

THE ADVENTURES OF MONDAY BOLES  
BY MONDAY BOLES

IN THE PROVINCE OF MATANZA, CUBA, NESTLED IN THE EDGE OF A BANANA GROVE, WAS THE HOME OF JUAN AND POLVA MACHADO AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN. THE HACIENDA WAS SURROUNDED BY STATELY PALM TREES, LIKE SENTINELS OF OLD, GUARDING THE SERENITY AND BEAUTY OF THE HOME. JUAN RAISED SUGARCANE, COFFEE AND BANANAS. JUAN, WITH A YOKE OF OXEN AND A HORSE, DID THE FARM WORK, WHILE POLVA "RODE HERD" ON THE CHILDREN..

NO DOUBT JUAN AND POLVA ENVISIONED THE GREATNESS THEIR CHILDREN WOULD ATTAIN BUT LINGERING THOUGHTS OF AN UPRISING IN 1864 CAME UP OFTEN TO CAUSE CONCERN. CUBA IS NOT VERY WIDE BUT RIVALS CALIFORNIA IN LENGTH.. THERE WAS A BALMY BREEZE BLOWING MOST OF THE TIME, AND JUAN AND POLVA WOULD SIT OUTSIDE AND SING SONGS WHILE THE CHILDREN FROLICKED.

JOAQUIN, THE THIRD CHILD, HAS SOME DISTASTEFUL MEMORIES OF HIS EARLY YEARS. BETWEEN HIS GENERAL MISCHIEVOUSNESS AND BEING "FRAMED" BY HIS BROTHER AND SISTERS, HE WAS PUNISHED QUITE FREQUENTLY. HE KNEW THE ROUTINE WELL. HIS MOTHER WOULD POINT HER FOREFINGER AT HIM TO HOLD, SO HE WOULDN'T GET OUT OF REACH, AND THRASH HIM WITH A LEATHER STRAP, LEAVING HIM WITH ONLY ONE HAND TO PROTECT HIS FANNY. THERE WAS ANOTHER RED HOT CURE FOR LIARS OR WHATEVER. WHEN MOTHER CAUGHT ANY OF HER KIDS TELLING A LIE, SHE WOULD TRADITIONALLY MASSAGE THEIR TONGUES WITH A RED HOT PEPPER. HOT! HOT! HOT!

THE RUMOR OF WAR WAS IN THE AIR. CUBA HAD REBELLED. JUAN WAS CALLED TO FIGHT FOR

HIS COUNTRY AND HIS HOME, BUT MOST OF ALL FOR HIS FAMILY. IN HASTE HE PREPARED TO GO. KISSING EACH ONE GOODBYE, JUAN SAID, "BE BACK SOON". BUT SOON NEVER CAME. JUAN DIED SOMEWHERE IN BATTLE, A MARTYR FOR CUBAN LIBERTY.

FOR POLVA, FEAR WAS TURNING INTO REALITY. SHE WONDERED WHAT SHE WOULD OR COULD DO WITH THE HACIENDA. THERE WERE THE CHILDREN AND SHE HAD NO ONE SHE COULD TURN TO, TO EASE HER PAIN. JUAN WAS GONE AND COULD NOT HOLD HER IN HIS ARMS AND KISS HER, TO CONSOLE HER FEARS. POLVA WATCHED THE CHILDREN CLOSELY AS THEY PLAYED WITH THEIR GUINEA PIGS WITHOUT ANY THOUGHTS OR FEARS OF EVENTS THAT MIGHT COME. SHE WATCHED BY DAY AND LISTENED BY NIGHT. THE DREADED TIME SEEMED EVIDENT WHEN SHE SAW A FEW SOLDIERS COME OUT OF A CANEFIELD AND WALK STRAIGHT TO THE HOUSE. SHE CALLED THE CHILDREN TO HER SIDE. "WE HAVE ORDERS TO DESTROY YOUR HOUSE," ONE OF THE SOLDIERS SAID, AND THE CHILDREN BEGAN TO CRY. POLVA TRIED TO QUIET THEM. THEN, THROUGH THE FEAR AND SHOCK, SHE QUICKLY GATHERED A FEW THINGS AND WENT TO THE CORRAL. AS SHE HITCHED THE OXEN AND TIED THE HORSE TO THE CART, SOME OF HER NEIGHBORS GATHERED AROUND. POLVA ASKED "WHAT WILL WE DO?" SOMEONE SAID "BOLONDRON". WITH THE SMALLER CHILDREN IN THE OX CART, THEY STARTED. LOOKING BACK, POLVA THOUGHT, ANYWHERE TO GET AWAY FROM THE CRACKLING FIRE THAT WAS CONSUMING THEIR HOME. BLACK CLOUDS HUNG LOW OVERHEAD AND IT STARTED TO RAIN IN A HEAVY DOWNPOUR. ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT THEY WALKED IN THE RAIN AND MUD, AND AS THE WEAKER ONES GAVE OUT, THEY WERE PUT IN THE OX CART.

JOAQUIN DID NOT REMEMBER WHEN THEY REACHED THE TOWN. GETTING SHELTER WAS EASY AS SOME

HOUSES WERE VACANT. THEY SLEPT ON THE FLOOR AS THERE WAS NO FURNITURE. THE ROW OF HOUSES WAS ON THE SECOND STREET FROM AN OPEN FIELD. A FEW NIGHTS LATER A BATTLE STARTED, SHATTERING THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT. BEING IN THE FOURTH HOUSE FROM THE BATTLE GROUND, THERE WERE MANY BULLETS THAT HIT THE TILE ROOF, BREAKING THE TILE, WHICH SLID DOWN THE ROOF. FRIGHTENED BY THE NOISE AND CLATTER, EVERYONE WOULD RUN TO THE NEXT CORNER OF THE ROOM ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES. AT DAYLIGHT THE BATTLE STOPPED AND EVERYONE WENT OUT INTO THE STREET. TWO BLOCKS AWAY THE DEAD WERE CARRIED ACROSS THE STREET TO THE BURYING GROUND. THE WORD WAS OUT THAT THE INJURED HAD HAD THEIR HANDS SLIT BETWEEN EACH FINGER. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE NIGHT WAS TAKING ITS TOLL ON POLVA'S NERVES. SHE SOLD THE OXEN AND THE HORSE. IT WAS A SAD MOMENT FOR THE CHILDREN, MORE SO FOR JOAQUIN AS HE HAD LEARNED TO RIDE AND HE COUNTED "TOMATE" AS ONE OF HIS BEST FRIENDS. POLVA DECIDED TO GO TO LA UNION, NOT VERY FAR FROM BOLONDON AND MUCH CLOSER TO THEIR DESTROYED HACIENDA. THE TRAIN TRIP WAS EXCITING FOR THE CHILDREN AND NOW, NEAR RELATIVES, POLVA OBTAINED A HOUSE RENT FREE.

THE LONG SUPPLY LINE FROM SPAIN TO CUBA WAS COSTLY. A DECREE WAS MADE TO KEEP THE CUBAN SUBJECTS CORRALLED IN THE CITIES AND TOWNS, TO STARVE THEM INTO SUBMISSION. THE MONEY POLVA HAD RECEIVED FOR THE OXEN AND THE HORSE WAS RUNNING OUT. THE YOUNGEST GIRL, FRAIL AND INFIRM, STARVED TO DEATH. THE TWO BOYS SEARCHED FOR EDIBLE PLANTS AND FRUIT. SOON, DEMAND OUTWEIGHED SUPPLY AND STARVATION WAS RAMPANT. MANY BUZZARDS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. EACH BLOW FURTHER REDUCED POLVA'S STRENGTH TOO WEAK TO WORK SHE WAS CON-

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FINED TO HER COT. SHE FELT THAT HER TIME WAS NEAR AND SHE GOT HER BROTHER TO PROMISE THAT HE WOULD LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN. JOAQUIN WELLREMEMBERS THE NIGHT HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY. HE WOKE UP CRYING AND HIS MOTHER MOTIONED FOR HIM TO COME TO HER COT. KISSING HIM, SHE ASSURED HIM THAT ALL WAS WELL AND THAT HE SHOULD GO BACK TO SLEEP. WHEN HE AWOKE AT DAYLIGHT, SADNESS OVERFLOWED HIS SOUL. STARVATION HAD CLAIMED HIS MOTHER WHO WAS HIS BEST FRIEND.

WITH THE INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PEOPLE RETURNED TO THEIR LAND AND BUILT HUTS OUT OF PALM LEAVES FOR SHELTER. WHILE THE UNCLE WAS GETTING READY TO RETURN TO THE "HUT DE ROQUE", THE THREE CHILDREN CALLED A "SUMMIT" MEETING. THEY HAD HEARD JUAN AND POLVA DISCUSS UNCLE AND AUNT'S HARSH ATTITUDE. UNCLE RULED WITH AN IRON FIST AND AUNT COMMANDED WITH A LOUD MOUTH. ALL SET, THEY STARTED TO WALK TO THEIR PALM LEAF HUT, A FULL DAY'S WALK FROM LA UNION. THE THREE CHILDREN DROPPED BACK TO THE REAR RANK. IN LOWERED VOICES THEY DISCUSSED THEIR PLIGHT. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THEIR PARENTS' TENDER LOVING CARE AND THEIR UNCLE AND AUNT'S INHUMAN TREATMENT WAS QUITE A SHOCK.

UPON ARRIVING AT THE HUT, JOAQUIN WAS TOLD TO BE THE WATER BOY AND KEEP A GOOD SUPPLY ON HAND. UNCLE SHOWED JOAQUIN THE WAY TO A CAVE THAT WAS NEAR THE HUT AND CAUTIONED HIM TO ALWAYS STAY ON THE PATH. THERE WAS A FORK IN THE PATH NEAR THE CAVE AND JOAQUIN ASKED WHERE IT LED TO. UNCLE REPLIED, "IT GOES SOMEWHERE OUT THERE". A LEDGE OF ROCK IN A SEMICIRCLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE FORMED A SHELTER. A SPRING FLOWED INTO A DEEP BASIN WHICH WAS HIDDEN FROM VIEW ON APPROACHING THE CAVE BY A LARGE ROCK

POST OR COLUMN AT THE EDGE OF THE ROCK LEDGE.. THE CHILDREN HAD BEEN TOLD BY UNCLE AND AUNT THAT A LITTLE WHITE WATER GOD WAS IN AND AROUND THE CAVE TO KEEP INTRUDERS AWAY, AND THAT IF THE LITTLE WHITE WATER GOD SAW THEM BEFORE THEY SAW HIM, THEY WOULD DIE. FOR JOAQUIN, THIS WAS A PROBLEM, SO HE WATCHED IN ALL DIRECTIONS SO HE COULD SEE THE LITTLE WHITE WATER GOD FIRST. GETTING HIS PAIL FULL OF WATER, HE WOULD RUSH OUT OF THE RAVINE TO GET OUT OF SIGHT OF THE CAVE. BUT THIS DAY, ON HIS WAY FOR WATER, HE WAS WEARY FROM A SLEEPLESS NIGHT. MANY THOUGHTS HAD GONE THROUGH HIS MIND AS HE HAD LISTENED TO THE SNAKES SLITHERING THROUGH THE DRY PALM LEAVES OF THE HUT WALLS, HIS LEGS ACHED FROM THE MERCILESS WHIPPING THAT UNCLE HAD GIVEN HIM. UNCLE HAD USED AN IMPROVISED BULL WHIP WHICH WAS A CANE STALK WITH THE JUICE SUCKED OUT BETWEEN THE JOINTS. THE WHIPPING WAS FOR TAKING A SMALL WATERMELON OUT OF UNCLE'S GARDEN. AS HE WALKED DOWN THE PATH, THE LITTLE WHEELS IN HIS HEAD WERE TURNING FAST. AS HE REACHED THE FORK IN THE PATH HE THREW THE WATER BUCKET INTO THE TOPS OF THE WEEDS AND VINES, BUT NOT HARD ENOUGH, FOR THE BUCKET SLIPPED DOWN AND WAS IN PLAIN VIEW OF THE PATH. THE SUN REFLECTED FROM THE BUCKET WHICH WAS A DEAD GIVEAWAY. WITH A DASH, JOAQUIN BYPASSED THE CAVE AND RAN DOWN THE PATH THAT HIS UNCLE SAID "WENT SOMEWHERE".

LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, THE SIGHT OF SOME HUTS WAS MOST WELCOME. NEW STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION VIBRATED THROUGH HIS WEARY BODY. AS HE APPROACHED, A KIND LADY GREETED HIM. "COME AND HAVE SOME WATER AND REST. I WILL PREPARE YOU SOME FOOD". SHE WASHED JOAQUIN'S SORE LEGS AND APPLIED A

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NEXT MORNING HE WAS EAGER TO TRAVEL, ASKING THE WAY AND HOW FAR IT WAS TO LA UNION. A MAN DESCRIBED THE ROUTE AND DISTANCE, GAVE JOAQUIN TWO EARS OF CORN AND BID HIM GOODBYE "ADIOS Y BUENA SUERTE". HAVING GONE SOME DISTANCE, HE WAS PUZZLED AS THE ROAD APPEARED TO TERMINATE AT A CANEFIELD. AS HE CONTINUED TO WALK, HE COULD SEE THAT THE ROAD MADE A RIGHT ANGLE TURN. LOOKING AHEAD HE SAW TWO SOLDIERS RUN ACROSS THE ROAD FROM ONE CANEFIELD INTO ANOTHER. TO JOAQUIN THAT MEANT "VAMOS OR GO!". HE TURNED QUICKLY, WHICH THREW THE CORN OUT OF HIS POCKETS. BACK AT THE HUT HE RELATED HIS EXPERIENCE. THE MAN WHO HAD GIVEN HIM THE CORN ASSURED HIM THAT HE WAS GOING TO LA UNION THE NEXT DAY AND THAT HE COULD RIDE ALONG. ARRIVING IN LA UNION OK, JOAQUIN ASKED TO GET OFF THE CART. JOAQUIN WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE LAY OF THE TOWN. THIS WAS THE RESULT OF SOME INVESTIGATIVE EXCURSION WHEN HIS MOTHER THOUGHT HE WAS PLAYING NEAR HOME. JOAQUIN WENT TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF TOWN FROM WHERE HIS MOTHER DIED, AS HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFER. JOAQUIN KNEW OF ONE SIDE STREET THAT WAS GOOD FOR HANDOUTS AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE VICINITY. WHEN HE ARRIVED ON THE STREET HE SAW MANY HORSES STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TIED TO PORCH POSTS AND RAILINGS. HE ELBOWED HIS WAY BETWEEN TWO HORSES AT SOME PERIL. IN PLACES WHERE NO HORSES COULD BE TIED, THAT SPACE WAS AN OPEN SEWER. THE EXCREMENT FROM HORSES AND PEOPLE MADE THE STREET A QUAGMIRE OF FILTH. JOAQUIN DECIDED TO CHANGE HIS BEAT. SPYING A LARGE NEAT HOUSE, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A DANDY. HE KNOCKED AND A LADY CAME TO THE DOOR. HE TOLD HER HIS "MISSION". SHE SAID "WAIT HERE". SOON A MAN APPEARED WITH A BIG SMILE AND A BOWL OF RICE, AND

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AND TOOK A BIG MOUTHFUL. IT HAD BEEN HEAVILY SALTED AND JOAQUIN BECAME STRANGLED. WITH A HEARTY LAUGH FOR HIS GLORY, THE MAN SLAMMED THE DOOR. AFTER RECOVERING FROM THE SALTED RICE, JOAQUIN CONTINUED HIS SEARCH FOR HANDOUTS.

WHAT A SURPRISE IT WAS WHEN JOAQUIN CAME UPON THE TWO SONS OF A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY WHO WERE ABOUT HIS AGE. THEY TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO COME AND LIVE WITH THEM. JOAQUIN BEGAN TO SUSPECT A "SNAKE IN THE GRASS". BUT THE HUNGER PANGS WON OUT AND HE SAID "OK". WHEN THEY REACHED HOME THE TWO BROTHERS WALKED IN. WHEN JOAQUIN SAW HIS UNCLE AND AUNT, HE DID NOT FREEZE BUT FIRED UP. INSTEAD OF BACKING OUT, HE RAN THROUGH THE ROOM, AROUND THE HOUSE AND UP THE STREET WITH UNCLE ON HIS TRAIL. ABOUT A HALF BLOCK AHEAD, HE SPIED TWO BLACK WOMEN SITTING IN A DOORWAY AND THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD AVENUE OF ESCAPE. BUT THIS WAS NOT TO BE. IN HIS ATTEMPT TO RUN BETWEEN THEM HE BECAME FIRMLY WEDGED WITH HIS ARMS AND LEGS GOING IN ALL DIRECTIONS, WHILE THE WOMEN WERE HITTING THE TARGET, WHICH WAS HIS FANNY, TRYING TO DISLODGE HIM. UNTIL THIS DAY JOAQUIN DISPLAYS A GRIN WHEN HE THINKS OF THIS EPISODE, THE WOMEN CURSING ABOUT HOW THEY GOT SO WET AND NOT A CLOUD IN SIGHT. THE ELUSIVE ONE WAS CAPTURED AND THEY WENT BACK TO THE HUT. ON THE WAY HIS UNCLE REMINDED HIM THAT IF HE RAN AWAY AGAIN, HE WOULD HAVE TO PUNISH HIM.

JOAQUIN WAS ALREADY PLANNING HIS STRATEGY. HE WOULD BECOME HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT. UNCLE AND AUNT AGREED THAT THEY HAD CONQUERED THE "LITTLE DEVIL" AS HIS MOTHER OFTEN CALLED HIM. AS JOAQUIN PLAYED, HE WAS NOT JUST PLAYING BUT ALSO EAVESDROPPING, A TRICK THAT WORKED WHEN

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DAYS PASSED AND ALL WAS WORKING AS PLANNED. THE FOLLOWING DAY JOAQUIN WAS REINSTATED IN HIS WATER CARRYING DUTIES. HE WAS UP EARLY WITH THE WATER BUCKET AND ON HIS WAY. HE LOOKED BACK OCCASIONALLY, FEELING SAFE FROM BEING FOLLOWED. WHEN HE GOT TO THE FORK IN THE PATH, HE THREW THE WATER BUCKET TO ONE SIDE AND AGAIN HE TOOK TO THE PATH THAT "WENT SOMEWHERE". ARRIVING AT THE HUT, HE GOT SOME WATER AND FOOD FROM THE KIND LADY. LOSING NO TIME, HE FORGED AHEAD TO LA UNION AND ON TO THE ROUND OF BEGGING. FIRST HE WOULD GO TO THE GROCERY STORES AS THE U.S. SOLDIERS BOUGHT CHEESE AND CRACKERS. SOME WOULD THROW THE CHEESE RINDS ON THE FLOOR AND THAT WAS GOOD PICKINGS. JUST BRUSH OFF THE DIRT AND FILTH AND GULP IT DOWN.

DISGUSTED BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN OUTWITTED BY A SIX YEAR OLD, UNCLE LOST NO TIME IN STARTING FOR LA UNION. ARRIVING AFTER DARK, HE PUT UP FOR THE NIGHT. CAME DAYLIGHT, UNCLE WAS ON THE HUNT. JOAQUIN WAS WALKING ALONG THE STREET EATING SOME BREAD AND AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, AS HE TURNED THE CORNER, HE WALKED RIGHT INTO UNCLE'S HANDS AND A TEETHRATTLING SHAKE. AND SO IT WAS BACK TO UNCLE'S PALM LEAF HUT. IT WAS LATE AFTER DARK WHEN THEY ARRIVED, TIRED FROM THE DAYS JOURNEY FROM LA UNION. UNCLE DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY TO PUNISH JOAQUIN.

THE NEXT MORNING UNCLE AND AUNT DISCUSSED WHAT TO DO WITH JOAQUIN AND AGREED THAT GOING EASY ON HIM FOR A WHILE MIGHT MAKE HIM STAY PUT. BUT JOAQUIN, BEING A MAN OF SIX YEARS, LISTENED BUT DID NOT HEED. JOAQUIN JOINED HIS BROTHER AND SISTER AT PLAY. HE TOLD HIS BROTHER, RAFAEL, THAT IT WAS BETTER TO BE IN LA UNION BEGGING THAN TO STAY AND RECIEVE UNCLE AND AUNT'S  
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BUT HALF WAY AGREED. JOAQUIN DID NOT TELL HIS BROTHER HIS PLAN, BUT FIRST CHANCE HE GOT, AWAY HE WENT TO LA UNION AGAIN. DISGUSTED WITH THE RUNAWAY DEVIL, UNCLE GAVE IT UP AS A FUTILE TASK AND MADE NO EFFORT TO LOOK FOR HIM. ONCE AGAIN IN LA UNION, JOAQUIN CHANGED HIS BEAT TO THE VICINITY OF THE POST OFFICE. AT THE END OF THE STREET WAS AN OPEN FIELD AND A LARGE DITCH WHICH HAD BEEN USED IN THE PAST BY THE SPANIARDS TO KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM LEAVING THE TOWN. NEXT TO THE DITCH WAS A PYRAMID SHAPED SENTINEL POST ABOUT SIX FEET SQUARE AT THE BASE. IT HAD A DIRT FLOOR AND A SLOT IN EACH WALL FOR VISION AND THE USE OF FIREARMS. SATISFIED THAT NO ONE WAS WATCHING, JOAQUIN MOVED IN AND ESTABLISHED HIS RESIDENCE.

THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE COURSE OF SCOUTING AND BEGGING FOR BREAKFAST, JOAQUIN PASSED THE POST OFFICE. HE SPOTTED A BURLAP SACK IN THE LOBBY LEANING AGAINST THE WALL. HE INVESTIGATED AND FOUND THAT IT WAS FULL OF HARD TACK, A DURABLE BISQUIT USED AS FIELD RATIONS BY THE SOLDIERS. HE SLIPPED A FEW OUT AND TOOK OFF TO HIDE AND FEAST. IT WAS A HOLIDAY. HE NIBBLED OFF ALL HE COULD. HARD TACK FOR BREAKFAST, WATER FOR LUNCH AND SWELL UP FOR SUPPER.

THE NEXT MORNING JOAQUIN DECIDED TO CANVAS A NEW SECTION. ALONG THE WAY HE FOUND AN EMPTY BURLAP SACK. OH BOY. THAT WAS WHAT HE NEEDED AS FURNISHINGS FOR HIS NEW HOUSE. IT WOULD SERVE AS A SLEEPING BAG TO KEEP THE COOL NIGHT AIR OFF HIM. THIS WAS HIS LUCKY DAY. MOVING ON, THE FIRST HOUSE WAS A RAMBLING BUILDING ON A LARGE LOT WITH LOTS OF TREES. IT REMINDED HIM OF THE HACIENDA. THE LADY WHO

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MOTHER. JOAQUIN BEGGED FOR FOOD. SHE WELCOMED HIM IN, WASHED HIS DIRTY FACE AND HANDS AND PREPARED SOME FOOD. ALBERTO, HER HUSBAND, CAME IN AND SHOWED HIS TEMPERMENT. HIS WIFE'S NAME WAS LORITA. SHE BEGGED ALBERTO TO LET JOAQUIN STAY, BUT IN A HARSH VOICE, HE REPLIED "NO! NO!" HE STOMPED OUT OF THE HOUSE TO HIS GARDEN WHICH WAS ACROSS THE STREET AND BACK IN THE FIELD, OUT OF SIGHT OF GARDEN THIEVES.

DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT UNDAUNTED, JOAQUIN WENT TO HIS SLEEPING QUARTERS, THE SENTRY POST. AS HE ENTERED, HE COULD SEE THE BEAUTY OF THE JOINT. IT HAD A DRY FLOOR TO SLEEP ON, ROCK CONSTRUCTION, ROUGH BUT SERVICEABLE, ROCKS JUTTING INTO THE INSIDE WHERE ONE COULD RUB HIS BACK OR BUMP HIS HEAD, AND A BURLAP SLEEPING BAG. HE HAD IT MADE.

THE NEXT MORNING JOAQUIN LOOKED THROUGH THE SLOTS IN THE WALL AND WATCHED HIS ENEMY ALBERTO DISAPPEAR INTO THE WEEDS ON HIS WAY TO HIS GARDEN. JOAQUIN WENT TO THE HOUSE AND LORITA INVITED HIM IN AS ALBERTO WAS GONE. UNEXPECTEDLY, ALBERTO RETURNED AND JOAQUIN DARTED BEHIND A DOOR. AS ALBERTO PASSED THROUGH THE DOOR, JOAQUIN'S HEART WAS POUNDING LIKE A MODEL T FORD. AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY, HE DARTED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO A HIDING PLACE ALONG THE DRIVEWAY BETWEEN A FENCE AND THE VINES WHICH HUNG DOWN FROM THE FENCE, AN IDEAL PLACE IN EMERGENCIES SUCH AS THIS ONE. AFTER REMAINING IN HIS HIDING PLACE FOR SOME TIME, JOAQUIN SAW ALBERTO LEAVE AND RETURN TO HIS GARDEN. LORITA CAME OUT AND INVITED JOAQUIN BACK INTO THE HOUSE. SHE COMFORTED HIM AND FIXED HIM SOMETHING TO

LORITA HAD A PLAN THAT JOAQUIN COULD HELP ALBERTO WITH THE GARDEN AND A YOUNG GIRL COULD HELP HER WITH THE HOUSE. AND SO IT WAS THAT JOAQUIN MOVED IN WITH LORITA AND ALBERTO AND WAS ASSIGNED MINOR CHORES. LORITA ACQUIRED MARIA TO HELP HER WITH THE HOUSE WORK. THIS ARRANGEMENT DID NOT PLEASE ALBERTO. LORITA AND ALBERTO DID NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN AND THAT WAS TO ALBERTO'S LIKING. HE HATED KIDS AND HE WAS NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY KID FOLLOWING HIM AROUND AND MESSING UP HIS GARDEN.

AT THE REAR OF THE MAIN PART OF THE BUILDING WAS THE KITCHEN, A LONG ROOM WITH A ROCK STOVE, TABLE AND BENCHES AND SERVED AS A DINING ROOM. ALONG ONE SIDE OF THIS ROOM WAS A PATIO. ON THE WALL CLOSE TO TWO WINDOW OPENINGS WERE TWO EYE BOLTS WHICH SUPPORTED HAMMOCKS AND WERE WITHIN EASY REACH FROM THE PATIO THROUGH THE WINDOW OPENINGS. JOAQUIN AND MARIA SLEPT IN THE HAMMOCKS, MARIA'S BEING NEAREST THE STOVE.

JOAQUIN AS A PRANKSTER DISRUPTED THE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, FOR THIS MORNING, ALBERTO GOT UP EARLY AND STOMPED HIS WAY DOWN THE PATIO. HE REACHED THROUGH THE WINDOW OPENING AND SHOOK JOAQUIN'S HAMMOCK. IT WAS EMPTY. THEN HE SHOOK MARIA'S HAMMOCK AND IT WAS OCCUPIED. HE CALLED TO MARIA AND SHE ANSWERED FROM THE FAR SIDE OF THE KITCHEN. IN A RAGE HE GAVE THE HAMMOCK A JERK AND SWUNG IT UP SIDEWAYS, AND JOAQUIN SPILLED OUT ONTO THE ROCK FLOOR. STARTLED, JOAQUIN LOOKED UP AND SAW ALBERTO HOLDING THE HAMMOCK. HIS UGLY SCOWLING FACE WAS PROTRUDING INTO THE ROOM. ALBERTO YELLED IN A LOUD VOICE "GET OUT AND STAY OUT AND DONT COME BACK ANY MORE!" JOAQUIN RUSHED OUT TO HIS HIDING PLACE NEAR THE FRONT DOOR. EARLY

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ALBERTO AND LORITA CAME OUTSIDE AND STOOD BY THE DOOR. LORITA WHISPERED IN ALBERTO'S EAR, KISSED HIM ON THE FOREHEAD AND FLIPPED HIS SHOULDER WITH HER FINGER. ALBERTO'S HARSH LOOK SOFTENED AND WITH A JIMMY CARTER SMILE, HE WENT TO HIS GARDEN. LORITA WENT IN AND CLOSED THE DOOR. JOAQUIN LISTENED, WAITED. SOON LORITA OPENED THE DOOR, LOOKED ALL AROUND AND CALLED TO JOAQUIN. CAUTIOUSLY HE CAME OUT OF HIS HIDING PLACE BRUSHING THE DIRT OFF HIS CLOTHES. LORITA SAID "COME I WILL FIX YOU SOME FOOD". WHEN HE HAD FINISHED EATING, LORITA TOOK HIM BY THE HAND AND SAT DOWN. WITH A GENTLE HUG SHE PRESSED HIM TO HER SIDE. THEN SHE TOLD HIM THAT SHE WANTED HIM TO BE HER SON. OVERJOYED, BIG TEARS ROLLED DOWN HIS CHEEKS. NODDING YES, HE LAYED HIS HEAD ON LORITA'S SHOULDER.

AS TIME PASSED, ALL WENT WELL AND ALBERTO CAME TO SHOW AN AFFECTION FOR JOAQUIN AND IT WAS A HAPPY FAMILY. JOAQUIN'S FRAIL BODY SHOWED IMPROVEMENT. THEN CAME HIS FIRST ERRAND WHICH HE ACCEPTED WITH GLEE. LORITA GAVE HIM A LETTER AND TOLD HIM TO TAKE IT TO THE POST OFFICE. AS JOAQUIN WALKED INTO THE POST OFFICE HE WAS REMINDED OF THE DAY HE GOT THE HARD TACK HE MAILED THE LETTER AND WALKED OUT AND THERE AS BIG AS LIFE STOOD HIS BROTHER RAFAEL. A JOYOUS MEETING IT WAS. JOAQUIN ASKED ABOUT THEIR SISTER RUFINA. AS THEY WALKED TO THE END OF THE STREET, HE SHOWED RAFAEL THE SENTINEL POST AND THE SLEEPING BAG, THEN WENT HOME TO TELL LORITA OF MEETING HIS BROTHER. LORITA PREPARED SOME FOOD FOR JOAQUIN TO TAKE TO HIS BROTHER. JOAQUIN TOOK THE FOOD BACK TO THE SENTINEL POST. AS RAFAEL ATE, HE TOLD OF HOW THEIR UNCLE TREATED HIM.

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COULD NOT TAKE IT ANY LONGER AND NOW, UNCLE MIGHT BE MORE HARSH WITH RUFINA BECAUSE THEY HAD RUN AWAY. THREE DAYS AFTER FINDING JOAQUIN, RAFAEL HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND A NICE PLACE TO STAY WITH AN ADMIRABLE COUPLE WHO WERE ALSO WITHOUT CHILDREN.

THE NEXT DAY, LORITA SENT JOAQUIN ON AN ERRAND TO CALL ALBERTO TO COME AND EAT. REACHING THE GARDEN, JOAQUIN YELLED "CARNE, CARNE". ALBERTO NODDED AND WAVED HIS HAND BUT DID NOT COME FROM THE GARDEN IMMEDIATELY. JOAQUIN WAS WELL ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE HOUSE AND AS HE WAS CROSSING THE STREET, HE SAW THREE OR FOUR SOLDIERS COMING TOWARD HIM. JOAQUIN TRIED TO AVOID THEM BUT THEY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM. THEY TALKED TO HIM BUT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND AND HE SHOOK HIS HEAD. ONE SOLDIER SAID "CASA". THAT HE KNEW. HE POINTED TOWARD LORITA AS SHE STOOD IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. SHE WAS CRYING FOR FEAR OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO JOAQUIN. THE SOLDIERS MADE SIGNS. WITH FEAR LORITA NODDED YES AND THE SOLDIERS TOOK JOAQUIN TO THE ARMY CAMP WHICH WAS ABOUT A MILE AWAY, IN SIGHT OF TOWN. SID BOLES, ONE OF THE SOLDIERS, FOUND A BARBER TO CUT JOAQUIN'S HAIR, THEN GOT A ZINC TUB AND FILLED IT WITH WATER. HE UNDRESSED JOAQUIN AND GAVE HIM A BATH WHILE OTHER SOLDIERS GATHERED AROUND TALKING AND LAUGHING. ONE ASKED "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO NAME HIM?" ANOTHER SAID "YOUR NAME IS BOLES AND TODAY IS MONDAY. WHAT ABOUT 'MONDAY BOLES'?" AND SO, JOAQUIN BECAME MONDAY BOLES. BATH OVER AND DRIED, SID PUT MONDAY ON A COT IN HIS TENT.

MORNING CAME AND MONDAY WAS AFRAID OF HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS BUT FOUND HIMSELF ALL IN ONE PIECE SO SOME OF HIS FEAR SUBSIDED. LITTLE HE

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WORLD, A NEW LIFE AND A NEW NAME. NOT BEING A GOOD BABYSITTER, SID LET MONDAY EAT TOO MUCH WHICH MADE HIM SICK AND TOOK HIM BACK TO LORITA. IT WAS A JOY TO LORITA TO SEE MONDAY AGAIN. SID GAVE HER MONEY TO BUY FOOD AND IN A FEW DAYS LORITA HAD MONDAY IN SHAPE TO GO BACK TO CAMP. BUT AGAIN, SID WAS NOT WATCHFUL ENOUGH AND MONDAY BECAME ILL A SECOND TIME. SO BACK TO LORITA. IN A FEW DAYS, MONDAY WAS AS GOOD AS NEW.

IN THE ARMY CAMP THERE WAS NOT MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO GET INTO MISCHIEF. HOWEVER, ONE DAY MONDAY SPOTTED AN OPEN CARTON OF EGGS IN THE FIELD KITCHEN OF THE ADJACENT COMPANY AND HE THOUGHT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FEW. HE WAS JOINED BY A BOY A YEAR OR SO OLDER THAN HE, WHO STAYED WITH THE SOLDIERS IN THAT COMPANY. MONDAY SAID "I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF THOSE EGGS." "OK" SAID THE OTHER BOY AND REMOVED MONDAY'S CAP. HE PUT SOME EGGS IN IT AND PUT IT BACK ON MONDAY'S HEAD. THEN HE SLAPPED THE TOP OF THE CAP BREAKING THE EGGS. THE EGGS RAN DOWN ALL OVER MONDAY'S FACE AND HE BEGAN TO CRY. SID, BEING NEARBY WITH A QUART CUP BY HIS HAND, DREW IT FULL OF WATER AND DASHED IT INTO MONDAY'S FACE. THE SUDDEN SHOCK PUT A VACUUM ON MONDAY'S CRYING.

MONDAY TOLD SID ABOUT HIS BROTHER RAFAEL AND SID TOLD ANOTHER SOLDIER, TED BUTTON, ABOUT RAFAEL. TED BUTTON BROUGHT RAFAEL IN ON TUESDAY SO NOW THERE WERE MONDAY BOLES AND TUESDAY BUT-  
TON IN THE ARMY CAMP. DURING ARMY DRILL, MONDAY WOULD MARCH WITH A STICK FOR A GUN ALONG SIDE SID. WHEN THE DRILL SARGEANT WOULD YELL "TO THE REAR MARCH", MONDAY WOULD GET RUN OVER AND LOST AND COULD NOT FIND SID, AS FROM THE BACK, ALLOF

SOON THE SOLDIERS BROKE CAMP AND TRAVELED BY FREIGHT TRAIN TO MATANZA, CUBA, AND THEN ON SHIP TO KEY WEST, FLORIDA. WHILE ON THE SHIP TO KEY WEST, SID MADE A MISTAKE AND LEFT HIS BOTTLE OF WHISKEY WITHIN MONDAY'S REACH. RESULT: ONE DRUNK BOY, ONE SOLDIER WITH A HANGOVER AND ONE BOTTLE EMPTY. AFTER A FEW DAYS IN KEY WEST, THE NEXT STOP WAS SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, AND THEN ON TO SID'S HOME TOWN, GLASGOW, KENTUCKY, ARRIVING IN THE SPRING OF 1899.

SID LIVED WITH HIS PARENTS IN TOWN AND AFTER A FEW YEARS THE FAMILY MOVED OUT ON A FARM. WHEN SID'S FATHER DIED, HIS MOTHER MOVED BACK INTO TOWN AND SID AND MONDAY BATCHED FOR TEN YEARS. NOT KNOWING HIS BIRTHDATE, MONDAY WENT TO EVERY BIRTHDAY DINNER HE COULD GET INVITED TO, AND CRASHED A FEW. WITH AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 24 BIRTHDAY DINNERS PER YEAR, MONDAY HOPED HE WOULD HIT ONE NEAR HIS OWN BIRTHDAY. BOTH BOYS BECAME U.S. CITIZENS, MARRIED KENTUCKY GIRLS AND RAISED INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES.