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THE *LAST* OF THE  
**MOHICANS**

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

No. 4 15¢



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# THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER



IN THE SUMMER OF 1757, FRANCE AND ENGLAND WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR FOR POSSESSION OF NORTH AMERICA. IN THIS FIERCE STRUGGLE KNOWN AS THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, MANY INDIANS WERE ALLIED WITH THE FRENCH. THEY WERE OF DIFFERENT TRIBES, BUT THE COMMON NAME FOR THEM WAS INDIAN. THE OTHER EASTERN TRIBES EITHER SIDED WITH THE BRITISH OR WERE NEUTRAL. BUT ONE TRIBE HAD BEEN SO EARLY DISPOSSESSED BY THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS THAT IT HAD ALL BUT DISAPPEARED. THIS WAS THE TRIBE OF THE MOHICANS.

IT WAS THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR AT THE BRITISH GARRISON, FORT EDWARD, NEAR LAKE GEORGE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, A DETACHMENT OF SOLDIERS WAS PREPARING TO SET OUT FOR NEIGHBORING FORT WILLIAM HENRY.

WHY ARE WE MOVING, SIR?

WE HAVE REPORTS THAT GENERAL MONTCALM AND THE FRENCH ARE MARCHING ON FORT WILLIAM HENRY. COLONEL MUNRO, ITS COMMANDER, NEEDS REINFORCEMENTS.



ARE YOU MARCHING WITH US, MAJOR KEENE?

NO, I HAVE ANOTHER DUTY TO PERFORM.

AS THE TROOPS MARCHED AWAY, MAJOR DUNCAN KEENE WENT PUSHED THROUGH A GROUP OF CURIOUS GLEERS AND ENTERED AN IMPRESSIVE CARRIAGE.



THAT'S THE MAJOR'S HORSE OVER THERE, SADDLED AND WAITING BUT THE OTHER TWO ARE FITTED OUT FOR LADIES.

HE MUST BE ESCORTING THE TWO DAUGHTERS OF COLONEL MUNRO SOMEWHERE. I'VE WATCHED HIM, AND I CAN SEE THAT HE'S INTERESTED IN THE FAIR-HAIRED ONE, ALICE.



THERE THEY ARE--AND PRETTIER GIRLS YOU'LL NEVER SEE, EH, DAVID GARRET?

I AM A PSALM-SINGER, DEDICATED TO THE WORK OF THE LORD. THE BEAUTY OF WOMEN DOES NOT INTEREST ME. BUT IF THEY ARE GOING TO THEIR FATHER'S FORT, THEIR ROUTE OOKS



**D**UNCAN HAYWARD SET OUT WITH CORA AND ALICE HUNRO. AN INDIAN RUNNER DARTED PAST THEM TO LEAD THE WAY.

ARE SUCH SPECTRES FREQUENT IN THE WOODS, DUNCAN?

HE IS A RUNNER OF THE ARMY AND HAS VOLUNTEERED TO GUIDE US TO FORT WILLIAM HENRY BY A PATH BUT LITTLE KNOWN.



WOULD WE NOT BE SAFER WITH THE TROOPS?

OUR ENEMIES WILL SURELY BE SKIRTING THE DETACHMENT, WHOSE ROUTE IS KNOWN. WE CAN PASS UNSUSPECTED ON A PATH WHICH IS SECRET AND REACH THE FORT BEFORE THEM.

BUT I LIKE NOT THE INDIAN, IS HE KNOWN TO YOU?

HIS NAME IS HADUA, AND ALTHOUGH HE IS SAID TO BE A NINGO, HE HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY A TRIBE FRIENDLY TO US.



**JUST THEN THE SOUND OF HOOF'S CAUSED THE PARTY TO HALT**



WHO CAN BE FOLLOWING US?

**IN A FEW MOMENTS THE FIGURE OF DAVID GARRET CAME INTO VIEW**



SEEK YOU ANYONE HERE?

I HEAR YOU ARE RIDING TO FORT WILLIAM HENRY AS I AM JOURNEYING THERE MYSELF, I CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HAVE GOOD COMPANY



A MOST ARBITRARY DECISION

THROW ASIDE THAT FROWN, DUNCAN, AND PERMIT HIM TO JOURNEY IN OUR TRAIN. HE MAY BE A FRIEND ADDED TO OUR STRENGTH IN TIME OF NEED



**DUNCAN SLOWLY LED DAVID TO FALL INTO LINE, AND THE PARTY SET OUT AFTER THEIR SLEETY GUIDE, UNWARE THAT THEIR PROGRESS WAS WATCHED BY A PAIR OF WILD, FIERCE EYES**



ON THAT SAME DAY,  
NOT FAR AWAY,  
TWO MEN WERE  
LYING BY A  
SMALL STREAM,  
DEEP IN DISCUSSION.

MY PEOPLE, THE MORMONS,  
WERE HAPPY, HAWKEYE, UNTIL  
THE PALE-FACES CAME THEN.  
FOOT BY FOOT, WE WERE  
DRIVEN BACK FROM  
OUR LAND.

I AM WILLING TO ADMIT,  
CHINGACHOOK, THAT MY  
PEOPLE HAVE MANY  
WAYS OF WHICH I  
CAN'T APPROVE.

MY TRIBE IS THE GRANDFATHER OF NATIONS.  
THE BLOOD OF CHIEFS IS IN MY VEINS BUT  
ALL OF MY FAMILY HAS GONE TO THE LAND  
OF THE SPIRITS. I, TOO, MUST ONE DAY GO,  
AND WHEN UNCAS FOLLOWS, THERE WILL  
NO LONGER BE ANY OF THIS BLOOD, FOR  
MY SON IS THE LAST OF THE MORMONS.

AT THAT INSTANT,  
A MOUNTAIN  
WOLF APPEARED.

UNCAS IS HERE!  
I BRING NEWS  
OF STRANGE  
MORMONS.



DO THE MORMONS  
EVEN COME INTO  
THESE WOODS?

I HAVE BEEN ON THEIR  
TRAIL, THEY LIE HIDDEN  
LIKE COBRAS.

THE THIEVES ARE OUT-LYING  
FOR SCALPS AND PLUNDER.  
DO YOU HEAR ANYTHING?

THE HORSES OF  
WHITE MEN ARE  
COMING HAWKEYE.  
THEY ARE YOUR  
BROTHERS.  
SPEAK TO THEM.



**IN A FEW MINUTES, THE TRAVELLERS APPEARED**

WHO COMES?

THOSE WHO SEEK FORT WILLIAM HENRY, BUT OUR GUIDE HAS LOST THE WAY

AN INDIAN LOST IN THE WOODS? IT IS STRANGE IS HE A MOHAWK?

HE IS ADOPTED BY THAT TRIBE, BUT I THINK BY BIRTH HE IS A MINGO



THEY ARE A THIEVISH RACE. A BAND OF THEM IS AHEAD TONIGHT IN SEARCH OF SCALPS, AS I THINK YOUR GUIDE KNOWS.

I WILL GO AND QUESTION HIM

**AS DUNCAN WALKED TOWARDS HIM, MINGO DARTED INTO THE WOODS**





DON'T FOLLOW HIM, FOR HE WOULD LEAD YOU WITHIN SWING OF THE TOMAHAWKS OF HIS COMPANES.

BUT WHAT IS TO BE DONE? DESERT ME NOT REMAIN TO DEFEND THOSE I ESCORT

IT WOULD NOT BE THE ACT OF HERO TO LEAVE SUCH HELPLESS CREATURES AS THESE LADIES TO THEIR FATE THESE MOHICANS AND I WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO KEEP THEM FROM HARM, TO TRAVEL TO THE FORT NOW THAT NIGHT IS FALLING IS DANGEROUS BUT I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE MAY LIE UNTIL MORNING



LEAVING THEIR HORSES, THE PARTY FOLLOWED HAWKEYE TO THE HUDSON RIVER, WHERE A CANOE WAS CONCEALED NEAR THE BANK. IN THE SKILLFUL HANDS OF THE SCOUT, THEY STARTED ON A PERILOUS RIDE THROUGH TURBULENT WATERS.

SOON THE CANOE SHOT INTO AN EDDY AND FLOATED QUIETLY AT THE FOOT OF A FLAT ROCK

WHERE ARE WE?

AT THE FOOT OF GLENN'S FALLS

GO ON THE ROCK. I WILL GO BACK FOR THE MOHICANS





When morning returned with the Indians, they all entered a cavern by the rocks

ARE WE SAFE HERE?

WE ARE ON AN ISLAND, WITH FIELDS ON TWO SIDES OF US AND THE RIVER ABOVE AND BELOW



NOW, YOU THAT NEED IT, SEEK FOR SLEEP WE MUST BE AFOOT BEFORE THE SUN RISES



Obediently, the sisters lay down upon a couch of sassafras



CAN YOU SLEEP WITH SUCH A SENTINEL?

HE IS A FEARLESS LOOKING YOUTH I THINK HE WILL BE A BRAVE AND CONSTANT FRIEND



Hours passed then, suddenly, a tumult of bells burst forth

WHENCE COMES THIS DISCORD?

FROM MOUNDS ON THE OPPOSITE BANKS THEY HAVE SOMEHOW DISCOVERED OUR HIDING PLACE

LEAVING THE SISTERS IN THE CAVERN WITH DAVID, THE OTHERS CROPT OUT AND FIRED FROM THE ROCKS.



THE SHOOTING STOPPED AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN.

HAVE WE REPULSED THEM?

A MINGO IS NOT SO EASILY BEATEN BACK WITHOUT A SCALP.



HIT! LOOK THERE! THE ROKY DEVILS HAVE SWAM ACROSS TO OUR ISLAND.



I SEE THEM, BOYS, I SEE THEM. THEY ARE GATHERING FOR THE RUSH.



**F**OUR INDIANS SPRANG FROM COVER AND BOUNCED TOWARDS THEM



**H**AMKE'S RIFLE POURED OUT ITS FATAL CONTENTS AND THE FOREMOST INDIAN FELL DEAD



CHENGOCHOOK, KEEP US COVERED  
UNCAS, TAKE THE LAST OF THE  
SCREECHING INPS WE'LL TAKE  
THE OTHER TWO



**A** GIANTIC NINGO LEAPED AT HAWKEYE



**F**OR NEARLY A MINUTE, THEY EXERTED THE POWER OF THEIR MUSCLES



**B**UT THE INDIAN WEARIED FIRST, AND HARKNEY DROVE THE EDGE INTO HIS HEART



**M**EANWHILE, DUNCAN HAD BEEN PRESSED IN A MORE DEADLY STRUGGLE



**T**OTTERING ON THE EDGE OF A PRECIPICE, DUNCAN FELT HIMSELF BEING PUSHED TO THE VOID BY HIM



**J**UST THEN, UPOAS APPEARED. THE INDIAN RELEASED HIS HOLD AND FELL TO HIS DEATH.



TO COVER FOR YOUR LIVES! THE WORK IS BUT HALF ENDED



**T**HEY SOUGHT SHELTER BEHIND THE ROCKS AS A VOLLEY OF FIRE BROKE OUT FROM THE OPPOSITE SHORE.



**B**EFORE LONG . . .

THAT WAS THE LAST CHARGE IN MY POWDER HORN UNCA'S, LAD, GO DOWN TO THE CANOE AND BRING UP THE BIG HORN



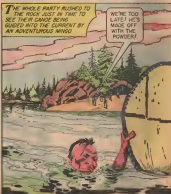
**T**HE YOUNG INDIAN COMPLIED IN A FEW MINUTES, A LOUD CRY RANG OUT.

'T IS UNCA'S! SOMETHING IS WRONG.



**T**HE WHOLE PARTY RUSHED TO THE ROCK JUST IN TIME TO SEE THEIR CANOE BEING GUIDED INTO THE CURRENT BY AN ADVENTUROUS MINGO

WE'RE TOO LATE! HE'S MADE OFF WITH THE POWDER!





WHAT IS  
TO BE  
DONE?

NOTHING, I FEAR, EXCEPT  
PREPARE TO DIE. WE ARE  
AT THEIR MERCY.



BUT YOU MEN HAVE THE  
STRENGTH TO SAVE  
YOURSELVES. THE RIVER  
COULD SWEEP YOU  
BEYOND THEIR REACH.



IT IS BETTER FOR A  
MAN TO DIE AT PEACE  
WITH HIMSELF THAN  
TO LIVE WITH AN  
EVIL CONSCIENCE.

BUT BY LEAVING  
NOW YOU MAY BE  
ABLE TO AID US  
LATER, IN THE  
EVENT THAT WE  
ARE NOT KILLED,  
BUT ARE TAKEN  
CAPTIVE.



BUT SHOULD WE DIE,  
GARRY TO COLONEL  
MUNRO THE LOVE AND  
FINAL PRAYERS OF  
HIS DAUGHTERS.



YOU HAVE COURAGE, AND  
WHAT YOU HAVE SPOKEN  
IS WISE. WE WILL GO.





**F**OR SOME TIME ALL WAS QUIET. THEN, A FRIGHTFUL TUMBLT AROSE!

WE ARE LOST!

COURAGE. WE ARE NOT YET DISCOVERED.

**T**HE CLAMOR INDICATED THAT THE INDIANS WERE CARRYING ON A WILD SEARCH FOR THE FUGITIVES.

THEY ARE JUST OUTSIDE!

**T**HEN THE INDIANS RUSHED AWAY TO ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND.

THEY ARE GONE!

PRaise Me TO HEAVEN FOR

**B**UT ALICE'S WORDS DIED UPON HER TONGUE AS SHE GAZED IN HORROR AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CAVERN.

**T**HAT, FRAMED IN THE OPENING WAS THE EVIL FACE OF MADAM THEIR TREACHEROUS GUIDE!



LISTEN, WHEN MAGUA FOUGHT WITH THE BRITISH, HE DRANK FIRE-WATER AND BECAME DRUNK. MUNRO HAD HIM TIED UP AND WHIPPED LIKE A DOG.

NOW MAGUA HOLDS THE DAUGHTERS OF MUNRO, TO KILL, IF HE PLEASES. BUT MAGUA WISHES GREATER REVENGE. HE WISHES THE DARK-HAIRED DAUGHTER OF MUNRO TO LIVE FOREVER IN HIS WIGWAM.

MONSTER! ONLY A FIEND WOULD THINK OF SUCH VENGEANCE!

SO THE DAUGHTER OF MUNRO IS TOO GOOD FOR MAGUA? HE WILL SEE.



AT A WORD FROM MAGUA, ALL THE PRISONERS WERE BOUND TO TREES TO BE TORTURED.



WILL THE DAUGHTER OF MUNRO LIKE TO SEE HER SISTER DIE?



**S**ARVELY, INDIAN HURLED HIS TOMAHAWK AT ALICE



**I**T CUT SOME OF THE RINGLETS FROM HER HAIR. MADDED BY THE SIGHT, DUNCAN TORE HIMSELF FREE.



**H**E RUSHED UPON A NINGO WHO WAS ABOUT TO REPEAT THE BLOW



**T**HE INDIAN SLIPPED FROM HIS HOLD, FORCED HIM BACKWARDS AND LIFTED HIS ARM TO STRIKE



**J**UST THEN, A DEADLY HURLE SHOT RANG OUT



**T**HE STARTLED MINGGES LOOKED UP TO SEE HARRETT AND THE TWO MOKIGANS.



**T**HE CONTEST WAS HARD TO HARD.



**S**OON ALL THE MINGGES WERE SLAIN EXCEPT FOR MUGGA, WHO, LIKE A CAT, LEAPED INTO A THicket AND DISAPPEARED.



**T**HE MEN HASTENED TO RELEASE THE SISTERS AND DAVID.



**T**HE PARTY LOST NO TIME IN MAKING ITS WAY TO FORT WILLIAM HENRY, WHERE THE GIRLS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR FATHER.

FOR THIS I THANK THEE, LORD! LET DANGER COME AS IT WILL, THY SERVANT IS NOW PREPARED.



THE WOODS ARE FULL OF FRENCH AND INDIANS, SIR. CAN THE FORT HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER?

I FEAR NOT. I AM EVEN NOW DUE AT A MEETING WITH OUR ENEMY, MONTCALM. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?



**T**HE OPPOSING ARMIES MET IN AN OPEN SPACE IN FRONT OF THE FORT.

I TRUST YOU HAVE COME TO TREAT FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE FORT.



THIS PROTRACTED SIEGE IS BEGINNING TO IRRITATE MY FRIENDS HERE. IT IS HARD TO RESTRAIN THEIR ANGER.

MAGNA! HE HAS FOUND HIS WAY TO OUR ENEMIES!



I OFFER LIBERAL TERMS: YOU AND YOUR GARRISON MAY LEAVE IN SAFETY AND HONOR.

I MUST ACCEPT YOUR TERMS, MONSIEUR DE MONTCALM.



**T**HE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE SILENT BRITISH ARMY MARCHED FROM THE FORT



I MUST RIDE WITH THE TROOPS BUT DAVID, HERE, WILL LOOK AFTER YOU



**T**HE COLUMN ENTERED THE FOREST WHERE A DARK CLOUD OF INDIAN SULLIES WATCHED THEIR PASSAGE



OH, CORN, IS THAT NOT MASHIA?

**A**T THAT MOMENT, MASHIA UTTERED AN APPALLING WHOOP MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND RAVING INDIANS BROKE FROM THE FOREST AND THREW THEMSELVES ON THE COLUMN



**T**HE GIRLS STOOD, HORROR-STRAUCK,  
WATCHING THE MASSACRE

THIS IS NOT A FITTING  
PLACE TO TARRY. LET  
US FLY!



**B**UT BEFORE THEY COULD ESCAPE, MAGUIR  
BLOCKED THE WAY

WILL THE DARK-HAIRED  
ONE NOW GO TO  
MAGUIR'S WYRRAM?

NEVER!



**M**AGUIR CAUGHT UP THE  
FAINTING FORM OF ALICE  
AND MOVED SWIFTLY AWAY

HOLD, WRETCH?  
WHAT IS IT  
YOU DO?



**C**ORA FOLLOWED  
WILDLY, ACCOMPANIED  
BY THE FAITHFUL DAVID



**M**AGUIR LED THE WAY TO A  
THicket WHERE TWO  
HORSES WAITED MOTIONING  
CORA TO MOUNT; HE PERMITTED  
HER TO HOLD HER SISTER THEN,  
SEEING THE BRIDE, HE  
PLUNGED DEEP INTO THE  
FOREST, STILL FOLLOWED BY  
THE PSALM-SINGER





THREE DAYS LATER, FIVE MEN WERE SEEN SEARCHING AMONG THE DEAD THAT LITTERED THE SILENT FOREST.

MY CHILDREN! GIVE ME MY CHILDREN!

WE WILL TRY TO FIND THEM, COLONEL MURDO.



THEY ARE CAPTIVES OF MAGAR, THEM, AND ARE HEADED NORTH I THINK WE CAN MOST EASILY FOLLOW BY CANOE



**H**ANKYTE LED THEM TO THE NEARBY SHORE OF LAKE GEORGE, WHERE A CANOE WAS HIDDEN. TAKING THEIR PLACES, THEY BEGAN TO PADDLE NORTHWARD.



**T**HEY CAME ASHORE NEAR THE NORTHERN END OF THE LAKE



WE SHOULD PICK UP THEIR TRAIL ABOUT HERE

**B**UT AFTER A DELIBERATE SEARCH...

THERE IS NOT A SIGN WE MAY NOT HAVE TAKEN THE PROPER SCENT



WELL I SEE, THE DARK-HAIRED ONE HAS GONE TOWARDS THE FROST

'T IS THE TRAIL! THE LAD IS QUICK OF SIGHT AND KEEN OF WIT



THE PARTY ADVANCED RAPIDLY SOON

YONDER IS OPEN SKY THROUGH  
THE TREE TOPS WE ARE GETTING  
NIGH AN ENCAMPMENT  
OF MANDOS.



THEY PRESSED AHEAD  
SUDDENLY

AN  
INDIAN?



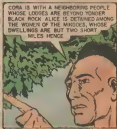
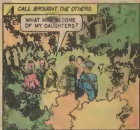
THE MP IS NOT A MINDO CAN  
YOU SEE WHERE HE HAS PUT  
HIS RIFLE OR HIS BOW?



HE APPEARS TO HAVE  
NO ARMS, NOR DOES  
HE SEEM VICIOUSLY  
INCLINED

I WILL CREEP IN  
BEHIND HIM AND  
TAKE HIM ALIVE.







YET IT IS A DANGEROUS PATH WE  
MOVE IN FOR A FRIEND WHOSE FACE  
IS TURNED FROM YOU OFTEN BEARS  
A BLOODY MIND.



WHAT'S TO  
BE DONE?

WE WILL LET DAVID  
RETURN TO THE  
MINDO CAMP AND  
TELL ALICE OF  
OUR APPROACH.



I WILL  
ACCOMPANY  
HIM?

ARE YOU SO  
TIRED OF  
SEEING THE  
SUN RISE  
AND SET?



I WILL PASS MYSELF OFF  
AS A WANDERING FRENCH  
MEDICINE MAN AND TRY TO  
EFFECT ALICE'S RESCUE.  
OR DIE.



VERY WELL. THE REST  
OF US WILL TRY TO  
THINK HOW BEST TO  
RELEASE COMA.



**D**UNGAN AND DAVID SET OUT AND SOON CAME TO THE WINDO CAMP



WE WILL HEAD FOR THE LODGE YONDER WHERE THE COUNCILS ARE HELD THE CHIEFS WILL WANT TO QUESTION YOU



**T**HEY ENTERED THE LODGE SOON A CHIEF APPROACHED



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM A MAN WHO KNOWS THE ARTS OF HEALING THE GREAT FRENCH FATHER SENDS ME TO YOU TO SEE IF ANY ARE SICK

**J**UST THEN, A SHILL YELL CAME FROM THE FOREST, ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF A SUCCESSFUL WAR PARTY



**T**HE INDIANS GLIDED FROM THE LODGE, FOLLOWED BY DAVID AND DUNGAN



**A** GAUNTLET WAS BEING PREPARED FOR A TALL AND ERECT WARRIOR WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN AS PRISONER



**I**NSTEAD OF RUSHING THROUGH THE HOSTILE LINES, THE PRISONER BOUNDED TOWARDS THE WOODS.



**B**UT HIS CAPTORS DROVE HIM BACK



**A**GAIN HE DARTED FOR THE WOODS, BUT SEEING HIS WAY BLOCKED, HE TURNED AND RAN TO A SMALL, PAINTED POST WHICH STOOD BEFORE THE COUNCIL LODGE



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ANY PRISONER WHO CAN REACH THAT POST IS PROTECTED UNTIL THE COUNCIL HAS MET AND DECIDED HIS FATE





**D**UNCAN WENT CLOSE TO THE PRISONER.

UNCAS!

THE OTHERS ARE SAFE.  
GO, WE MUST BE  
STRANGERS NOW.



**D**UNCAN LEFT AND WANDERED AMONG THE LODGES, LOOKING FOR ALICE. FAILING TO FIND HER, HE RETURNED TO THE COUNCIL LODGE. SOON

COME WITH ME, MEDICINE MAN  
I WISH YOU TO FRIGHTEN AWAY  
THE EVIL SPIRIT WHO LIVES  
IN MY DAUGHTER.



**T**HE CHIEF LED THE WAY TOWARDS THE BASE OF A NEARBY MOUNTAIN. SUDDENLY, A DARK FORM AROSE IN THEIR PATH.

A BEAR! I HAVE HEARD  
THIS ANIMAL IS OFTEN  
DOMESTICATED  
BY THE INDIANS.



**T**HE BEAR GROWLED AT DUNCAN'S HEELS, AND ONCE OR TWICE LAD ITS ENORMOUS Paws ON HIS PERSON.



**I** FOLLOWED DUNCAN AND THE INDIAN TO A CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINSIDE



**T**HEY ENTERED A ROOM WHICH WAS ONE OF MANY IN THE CAVE



NOW LET MY BROTHER SHOW HIS POWER. I GO

**D**UNCAN FOUND HIMSELF ALONE WITH THE SIDE WOMAN AND THE FRENCH BEAR.



HOW CAN I BEST PROTECT MYSELF IF HE ATTACKS?

**J**UST THEN THE ANIMAL'S HEAD FELL TO ONE SIDE.



HARVEY! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I SAW LUCAS LED INTO AMBUSH, SO I STARTED TO HIS AID. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, I MET A CONJURER OF THE TRIBE IN THE ACT OF DRESSING HIMSELF IN THIS BEARSKIN.



A WAP ON THE HEAD STIFFENED HIM FOR A TIME, AND I MADE FREE WITH HIS FURRY





**UNARMED, DUNCAN DREW ALICE TO HIM AND WAITED FOR HIS DEATH.**

"MINGO, DO YOUR WORST! YOU AND YOUR VENGEANCE ARE ALIVE DESPISED!"



**AT THAT MOMENT, THE BEAR APPEARED.**

"GO PLAY WITH THE CHILDREN! LEAVE MEN TO THEIR WISDOM!"



**BUT INSTEAD OF LEAVING, THE BEAR SUDDENLY ENCLOSED MINGO IN A NIGHTY GRASP.**



**QUICKLY, DUNCAN HELPED ALICE OVERPOWER AND TIE UP THE INDIAN.**



**THEN, LEAVING BY THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE MINGO HAD USED, THEY LED ALICE INTO THE WOODS.**



**WHEN THEY WERE SAFE**

FOLLOW THIS PATH TO THE  
FIRES OF THE DELAWARES  
AND ASK PROTECTION OF  
THEM I WILL STAY AND  
SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE  
FOR UNCAS.

**HAWKEYE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO A SMALL HUT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE.**

"IT IS THE  
SINGING-MASTER!"

**HE SLIPPED INSIDE**

DARK MONSTER, LISTEN  
TO THIS INSPIRED SONG  
AND REPENT



NEVER FEAR, IT IS HAWKEYE  
CAN YOU PUT ME ON THE  
SCENT OF UNCAS?





**T**HE CHANGE WAS QUICKLY MADE. HARRYE AND UNCAS LEFT THE HUT AND WALKED TOWARDS THE WOODS.



THE DEVILS ARE  
LOOKING INTO  
THE LODGE.

**L**OUD CRIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE DECEPTION HAD BEEN DISCOVERED.



NOW WE MUST  
GO QUICKLY.

**A**T THE LODGE, THE ENRAGED INDIANS WERE ABOUT TO STONE (KILL), WHEN A BURST OF SONG FROM HIM REMINDED THEM OF HIS SUPPOSED INFIRMITY.



**R**USHING OUT, THEY AROUSED THE VILLAGE.



**T**HE INDIANS GATHERED IN THE COUNCIL LODGE TO AWAIT INSTRUCTION FROM THEIR CHIEFS.



IS MAMLA  
NOT HERE?

HE WENT TO THE CAVE WHERE  
THE SICK ONE LIES, AND DID  
NOT RETURN.

WARRIORS WERE SENT TO THE CAVE WHERE THEY UNDED MAGUA AND BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE LODGE

WHERE ARE THE PRISONERS? LET THEM DIE!



AN EVIL SPIRIT BLINDED OUR EYES AND THEY ESCAPED

AN EVIL SPIRIT! NO, IT IS THE PALE-FACE DOGS THEY CALL HAWKEYE



THEY MAY HAVE GONE TO THE DELAWARES, WHO HOLD THE DARK-HAIRED ONE FOR ME. MAGUA WILL GO AND CLAIM WHAT IS HIS

MAGUA SET OUT WITH SOME WARRIORS, AND SOON REACHED THE DELAWARE CAMP

MAGUA IS WELCOME. WHAT DOES HE WISH?



MY YOUNG MEN HAVE DREAMED THEY SAW THE TRAIL OF PALE-FACES NIGH THE VILLAGE OF THE DELAWARES

THAT IS SO



DID MY BROTHER BEAT OUT THE DOGS?

IT WOULD NOT DO. THE STRANGER IS ALWAYS WELCOME





THE PALE-FACED  
ARE MY PRISONERS.  
I LOSE FOR  
MY OWN!

JUSTICE IS THE  
LAW OF THE  
DELAWARES TAKE  
YOUR PRISONERS  
AND DEPART



*CORA, ALICE, DUNCAN AND HARRIET WERE BRUGHT OUT CORA PUSHED TO THE FEET OF THE DELAWARE CHIEF.*

HAVE MERCY  
THERE IS ONE OF YOUR  
OWN PEOPLE WHO HAS  
NOT APPEARED BEFORE  
YOU BEFORE YOU LET  
THE WINGO DEPART IN  
TRIUMPH, HEAR HIM  
SPEAK.

LET HIM  
COME



*UNCAS WAS LED OUT*

WITH WHAT TONGUE  
DOES THE PRISONER  
SPEAK?

LIKE HIS FATHERS,  
WITH THE TONGUE  
OF A DELAWARE



I HAVE SEEN THE TRIBES OF THE DELAWARES  
SCATTERED LIKE BROKEN HERDS OF DEER BY  
THE PALE-FACED AND NOW HERE IS A  
DELAWARE WHO IS LIKE A DOG  
OF THE WHITE MEN



TAKE HIM AND  
DEAL WITH HIM!



**THE DELAWARES SPRANG SAVAGELY AT UNGAS. ONE TORE HIS SHIRT FROM HIS BODY.**



THE TORTOISE!  
THIS IS A GREAT  
CHIEF!



EVEN SO MY RACE IS THE  
GRANDFATHER OF NATIONS,  
THE TRIBE FROM WHOM  
YOU ARE DESCENDED

WHO ART  
THOU?



UNGAS, THE SON OF CHINGACHOOK. THE  
BLOOD OF THE TORTOISE HAS BEEN IN MANY  
CHIEFS, BUT ALL HAVE GONE BACK INTO THE  
EARTH FROM WHENCE THEY CAME EXCEPT  
CHINGACHOOK AND UNGAS

I THINK THE GREAT SPIRIT  
THAT YOU ARE FOND TO  
FILL MY PLACE AT THE  
COUNCIL-FIRE.



MY SON, DOES THE MINGO SPEAK THE TRUTH? HAD HE A CONQUEROR'S RIGHT OVER YOU?

HE HAD NONE. A SNARE WAS SET FOR ME, BUT I ESCAPED.

AND THE TALL PALE-FACE?

HE LAUGHS AT THE MINGO HE ALSO ESCAPED.

WHAT OF THE STRANGER AND THE WHITE MAIDEN THAT CAME INTO MY CAMP TOGETHER?

THEY, TOO, ESCAPED.

AND THE WOMAN THAT THE MINGO LEFT WITH MY WARRIORS?

SHE IS MINE? INDIAN, YOU KNOW THAT SHE IS MINE.

*UNCAS TURNED AWAY IN SORROW.*

IT IS SO.

MINGO, DEPART  
WITH YOUR  
PRISONER



UNABLE TO INTERFERE WITH  
STRICT TRIBAL LAWS OF  
HOSPITALITY, UNGAS  
WATCHED ANGSTFULLY

MINGO, LOOK AT THE SUN  
WHEN IT IS SEEN ABOVE  
THE TREES, THERE WILL  
BE MEN ON YOUR TRAIL.



UNGAS KEPT HIS EYES  
ON CONA UNTIL SHE  
WAS OUT OF SIGHT THEN  
HE WENT INTO A LODGE.



AN HOUR LATER, HE  
REAPPEARED,  
PAINTED FOR BATTLE



THE YOUNG WARRIORS OF THE DELAWARES FOLLOWED HIM  
IN HIS WALT DANCE



WHEN THE SUN WAS SEEN ABOVE THE TREES, A COUNCIL WAS HELD. AT THAT MOMENT

IS THIS A MINGO WHO DARES APPROACH?

NO, IT IS OUR OLD FRIEND, DAVID GARUT.



THERE IS SUCH HOWLING IN THE MINGO CAMP THAT I FLED. MAGUA HAS LEFT THE MAIDEN IN THE CAVE, AND HAS PUT HIMSELF AT THE HEAD OF HIS SERGES



WHAT SAYS HEEVEYE?

GIVE ME TWENTY MEN DUNCAN AND I WILL GO TO THE RIGHT ALONG THE STREAM CHINGACHOOK AND MINGO LIE CONGEALD THERE AND CAN JOIN US.



UNCAS, YOU DRIVE IN THE FRONT, THEN WE WILL WAY THE VELLAGE AND TAKE THE WOMAN FROM THE CAVE.



THOUGH NOT A MAN OF WAR, I WILL GO WITH YOU TO STRIKE A BLOW IN BEHALF OF THE MAIDEN.



**T**HE PARTIS SET OUT BEFORE LONG,  
HARRIET'S BAND WAS ATTACKED BY  
SOME MINGOS!



**J**UST THEN, CHINGACHOUK AND MURRO  
APPEARED

TAKE COMMAND,  
CHINGACHOUK!  
I AND MY WHITE  
BROTHERS WILL  
STRIKE ON FOR  
THE VILLAGE



**A**S THEY ADVANCED, THEY SAW MAGUA WITH  
TWO OF HIS WARRIORS!

IS THAT UGAS WHO  
RUSHES SO FEARLESSLY  
AFTER THE MINGOS?

HE WILL OUTDISTANCE  
THOSE WHO WOULD  
HELP HIM AND FIND  
HIMSELF ALONE



**H**ARRIET, DUNCAN AND DAVID  
FOLLOWED AS RAPIDLY AS  
THEY COULD

THEY APPROACH  
THE CAVE!



THEY FOLLOWED THE INDIANS THROUGH THE CAVE AND OUT THE SECRET PASSAGE



THEY HAVE CORA AND ARE DRAGGING HER WITH THEM

UNCAS WAS GARRING ON THE INDIANS WHEN CORA SUDDENLY SHOOK HERSELF FREE



KILL ME IF YOU WILL I WILL GO NO FURTHER!

MAGDA RAISED HIS ARROW



JUST THEN UNCAS APPEARED ABOVE THEM AND LEAPED FRANTICALLY AT MAGDA



AS MAGDA RECOILED, ONE OF HIS WARRIORS SLEW CORA



**UNCAS FELL PROSTRATE ON THE LEDGE AND  
MAGIA BURIED HIS KNIFE IN HIS BACK**



**BUT UNCAS ROSE, AND WITH HIS LAST BIT  
OF STRENGTH, STRUCK DOWN COOL'S  
BLINDLED!**



**AS UNCAS DIED, HARRY'YE, DUNCAN AND  
SAMMY APPEARED ON THE LEDGE ABOVE  
WITH A STONE, DAVID SLEW THE OTHER MINGO**



**MAGIA ATTEMPTED TO LEAP TO SAFETY  
HARRY'YE RAISED HIS RIFLE, IT POPPED  
OUT ITS CONTENTS AND MAGIA FELL  
LIFELESS OVER THE PRECIPICE**





***THE NEXT DAY FOUND THE DELAWARES A NATION OF MOURNERS. DELAWARE GIRLS STREWED FLOWERS ON THE GRAVE OF THE HIGH-SOULED AND COURAGEOUS CORA***



**FEAR NOTHING, NOBLE HADEN. THE GREAT WARRIOR, UPGAS, WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE ON YOUR TRIP TO THE GREAT SPIRIT. HE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM EVERY DANGER.**



***THE GRIEVING MURRO, ALICE, DUNCAN AND SANDY ROSE OFF TOWARDS THE PORTS OF THE BRITISH ARMY, LEAVING MURNETS AND CHINGACHOOK AT THE GRAVE OF UPGAS***



**HE WAS GOOD, HE WAS BRAVE. THE GREAT SPIRIT HAD NEED OF SUCH A WARRIOR AND HAS CALLED HIM AWAY!**

**HE HAS LEFT US, THE LAST WARRIOR OF THE WISE RACE OF THE MOHICANS.**



**THE END**

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# JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

**JAMES FENIMORE COOPER** was the first American novelist to achieve world wide fame. He was the son of William Cooper, who was descended from English Quakers.

During the American Revolution and shortly after, William Cooper and a partner bought up the rights to a grant of land on Otsego Lake in central New York State. After an autumn visit to survey the lonely new area, Cooper started to sell the land early in 1786. He was so successful that many settlers came before the snow had melted.

After several years of traveling back and forth between his New Jersey home and the wilderness, he decided to settle permanently in Cooperstown, his new village.

The youngest child in the family, James, was a little over a year old. He was born in Burlington, New Jersey on September 15, 1789. Many years later, James Cooper added Fenimore to his name. It was his mother's maiden name.

In 1803, James Cooper went to Yale. He remained there for three years. Then he went to sea for five years, first as a common sailor, then as a midshipman. In 1811, he married Susan Augusta De Lessey.



Cooper's first novel, *Precaution*, was published in New York City. It was about English society life, and was a complete failure. Cooper's friends urged him to change the setting of his books from an English locale to his native American scene. This advice was followed and the result was *The Spy*, which met with immediate public acclaim.

Having found the right background for his books, Cooper went to work and wrote *The Pioneers*. This was the first of five novels in which Leatherstocking, also called Natty Bumppo or Hawkeye, appears. These novels are sometimes referred to as the Leatherstocking tales. In addition to *The Pioneers* there are *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The Prairie*, *The Pathfinder* and *The Deerslayer*. Cooper once defined Leatherstocking as "a philosopher of the wilderness, simple-minded, faithful, utterly without fear and yet prudent."

James Fenimore Cooper died in 1851. Six months after his death, a public meeting was held in New York. Among those present were Daniel Webster, William Cullen Bryant and Washington Irving. They had gathered to pay their respects to the memory of James Fenimore Cooper, the first great American novelist.



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