waited quietly, and when they left, he returned to the others.

As he turned the corner to go to the back of the cave, he saw an Indian watching the women from the tunnel, at the opposite end. It was Magua. Heyward fired his gun and the women screamed, but he missed. Magua escaped through another tunnel.

The Indians outside the cave heard the gunshot and they ran in and captured them. They were not Iroquois Indians but Hurons. When they left the cave, Magua joined them.

The Hurons took them back to the forest where they had left their horses. The sun was rising and the Indian chief wanted to go to the camp first to tell the others that they had prisoners.

"The council will decide what to do with them. Magua, you stay here. If they try to escape, kill them."



Magua smiled.

Most of the Huron Indians crossed the river and left the English with Magua and six other Hurons. The Indians caught and killed a deer, and they made a fire to cook it. Magua could not stop looking at Cora. He took her away from the others so he could talk to her alone.

"I see you at Fort Edward. You very pretty. If you make Magua your husband, I let others go free."

"I'd rather die."

Cora turned to go back to the fire, but Magua grabbed her hair and screamed loudly to the other Indians.

"We do not wait for others come back. We kill them now!"

The other Indians began to scream excitedly. All of the English were scared. The Indians tied them to four separate trees.

"I ask you one more time. You marry Magua?"

Cora looked at her sister Alice who was crying.

"Alice, darling, I'll do anything for you. I'll marry this Indian to save you, but I want you to tell me it's all right."

Alice could not stop crying. Finally, she was able to speak.

"No!"

Magua yelled loudly as he threw his tomahawk at Alice's head and cut off part of her hair. Heyward managed to untie himself and he ran at Magua. They fought and rolled on the ground. One of the Huron Indians raised his knife to kill Heyward, but just then they heard a rifle shot. The Indian fell down dead and everyone turned to see Hawkeye with his rifle raised to his eye.

