

The Incident

Young Eagaldorf quietly examines animal tracks on the ground in the forest near his home. A bow and arrow are in his hand.

He catches the scent of a deer upon the wind and knows that he is close as he flairs his nostrils.

The teen hears the crack of some twigs on the ground. Softly placing an arrow to his bow, Eagaldorf raises them in the right direction.

He suddenly hears an arrow sing through the air and sees it killing his game before his eyes while on his own land.

He shouts at the rogue hunters, “Why are you hunting on my land?” He realizes they’re wearing the uniforms of royal hunters.

One hunter dismounts from his horse and calls back, “You best mind your words as we are not poachers.”

The other hunter looks up as he pulls the arrow from his kill and says, “Haven’t you heard about the new edict from King Ronan?”

“No, I have not.”

“All lands throughout the kingdom are now open for the royal hunters to hunt in.”

“That’s a lie!”

“You best mind your words, boy, as treason comes to mind.”

The other hunter calls out while helping his partner mount the deer on the back of his horse, “Come over and we’ll show you the mark on his decree.”

Realizing he is outnumbered, Eagaldorf answers with a tone of suspicion while keeping his distance, “I’ll take your word for it.”

Putting away the scroll, the hunter continues to speak, “Good, lad! Why not come over and we’ll cut you a leg for your trouble.”

“Ahh, no thanks! I prefer the hunt more than the game anyway.”

The two hunters look to themselves with a smirk as the other responds, “Suit yourself!”

A cabin door swings open and Eagaldorf enters with two rabbits in hand which he drops on the table before him. Rimka, his mother turns from a stove while acknowledging his entrance, “Praise God! You caught two rabbits, so why the glum face?”

He sits at the table next to a few peeled potatoes, a couple of sliced carrots, and some peeled quartered onions as he starts to go to work on skinning the game.

Rimka breaks the silence with a look while saying, “Well?”

Her son responds, “We almost had venison for a week.”

“I cannot believe that anything could get away from you. You’re such a good hunter, did something go wrong?”

“Yes, very wrong!”

“In the light of all the Lord has blessed us with, it can't be that bad. So, look up and never forget that our redemption draws nearer everyday. Now, what has you so uneasy?”

“Royal hunters were on our property today and poached a deer by royal decree while I was hunting. They snatched my hunt with an arrow of their own when I was about to shoot.”

“There must be some kind of mistake, for King Ronan would never go back on his word.”

“That's what I said. I even called them liars.”

His mother says with concern, “Did they mention treason?”

“How did you know?”

“I suspect that they were lying, too.”

Ronan continues, “But why would they do this?”

“I mustn't be too quick to tend to my tongue, they might not know that something is amiss and are just following out orders.”

“But from who?”

Rimka takes a large pot filled with water and places it on the table, “It looks like you're about finished with those rabbits,” she next starts placing the vegetables in the water.

“From who, mother?”

She takes the skinned rabbits and puts them in the pot and says, “Would you be kind enough to place our dinner on the stove? I am rather hungry.”

“Very well.” Rising from the table, he carries the stew over and places it on the hot stove.

“Eagaldorf, you know that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but spiritual wickedness in the high places, don’t you?”

“Is that all you have to say?”

“Have faith in the Great One and all will work out.”

“You and your faith. Always praying . . .”

“ . . . And what’s wrong with that?”

“I feel it is time to take action while there is yet time. Perhaps some of our neighbors are experiencing a similar situation.”

Rimka sits at the table after placing a few more large sticks in the fire within the stove and folds her hands in silent prayer. A few moments later, Eagaldorf spies his mother who opens her eyes and catches his mother’s glance. “Come son, sit with me. You know that it is always best to pray before taking any action.”

He sits and looks her in the eyes, “One day, I might not agree with you, mother. For, I feel a time of action might soon be at hand.”

“What do the ten commandments say?”

“You’re not going to pull ‘Honor your mother and father’ on me again.”

“I just did, and knowing that He put us here as God’s love constrains us, His love continues to hold as you know that I love you.”

“ You're right, mother. Thank you for your words of wisdom as my patience was about at its end.”

A knock is heard at the door and Rimka calls from the table, “Whether you be friend or foe, you’re welcome to come in and pray with me and my son as we’re about to address The Lord of heaven and earth.”

The door slowly opens and some neighbors appear standing in the doorway. “Come in, one and all, as this seems like divine timing.”

A group of men, five in all, silently enter the cabin. Rimka takes notice of their faceless expressions while recognizing them, “Before you state your business, prayer is in order.”

Sage enters first, followed by trig, Honer, Seth, and finally, Benjah. All seek the wisdom of Eagaldorf’s mother, Rimka, for answers. They quietly sit at the table and attentively open their ears to hear her prayer.

“Oh, Great One, hear the cries of our heart for vindication as something has happened within our kingdom that seems unjust at present. Keep us at peace in your presence so that we do not lose the perspective of focusing on You with full trust, Amen.”

All around the table respond with hardy amen’s of their own as well. The men look to each other before Sage who volunteers to share what needs be said to the others, which has brought them to the table at present. “Rimka, it was around noon when I saw it happen to Sailo. I was out hunting when I heard a commotion off in the distance and saw our fellow woodsmen being wrestled to the ground by some royal hunters.