Kdan

"1: A soldier's life"

by

Lawrence Gleadhill

# lgleadhillpublishings@gmail.com

(+61) 430 066 785

Copyright Lawrence Gleadhill, 2015

Registered with the Australian Writers' Guild

No. JB010081

EXT. TOWN STREETS. KROTEN. KREATEN TERRITORY - MIDNIGHT. YEAR 980

It is a cold winter night in Kroten. The brick buildings that line the streets are all boarded up to stop the chill. The streets are quiet and void of any life, then, all of a sudden, the King and his guards race through the city on horseback. They approach a two-storey brick house and head to the front door on foot.

A neighbour peers out of her window and, seeing the King, pulls her head back in.

Without knocking, the guards bash the door open and proceed to enter the house.

The King enters, and one of the guards remains, blocking the doorway.

INT. ARTHUR GOYLE'S HOUSE. KROTEN - MIDNIGHT. YEAR 980

The King waits whilst his men search the house. The guards proceed to search the house, opening doors and checking the rooms. Along the way, they break pots, overturn beds, and smash cupboards.

The guards find Arthur in his office. He was awoken from his sleep and is still half-dazed. The guards drag him back to the King, who is now sitting at the kitchen table.

KING EDWARD:

Now, Arthur, tell me everything you know. Or my men will make it most unpleasant for you.

ARTHUR:

B-b-b-b-but you-

A guard pulls out his knife and holds it against Arthur's hand. The King sits there, smiling.

ARTHUR: (CONT'D)

It is said that Mother Nature is the creator of life; she oversees everything and wields the power to control life itself. And the script mentions something about a—

KING EDWARD:

This is blasphemy, you old fool!
(Addressing the guards now.)
Burn this place down!

The King orders Arthur's execution. A guard pushes Arthur to the ground and raises his sword. The King walks away. The other guards begin to smash over tables and other furniture.

ARTHUR:

(Whispers)

A son.

His words are not heard, and the guard drops his sword, slicing Arthur's head off. The other guards begin to torch the building.

The King and his guards mount their horses and ride away. The house is well lit by now. Neighbouring people begin to put the fire out before it spreads to their houses. The snow has managed to ease off, making the task more difficult.

INT. ORPHANAGE. STRAVEN. KREATEN TERRITORY - EVENING. YEAR 980

In a nearby village not to far from Kroten, a lady, Teresa, is giving birth. Two midwives are by her side. She is crying and yelling as the baby begins to crown.

Then, suddenly, one of the midwives pulls the baby from under the cloth and shows Teresa.

MIDWIFE:

Teresa, it is a boy.

The midwife hands Teresa the baby.

TERESA:

He is beautiful.

(Cooing)

Yes, you are.

Teresa stares at her baby, and suddenly, tears begin to slowly fall from her eyes.

TERESA: (CONT'D)

Sorry that I cannot be with you. I do love you very much; remember that always, Kdan.

Teresa kisses her baby, then hands him back to the midwife. With a final soft sigh, she closes her eyes for the last time.

The midwife covers Teresa with a white sheet whilst they tend to the baby.

Kdan begins to cry. He is quickly taken away.

EXT. ORPHANAGE. STRAVEN. KREATEN TERRITORY - EVENING. YEAR 980

Outside of the orphanage, an array of animals line the building.

After Kdan is born, the animals race away.

In the background, a wolf howl can be heard. It is long and loud.

#### EXT. TRAINING YARD. KROTEN - MORNING. YEAR 990

Kdan is gathered with 100 other kids at the training camp. It is a dirt training ground atop a hill inside the city walls. He is perched up on the fence, watching children play at the town fair. There are magicians, artists, food stalls, and puppet shows. All the kids are having fun. Then, suddenly, he is whipped and falls to the ground.

#### TRAINER:

(Yelling)

Pay attention, or I'll whip you till you die!

Kdan looks around at the other kids; they are all bruised and battered. Everyone glares at him with hate-filled eyes. The trainer instructs Kdan to head into the fighting ring.

He gets up and moves into position to fight a kid who is older and much bigger.

The trainer yells, and the older kid charges at Kdan, who dodges his volley of punches. Then Kdan steps forward and quickly jabs the kid in the chest and face several times. He falls down, unable to get back up. Kdan sits back down.

Kdan shows no signs of any bruises or injuries; apart from his raggedy clothes, he looks healthy.

Meanwhile, two guards, who were watching the fight, walk away with smiles on their faces.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS. KROTEN - EVENING. YEAR 990

Kdan waits for everyone else to fall asleep before he changes clothes. He removes his shirt, and his back shows no signs of his whipping. He puts on another shirt and lies back down.

He sobs for an hour before he falls asleep.

The tent is filled with hundreds of children his age.

EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. VIKON TERRITORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

The Vikons wait at the peak of the mountaintop, wearing their thick, fur-lined armour; all have long red hair, tattoos, and huge weapons. They seem content to be waiting, even during the snowstorm.

In the background is the outline of their castle.

On the other side of the valley lies the sum of the vast Kreaten army. Dressed in basic leather armour and each equipped with a sword and shield are 400 boys, sitting and waiting. Kdan is waiting like the rest.

Each side has a myriad of archers and projectile weaponry behind the lines of soldiers.

EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. VIKON TERRITORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

The infantry wait in their lines. Commander Tikor stands in front of his men.

#### COMMANDER TIKOR:

(Shouting)

They may take our homes, our land, and our women. But, we will not bow down to them. We will not surrender to them. We will go in there and die with honour and pride. WE'LL TAKE THEIR FUCKING HEADS! Today, we die as men; tomorrow, we are legends!

A loud shout rises from the midst of the Vikon army as they cheer their Commander.

EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. KREATEN TERRITORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

Commander Eric makes one pass of the first line and stops at the middle.

KDAN: (V.O.)

This is my first taste of war. At 15, I was a fully trained solider. I looked around and had a feeling that this would be the last time I would see many of these kids. Some barely made it through training, and yet we were expected to go out by ourselves. Sure, there were hundreds of us, but I had heard the Vikon were trained men. Commander Eric moved in front of us; I didn't want another lashing, so I stood up straight.

COMMANDER ERIC:

(Shouting)

Keep in line, men! Your task is simple: clear the path. Anyone wanna quit, head over there.

No one moved at first, then, after some hesitation, a few kids raced away, but they were shot down with arrows.

COMMANDER ERIC: (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

Any more?

The bodies were being dragged away and thrown on the fire.

KDAN: (V.O.)

I saw her today, Princess Lucy; she made a visit. She looked so pretty, and she smiled at me—that made me happy.

COMMANDER ERIC:

Hey, you!

Commander Eric draws his whip and lashes Kdan across the shoulder. He winces in pain, then stands straight again.

Commander Anders gets his archers ready. They draw their bows.

COMMANDER ANDERS:

Ready. Aim. Fire!

KDAN: (V.O.)

I looked up and saw a volley of arrows fly overhead, majestic—birds of death I called them. There were so many, they blocked the sun. Then the trebuchets fired, launching huge balls of burning oil—death clouds I called them.

Commander Eric faces the soldiers.

COMMANDER ERIC:

Ready, men? Charge!

As soon as Eric yelled, the lines of boys started running towards the Vikons. The few who remained behind, too afraid to go into battle, were slaughtered, and their bodies were thrown in the fire. Commander Eric looks up to watch the hundreds of kids run into battle.

The second and third lines stand to enjoy the spectacle.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. VALLEYS OF RIKON - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

The hill was long, steep, and covered in snow. The arrows had forced the Vikons to move out, but they had fired as well. Those who were too slow were killed by the arrows, and those who made it farther towards the middle faced each other off.

KDAN: (V.O.)

We yelled, just as we had been trained. But not because we were trained to, but because we were afraid of dying.

The Kreatens ran, yelling, as did the Vikons, all the way down the valley. Then, suddenly, the Vikons stopped, but, at full speed, the Kreatens kept coming, until, suddenly, concealed traps slaughtered the front line. Concealed pits, spikes, and bear traps killed or injured many. But with the sheer number of soldiers remaining, many of the Kreatens simply diverted around the traps, to meet the Vikons.

Then, at the middle, the two armies met; swords and shields clashed.

Soon, the white snow became red.

EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. VIKON TERRITORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

The Vikon commanders scanned the battlefield. They were vastly outnumbered.

## DEPUTY RIKOR:

Sir, should we not move our weaponry forward? We will be slaughtered.

#### COMMANDER TIKOR:

Just wait, Rikor; if we move ours forward then we will be in range as well. We must wait for the right moment.

DEPUTY RIKOR:

(Angrily)

And when it is, we will soon be dead! I am taking my men and we are leaving. Good luck.

Deputy Rikor storms away, gets on his horse, and rides to meet the other cavalry behind the commanders.

The Commander looks around at his weaponry; the men are eager to kill some Kreatens.

The Commander says a silent prayer then signals to his men to move the weaponry forward.

The trebuchets and ballistas move forward. Then, they fire, launching fireballs, arrows, and stones into the battlefield.

## EXT. BATTLEFIELD. VALLEYS OF RIKON - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

Although the Kreatens outnumber the Vikons 4-1, the Kreatens were slaughtered. The concealed traps took out many of the young fighters, whilst the sheer experience of the Vikons easily made up for their lack in numbers.

Meanwhile, Kdan is fairing better than the others, fighting two men at a time. He moves with the skill of an experienced fighter. Eliminating the current two, he moves on to fight two more.

## EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. KREATEN TERRITORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

## COMMANDER ERIC:

So they moved their catapults, did they? Bad move. Deputy Owens, have the long-range trebuchets take care of it.

Deputy Owens signals for the trebuchets to prepare to fire. They fire, aiming for the Vikons' weaponry.

Commander Eric takes out his binoculars and scouts the battlefield. Deputy Owens does the same.

#### COMMANDER ERIC:

Let us see who is still alive, shall we? Oh, the boy is still alive.

## DEPUTY OWENS:

Yes, but he has five men coming at him. I suppose he was good while he lasted.

Deputy Owens puts his binoculars down, while commander Eric continues to watch Kdan, but seeing him surrounded by five Vikons, he too puts his binoculars down.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD- VALLEYS OF RIKON - MIDDAY. YEAR 995

Kdan is the only remaining Kreaten, and he faces the last five Vikons; they surround him.

The Vikons are hungry for the kill. They lunge at Kdan and come at him swinging. Kdan dodges and rolls out of the way, chopping down two at their waist. He jumps up and throws his sword at another. Then, picking up an abandoned sword from the ground, he charges at the last two and quickly takes them out. Then he collapses on the ground and begins to cry.

He looks up, and the sky grows dark. Without hesitating, Kdan rolls and heaves a dead body atop himself. The arrows pierce the entire battlefield, leaving no one alive. Once it stopped, the sun was out again.

Kdan pushes the body aside, but remains there, lying still on the blood-covered battlefield.

## EXT. VALLEYS OF RIKON. KREATEN TERRITORY - AFTERNOON. YEAR 995

Deputy Owens takes out his binoculars and scans the battlefield.

## DEPUTY OWENS:

It's done, sir; they are dead. What did you want done with the cavalry in the trees?

## COMMANDER ERIC:

Leave them, for they will lead us to their hideaway. Tell the scouts to follow them and not be seen.

## DEPUTY OWENS:

Yes, sir.

Eric takes one more look at the battlefield with his binoculars, then turns away.

## EXT. BATTLEFIELD. VALLEYS OF RIKON - EVENING. YEAR 995

The sun sets, and the moon begins to come out. The wolves and vultures are already feasting on the bodies, but they stay clear of Kdan. As he gets up, the animals stop what they are doing and stare at him. Kdan does not notice this, for he is crying.

Kdan wipes the tears from his face and walks away, heading for camp.

EXT/INT. KREATEN CAMP VALLEYS OF RIKON - EVENING. YEAR 995

As Kdan approaches camp, scouts follow him, then he stops. And the scouts pounce, bagging his face and knocking him to the ground. He does not resist.

The guards drag Kdan to the Deputy's tent. Along the way, people cheer and spit on him. The men are drinking and partying to yet another victory. Fires are alight, with pigs roasting in the flames. Women are chained up to trees, with the men taking them for sexual pleasure.

The scouts open the tent flap and throw Kdan inside.

DEPUTY OWENS:

What do we have here, lads?

SCOUT #1:

We found this kid. He might make a new addition to the line; what do you say?

As the scout removes the bag from his head, Owens looks dumbfounded. The scouts notice this.

SCOUT #1:

What's wrong, sire?

SCOUT #2:

Did we do something wrong?

DEPUTY OWENS:

He is already one of us. Take him back to his quarters. Make sure he gets fed well; Eric would want it, no doubt.

SCOUT #1 AND SCOUT #2:

(Together)

Yes, sir.

The scouts salute and leave, taking Kdan with them, but more gently this time.

DEPUTY OWENS:

How did he survive? There is not a scratch on him.

The two scouts walk Kdan to his sleeping quarters. This time, the soldiers nod to Kdan, with some even offering a clap. The scouts open the tent and let Kdan enter. They close the tent

flap and leave him. He just sits down and waits. When the food comes in, he eats in silence. Afterward, he unrolls a bed and falls asleep.

Apart from Kdan, the tent is empty, except for the bedrolls that are piled up along the wall.

## EXT. PLAINS OF ZEBAR. METAR TERRTORY - MIDDAY. YEAR 997

It is a hot summer day, and the two sides, the Kreatens and the Metars, are engaged in battle. The Metars had forced the Kreatens to this spot, atop a mountain, making it impossible for weaponry to make the trip. Both foot soldiers and cavalry are engaged in the fight. The Metars fight in pairs, with their long, thin blades and their energetic dance style.

No matter, the Kreatens push forward, counting on their overwhelming numbers for victory.

EXT. PLAINS OF ZEBAR. METAR TERRTORY. MIDDAY. YEAR 997

On a mountain overlooking the battle, a lady comes out of a cave wearing a thick black coat. She has a wolf by her feet.

#### QUEEN NATALIA:

Yet another battle, boy. They are savages, are they not? I wonder if they will change like we did. She bends down and gives the wolf a nice big cuddle.

The wolf begins to bark.

QUEEN NATALIA: (CONT'D)
Mmm, what's that? Yes, I do smell something ... I
wonder ... No, it's nothing, boy.

The wolf continues to bark, but Natalia has already left, headed back inside the cave. Other wolves come and bark as well. A few moments later, Natalia stands up and drops the body of a Kreaten scout to the ground. She wipes the blood off her mouth and stands by the wolves.

The fight has finished, and the Kreatens are victorious. All of the Kreatens are together except for Kdan, who is on the farthest side of the battlefield, surrounded by dead Metar bodies.

QUEEN NATALIA:

Come! It is nothing.

The wolves cease barking, yet remain staring in the direction of Kdan. Natalia heads back inside the cave.

#### EXT. RACHON. ARCHON TERRITORY - MORNING. YEAR 998

The Kreaten army is perched atop a hill. In front of them lies the Archon stronghold, Capital Castle. The massive castle is surrounded by a small city. The entire complex is surrounded by a high fortified brick wall.

The silence is broken when the Archons launch their catapults. The Kreatens retaliate, from the three sides they have established.

Using a huge reinforced battering ram, the Kreaten foot soldiers slowly advance.

Commander Eric and Deputy Owens wait on the hill, well out of reach from the catapults.

#### COMMANDER ERIC:

This is by far the toughest battle we have had in years, isn't it so, Owens?

## DEPUTY OWENS:

Yes, it is, sir. Shall I prepare the cavalry?

#### COMMANDER ERIC:

Yes, avoid using the archers, we will need as many grunts as we can; they may make good slaves for the King. I shall meet you inside.

Deputy Owens dashes away to prepare the cavalry unit.

EXT. CAPITAL CASTLE. RACHON - MORNING. YEAR 998

The soldiers are at the door and begin knocking it down, using the battering ram. The Archons retaliate, pouring hot oil atop of the ram. But it is too little, too late. The Kreatens break through and begin to disperse.

Now that the gate is breached, the cavalry unit and the fourth and fifth lines head to the gate.

The lines are broken up, but Kdan is yelling out orders to those around him.

KDAN:

Watch your side; hold the line! Watch those damn archers!

The battle continues on, but now that the entrance is breached, the Kreaten army enters with its full force. And slowly but surely, the Kreaten army begin to advance, taking care of the Archons. Meanwhile, the ballistas and trebuchets adjust their fire, aiming for the remaining Archon fortifications.

Much like his past battles, Kdan is in the thick of it, fighting men left and right.

KDAN:

Keep it together. We are nearly there!

With the front lines of the Archons taken out, the cavalry unit and the fourth and fifth lines advance to clear the remaining soldiers. Meanwhile, the first three lines search the battlefield for any survivors.

KREATEN SOLIDER: (O.S.)

Kdan, come here, quick!

Kdan gets up and heads to the soldier. As he comes around the corner, he quickly dodges the incoming spear that was aimed for him. He looks up to see Garth glare at him. Other soldiers come in and begin to form a circle around the two.

KDAN: (V.O.)

For whatever reason, Garth had a big grudge against me. Even though we are allies, people seemed to let it continue. Garth was royalty; he was set to marry Princess Lucy, so by rights, he could kill me if he wished.

As Commander Eric came close, everyone stood straight. Eric stopped at Kdan.

#### COMMANDER ERIC:

You have done well, Kdan. You have been promoted to the third line-nice work.

Kdan gave a smile, but as he looked around, he saw that not many people shared in his joy. Garth glared at him even more so now.

The soldiers dispersed and began searching the wreckage for any survivors.

SOLDIER PAUL: (O.S)

Kdan, Kdan, come quick! I need your help; there is someone trapped.

KDAN:

Coming, Paul.

As Kdan got up and headed over, he looked to his left and saw Garth on his horse. Garth noticed him, and he looked angry. He began to charge at Kdan. Kdan stood his ground and tightened the grip on his sword.

Suddenly, an arrow comes flying past and cuts Garth off from his charge. Garth and Kdan look in the direction of the arrow, and Eric shakes his head in disagreement.

Kdan turns around to help the survivor. But Garth is not happy and quickly charges at Kdan again, raising his sword, ready to strike at him.

Kdan turns around with his shield up, ready to deflect the attack, but suddenly, an arrow pierces Garth in the chest. He falls off his horse, which is alarmed and runs away, stomping on Garth in the panic.

Kdan stood up, unsure what to do. Then a horn blew, so everyone began packing up and headed back to camp.

Amongst the wreckage, a lady, is kneeling down in the shadows. She has golden brown hair, pointed ears, long nails, and a fur tail. She is patting a small tabby cat.

## CHARMAINE:

Thank you, darling. Yes, this man is special, isn't he? Mmm, we shall have to talk to my sisters about this. Quick, we best find a wolf and tell Jaccinta.

Charmaine purrs at the cat and gives it a final pat, before it dashes off.

#### EXT. KREATEN CAMP. RACHON - MORNING. YEAR 998

With the soldiers returned to the camp, everyone is out at the main yard. In the centre of a dirt patch lies a whipping station, with Kdan strapped to the timber poles. Shirtless and in the sweltering sun, he awaits his punishment, to be meted out by Commander Warlton.

#### COMMANDER WARLTON:

For your behaviour, which led to the death of Garth, you will be handed the punishment of 50 lashes, or until you die. Do you have any words, Soldier?

KDAN:

No, sir.

Kdan is whipped in front of all the soldiers. Some were gambling on the outcome, and money was quietly being exchanged.

KDAN: (V.O.)

Then I was lashed 50 times. I looked at Eric, and he looked at me. I wondered if anyone had asked him why he ordered the shot. Garth was a Legionnaire, and I was a first-line Grunt, the lowest of low. I forced myself to feel the pain. At least I bled.

EXT/INT. LUCY'S ROOM. CASTLE OF KREATEN. KROTON - MORNING. YEAR 998

Princess Lucy is outside on her balcony, watching the scouts return home to report any news. She heads down to ask them about the war and overhears a scout talking to a guard.

SCOUT #3:

Yes, so word is Garth had a grudge against this Kdan kid, and you know what Garth is like. Hey, so anyway, the Commander had to order a shot, and it hit Garth; the thing is, the Commander didn't care that Garth was dead—it's like he ordered him so.

GUARD #1:

No way! The kid is a grunt-scum.

SCOUT #3:

From what I hear, he is a lucky piece of shit—the only first liner to survive, ever!

GUARD #1:

Shit, so what did you tell Garth's parents?

SCOUT #3:

A very revised story, but shit, mate, the truth will get out. You better not tell anyone—remember, I still know what you did to that lady.

The two men laugh, then walk away to their separate destinations.

Lucy begins to cry and runs back inside her room. She enters it, locks the door behind her, and falls on her bed, continuing to cry.

PRINCESS LUCY:

(Weeping)

I never liked Garth. It is Kdan I am worried about. He will die because Garth was a jerk. I met Kdan, and he was very nice to me. He always looked at me with kindness, unlike Garth.

She looks up when there is a knock on the door. Her mother, Queen Rachele, calls out to her.

QUEEN RACHELE:

Darling, are you okay? Can I come inside to talk about it?

## PRINCESS LUCY:

(Whispers)

If I don't let her in, she will worry even more.

Lucy quickly fixes up her appearance and walks over to unlock the door.

INT. SOLITUDE CHAMBER. KREATEN CAMP. RACHON - MIDDAY. YEAR 998

Kdan is sitting in his cell. It had been two days. Except for some small patches of light, let in by a few holes, it is pitch-black. Being a portable jail, it is a thick metal box, where it is damp and cold, yet Kdan looked calm. There were butterflies flying around his head. He raised his hand up to the light, and they landed on it. He gently patted them.

KDAN:

Someone is coming.

The butterflies gracefully flew away. Then, suddenly, the door opens.

GUARD #2:

Get out!

Kdan got out and followed the guard as well as he could with the chains still on.

EXT/INT. COMMANDERS TENT. KREATEN CAMP. RACHON - MIDDAY. YEAR 998

The guard escorted Kdan to the Commander's tent. Kdan remained mute the whole trip, not wanting to push his luck.

Along the way, they see many guards and soldiers. Some return blank looks, but others seem surprised to see Kdan still alive, let alone walking.

The guard approaches the Commander's tent and opens the flap.

As Kdan looked around, he became disgusted at what he saw. Female slaves were walking around naked, entertaining the soldiers, serving drinks, dancing, some even giving the men sexual pleasure. As the guard escorted Kdan farther into the room, he saw women being raped in private rooms. He saw Archons, Metars, and even Kreaten females present.

COMMANDER ERIC:

Ah, Kdan, you made it.

Eric comes out of a private room, wearing a bathrobe. A man enters the room Eric just left and yells out.

MAN:

Come here, whore!

COMMANDER ERIC:

Come, Kdan.

Eric puts an arm on Kdan's shoulder and walks with him.

COMMANDER ERIC: (CONT'D)

You have done well these past years, better than anyone thought. I had hoped Garth would not strike out at you, but I had no choice other than to do what needed to be done. You will return to the line in two weeks. Otherwise, enjoy the night; you can spend it here if you wish.

Kdan looks around and smiles but walks outside the room and heads to his tent.

Meanwhile, Eric stands where he is, and the King comes out from behind the curtain. He motions for the women to get away.

KING EDWARD:

And what did you learn from that, Eric?

## COMMANDER ERIC:

The boy is a good find, sire. Not many people can bear the pain. He will be a fine warrior in years to come.

The King gives a pleased look before he walks away and heads to a private room, where three women are waiting.

Eric takes a seat and begins thinking about Kdan. He ignores everyone else and sits there for some time.

## COMMANDER ERIC:

The king may be blind to it, but I am not. I will have to speak to Sheamus.

Eric gets up and enters a room and quickly throws on some clothes, then heads outside.

INT. SHEAMUS'S TENT. KREATEN CAMP. RACHON - AFTERNOON. YEAR 998

Eric waits outside Sheamus's tent and calls out.

SHEAMUS:

Ah, Eric, come inside.

Eric enters and looks around as to check they are alone. Sheamus sits down and Eric takes a seat opposite.

SHEAMUS: (CONT'D)

What brings you to my quarters?

COMMANDER ERIC:

Do you remember that night 18 years ago?

SHEAMUS:

Yes, I do, why do you ask?

COMMANDER ERIC:

Kdan is still alive.

Sheamus looks stunned and sits up in his seat. The two begin to chat quietly.

## EXT. PLAINS OF KREATEN - NIGHT. YEAR 998

A lady wearing a thick fur coat is sitting down on a hill, surrounded by wolves. Amongst the thick snowfall she sees one comes racing towards her.

JACCINTA:

Yes, what it is, boy? You are famished.

The wolf begins to bark at her. Jaccinta continues to nod, then barks back at the wolf.

JACCINTA:

Really?

The wolf barks in reply, then collapses with the other wolves.

JACCINTA:

Mmm, this is interesting. No wonder the animals have been acting strange.

(Looking up at the sky)

What are you not telling us, Mother?

TO BE CONTINUED