

CHOES OF KERNE



The Hope of Nakfa

Metkel Ghirmay

A Story of Resilience



The rugged, stony mountains of Nakfa stand tall against a deep blue twilight sky, their peaks hiding the secret paths of those who fight for freedom. Deep within the earth, narrow trenches wind like life-lines through the rocky terrain, sheltering the brave souls within.



Inside a cold and cramped trench, Aman and Sara sit close together to keep warm against the biting night air. Their faces are weathered by the long struggle, yet their eyes remain bright with an unbreakable spirit and quiet determination.



High above, the low, menacing hum of enemy planes vibrates through the air, casting long shadows over the mountainside. The two fighters remain silent and still in the heavy darkness, waiting for the danger to pass as the stars begin to peer through the clouds.



Aman carefully breaks a small, dry piece of Kitcha bread, offering half to Sara with a steady and kind hand. It is a humble meal shared in the silence, but in this moment, it represents their shared strength and the bond of their survival.



Aman turns to Sara, his voice a quiet whisper that cuts through the freezing night air. He asks her what she dreams of doing once the long war is finally over and their land is finally free and independent.



Sara gazes up at the vast canopy of stars twinkling above the narrow trench walls, her expression softening with a beautiful dream. She tells Aman that she will become a teacher, dedicating her life to the children of their nation.



In her mind's eye, the ruins of destroyed buildings transform into vibrant, sunlit schools filled with the sounds of learning and laughter. She imagines herself standing at a chalkboard, passing on the history of their people's courage to the next generation.



Aman listens and smiles, a rare and hopeful expression that lights up his face even in the shadows of the trench. He realizes they are not just defending the soil beneath them, but protecting the dreams of children yet to be born.



The long, freezing night begins to fade as a golden sunrise touches the high peaks of Nakfa, symbolizing a new beginning for a nation that never kneeled. The cold of the trenches is slowly replaced by the warmth of a promise kept and a future secured.



Years later, a bright and modern classroom in Eritrea is filled with eager students listening to their teacher with wide eyes. The hope that was born in the dark trenches of Nakfa has become a radiant reality, lighting up the path for the entire country.