



KUNTE KINTE AND BINTA

ner has seen the bush hen; and, thinking this is an easy meal, raises his flintlock. But Gardner misfires, burning his thumb and cursing. When Gardner and his entourage are safely in the distance, Kunta Kinte emerges from hiding to return to the camp.

The boys are engaged in wrestling matches when an exhausted Kunta arrives. Noting that he has returned without the prize of his hunt, Kintango begins to harangue Kunta. The harangue stops suddenly, however, when Kunta whispers that he has seen white men.

On the beach, Mr. Slater introduces Mr. Gardner to Captain Davis. Gardner attempts a price-raising maneuver by describing how hard it is to capture Blacks and transport them through the jungle. But Captain Davis won't stand for Gardner's gamemanship. "Monies will be discussed later. Can you capture and deliver one hundred and seventy healthy Blacks to the hold of the Lord Ligonier?" "Indeed, sir, I can."

Brima Cesay speaks to the boys gathered about him, telling them to be on guard against the white men and the Black traitors who could steal them away from their families forever. "Never be alone when you can help it. And if you are alone, stay away from high weeds of brush." Kunta and the boys listen carefully as Brima Cesay describes the signs of white men--their smell, their heavy footsteps.

will instruct them into manhood. Kunta, Sitafa and Kalilu listen intently, fearfully, while Kintango explains they will forever remain children, unable to marry, if they fail manhood training. Then, with sticks and yells, the boys are driven to huts where Kintango, overhearing Kunta tell Sitafa and Kalilu that he is not afraid, notes that Kunta Kinte may need more attention than usual.

Around a large evening fire, Kintango tells the boys how Mandinka warriors conduct war. "For a warrior, courage is not enough. The goal of war is to win; not kill. It is impossible to kill an enemy. You may end a man's life, but his son is now your enemy. The Mandinka way is life and peace." Kunta and the boys realize they will learn more than how to throw a lance or shoot an arrow. "Strength and compassion are not antithetical but complementary."

Full-rigged, the Lord Ligonier is at high sea. The hold has been outfitted with chains, manacles and shackles for the expected cargo. Captain Davies asks Mr. Slater how many men will fit in the hold. Informing the Captain that a few of the cargo will be women, Mr. Slater estimates one hundred and seventy or so. In his growing informality with Mr. Slater, Captain Davies expresses some of his doubts about the voyage and the cargo. Slater tries to show that the slavery of the Black breed is the natural order of things; indeed, the Blacks are better off for it. The cannibal heathens are being taken from the land of Allah and brought to salvation in Christianity. Captain Davies is uncertain about this but he makes all activity below deck the province of the experienced Mr. Slater.

In a jungle clearing, Kintango introduces the subject of wrestling to the boys who now face the bulky Wrestler. "The ability to wrestle with skill is the ability to uphold the honor of your village." There is only one way to learn to wrestle. "Who will be first?" Of all the boys, Kunta masters his fear and volunteers.

The Wrestler out-manuevers Kunta but Kunta, determined to learn the art, returns to confronts the Wrestler two more times. Concluding their third match, the Wrestler flips Kunta, throwing him back to the ring of boys around the clearing. It is plain that both the Wrestler and Kintango appreciate Kunta's determination

Later, Kunta Kinte is called from his hut. The Wrestler asks him about courage--the courage of the panther and the courage of the warthog. Kunta thinks a man should have the courage of the warthog which never retreats. The Wrestler reminds Kunta that, though hunters say the warthog is brave, the warthog usually ends up eaten by the hunters. Shocked, Kunta asks if the

Wrestler thinks he should have given up in the wrestling match today. "I can teach you many things, Kunta; but I cannot teach you courage. Not even a warthog's courage. That, you take with you wherever you go." Kunta turns in the dark; a smile building on his face.

With Sitafa and Kalilu, Kunta is out hunting. Overheard is a bush hen which Kunta is about to shoot with his bow and arrow when a snake crosses Kalilu's foot. The frightened Kalilu shouts and Kunta's arrow misses its mark. Kintango, who has been watching from the brush, enters questioning the boys about their hunt. Most of the other boys have already returned to camp and are cooking their game. Kalilu is obliged to explain how a snake caused him to scream, thus making Kunta foul his shot at a bush hen. Looking overhead, Kintango asks Kunta if that is the bush hen he missed. Kunta answers yes. "Do you think you can catch it?" Kunta answers yes. Kunta turns to go but Kintango makes him leave his bow behind. "I told you to catch the bird; not kill it." Kunta races through the jungle after the bird.

A seaman shouts "Land ho!" from the Lord Ligonier. With a sailor's pride, Captain Davies watches the approach of land from the deck. Mr. Slater promises that by this time tomorrow, Captain Davies will be walking on the shore of Africa.

Kunta is so busy watching the bird as he runs that he crashes through some brush and down a steep embankment into a girl his age named Fanta. Upon seeing that Kunta is unhurt and hot hostile, Fanta's father Kadi Touray introduces himself, his daughter and his wife. They are traveling to the village of Kerawong which, Kunta says, is one day's journey away. Kunta Kinte introduces himself as a warrior, but Kadi Touray tells him that he is not a warrior yet. Kunta realizes with an embarrassed groan that his fall down the embankment loosened his garment and has left him exposed. Fanta giggles. Kunta bids peace to the Touray family and continues his hunt.

Kunta fashions a lasso-snare with the belt of his garment and, spreading a few seed pods on the ground, devises a trap for the bush hen. He succeeds in capturing the bird but his triumph is only momentary. A sharp sound startles Kunta; and through the foliage, he can see the approach of the nightmare he has heard all his life; a red-haired white man named Gardner leading an entourage which includes an Arab, fifteen tied, Black slaves and four slatees (Black men who sell their Black brothers into slavery). Kunta watches with disbelief as Gardner whips the slaves.

With a squawk the bush hen struggles free of Kunta's grasp, flapping its way back onto the trail. Fearing he might be seen, Kunta does not reach for the bird. Gard-



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