

## Under the Hawthorn Tree

Dear diary...

I am so happy to be at Castletaggart at Nano and Lena's house. I am so relieved to find that they are not dead once we got there. We got some food, tea and jam so I am so full up now.

After we ate, we told Nano and Lena what struggles we had getting here. We told them it took us about a month to get here and we had had to stop at many places to get food and drink. I was worried all the time about getting injured. I did get injured crossing the river. I cut my leg on the jagged rocks and fell into the water. At another time Peggy got bitten by a group of dogs on the way. So, then I went over to the dogs and killed them with a short, thick branch of a tree to save Peggy. Then we went to the Soup kitchen and we were given soup. We did not really like it, but we ate it anyway because it was the only food we had.

Along the journey we found a cow to get a drink. Eily asked me what was I going to do? I bled her. Firstly I patted the cow on the neck, then I rubbed my hand down the front and back of the cow to find a vein then I searched until I found a likely one. Eily passed me the blade. Then I made a nick in the finer skin under the neck, but nothing happened. So, I deepened the cut and a dot of blood appeared.

During my long walk it was hot and dry, and we were thirsty and warm, tired and exhausted then we found a tree and went under it to cool down and rest. We were thirsty and warm on our journey. Our mouths were dry. Even though we could see the sea in the distance. We quenched our thirst by chewing grass and eating fruit. One day we found muddy water, but we drunk it because it was all we had, and we were so thirsty. Some days we could smell the smoke, so we covered our mouths and noses with rags.

We felt so scared all of the time as we kept worrying about all the sounds of animals. We jumped when we heard an owl.

I am so happy to be with our great aunts now, but what has happened to our mummy and daddy? We miss them.

Michael