

COMING HOME

TRAVELLING IN AN AMBULANCE WAS NOT UNUSUAL, BUT THIS TRIP WAS SPECIAL. I HAD BEEN ISOLATED FROM MY FOUR ^{OTHER} SISTERS AND BIG BROTHER FOR 366 DAYS, YES ONE YEAR AND A DAY.

IT MUST BE MIDDLE TO LATE SEPTEMBER. A BIT CHILLY OUTSIDE, THE AMBULANCE MEN WRAP A RED BLANKET OVER ME, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WOVEN FROM BARBED WIRE, AND WAS NOWHERE AS COMFY AS THE CROCHET ONES WITH HOLES IN. I AM DELIVERED HOME, HERE, THIS CAN'T BE HOME, ITS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BISCUIT TIN CONTAINS ALL MANNER OF THINGS, A TABLE & SIX CHAIRS, A SIDE BOARD, A PIANO (UPRIGHT) A THREE PIECE SUITE, A DOG NOW THATS DIFFERENT I HAVENT SEEN ONE OF THOSE, BUT BEST OF ALL AN OPEN FIRE ROARING AWAY IN THE GRATE, THATS WHY THEY CALL IT GRATE, BECAUSE IT IS. THE FIRE GUARD SEEMS TO BE MADE OUT OF SOLID BRASS, BUT UPON CLOSER INSPECTION HAS TINY HOLES LEFT BETWEEN THE WEAVE, I SWEAR YOU COULD HAVE WATCHED AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN THROUGH IT, WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE TO ^{YOUR} EYES, AND MY BED PLACED UNDER THE WINDOW, NOT IN FRONT OF, BUT NEXT TO THE FIRE.

HOMER! THIS IS THE WOMAN WHO CAME TO SEE ME EACH NIGHT, BUT WHOLES MUM? I BEGIN TO CRY FOR HER, THE WOMAN TELLS ME ITS ALRIGHT AND THAT SHE'S MY MUM, I KNOW SHE'S NOT SHE DOESN'T WEAR A HAT OR UNIFORM LIKE MY MUM.

UNBETKNOWST.

UNBETKNOWINGLY TO ME, MY ELDEST SISTER, DAWN, HAD SEEN THE AMBULANCE ARRIVE AND HASTELY ASKED THE TEACHER IF SHE COULD POP HOME TO SEE ME, (WE LIVED OPPOSITE THE SCHOOL), SHE ARRIVED ALMOST AS SOON AS THE AMBULANCE MAN LEFT. A YOUNG WOMAN WEARING A UNIFORM, "I WANT TO GO HOME, PLEASE LET ME GO HOME NURSE." SHE LOOKED TAKEN ABACK TEARS FLOODED HER EYES, WE WERE ALL CRYING, SH. DAWN GAVE ME A CUDDLE AND SAID "YOU ARE HOME SHALUKI."