

10-28-15

3a

**Nightjohn**

10 Years Later

Since Mammy passed over a month ago, and I became a breeder and the new caregiver, all the little ones look to me for advice knowing me as Mammy's protege of some sort, but I know I can't manage without her, let alone like her and provide these young children with what they need to survive. Nightjohn, I'm done hiding from Waller, I've snuck out to this little pit for long enough and I want to start sharing what I know for the world to see. Everybody who I knew is gone now and there is nothing left for me here so I think we should finally take a stand against Waller so we can finally do as we please without worry about Waller coming after us. Nightjohn and I have been meeting at this pit since I was twelve years old, now I'm twenty-two and have finally taken a notice to Nightjohn failing health but along with John, Waller's health as well has been declining yet still he whips that whip with a grin on his face and speed in his movement. A familiar thunder begins to roll. Child I do not believe we should even try such, as a slave owner him and all the others stay in touch and visit weekly to make propositions for a trad.. And I understand that but I don't think I can stand another week of Waller in my life. Nightjohn said "so what do you propose we do." I don't know, but what I do know is I can't think on a full stomach.

Later that night, something big apparently happened and the powers that hold together our country abolished slavery, two men in some fancy looking clothing arrive in a carriage drawn by two white horse, I believe were called stallions according to John, I over heard them in the quarter house these men trying to tell Waller to release the slaves but Waller refused and the men went for him...Waller shot them both and asked two field hands to drag his body to the dogs penn as the slaves dragged them to the back, something fell out of one of their pockets, it looked similar to one of Waller's weapons, so I picked it up and brought it to John and he lost his mind explaining that we cannot kill him, finally I came up with an idea, we could take all of Waller's weapons and hide them and before we forget, let the dogs out so Waller can't use them against any of us. That's when John explained "That's great and all but how will we escape the plantation". Easy, remember we're not slaves anymore, which means we can move more freely throughout the world."Yes but there are still people out there who are just like Waller or who haven't gotten the message"said John. true, I guess we could try and take the wagon but I'm not sure where we go after this, should we try and get the message out to all the slaves. "But if we do such they'll all try and hop on the wagon and that's a small wagon, barely capable of holding all of us let alone anyone living outside the plantation...wait I have an idea, there was a path other slaves were taking that I met, they said it was the underground railroad and no slave has ever been caught escaping on the path, so we could just drop people off there and then go pick up more people". So, shall we begin the coup d'etat now or later, because we still have time before the sun actually begins to rise and Waller doesn't wake until midday which gives us a good amount of time to complete our work. "If you're prepared to begin now then you just worry about finding some meet for the dogs I'll get his weapons and hide them in pit school". Slowly

my mind starts drifting off as I begin to think about where I'm gonna go and what I'm gonna do once I am free of Waller and any other slave owners reign and since we have to go North I guess I could go see the city of New York, the city I've been looking at for ten years straight in my life and now that I may finally get to see it for myself I'm simply overwhelmed. John, what are you going to do once you get out of here. "I'll probably go find my family". I didn't know you had any family that came here with you when did you last see them. "Well we got separated when my son, Tommy, got sold off into slavery by himself at 4 years old and when I chased the wagon, the slave owner whipped me the hardest I'd ever been whipped in my entire life, after that I stopped doing field work, my wife, Sara, explained that I need to do it so I don't get sold-off or worse but I listen, she didn't understand she worked in the house serving the masters missus and I was out there working on plants in an eternal burning furnaces roasting my back, but I still love her and my son, after all she was the one who had taught me how to read in the first place, I miss them so much, after I find them, I could care less about what happens after that, I just want them back". I didn't even think about the slight possibility of John having a family all these years but this explains why he doesn't work and is addicted to tobacco plants, don't worry Nightjohn I'll help you find them. "So shall we start". Oh yes let's go.

Waller keeps the raw meet in the quarter house just in case the dogs ever get loose so instead of attacking him they get us, so going to leave a trail of meat to the white house so I can return the favor. "Sarny I've stashed the weapons in pit school and closed the hole, I'll start gathering people and getting them to the wagon, you get some canteens and fill them with as much water and buttermilk as you can".

As we ride away, we hear the shrieks of the past and begin to hear the direction of the future.

Over the span of one-hundred days, we picked-up and dropped off those whom we freed, only to notice we can't help them all, at first I didn't notice but I started to pick-up why Nightjohn was so perseverant about this mission, his family, we had one more plantation, he promised, but I doubted that was the truth knowing how willing he is to achieve a whole family again. This time I talked to him, he confessed it to me, the promise I'd made to help him find his family, may be an unfulfillable promise. As we pull up to the last plantation, we hear gunshots and people are running all over, turns out that there is a team of people freeing other slaves, when we get there, we see who caused this commotion, they call themselves the Black Panthers, and they've been doing the same as us except there are many other groups of them doing the same across the entire south of the U.S. As we begin to leave someone calls out to Nightjohn.

On the way towards the north, Sara explained how she escaped only to be caught by the slave owner who had bought Tommy, and that for about three months her and Tommy had been running from plantation to plantation each more northern. Knowing that the Black Panthers are freeing the slaves made us feel better but the way they freed them was savage-like.

We since we found, Sara and Tommy, we have all since arrived at New York and live together as one family after they adopted me. Finally. Free.