



Little Pebble
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Speedy Legs'
Dangerous Journey



By Lara

Little Pebble & Speedy Legs'

Dangerous Journey

By Sara

Preface:

This story is about the Nez Perce Indians. The main characters Speedy Legs and Little Pebble are siblings that go on an unexpected journey. The story takes place in the 1700's around current day Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

The Story Begins

"Hurry up, you slow poke!" yelled Speedy Legs.

"I am!" replied Little Pebble.

It was a cool autumn evening and Speedy Legs and Little Pebble were heading home from playing pinecone games.

"Wow, I won the game *and* I'm beating you at the race to home?!" exclaimed Speedy Legs.

"Not for long!" said Little Pebble as she raced ahead of him.

"There you two are! I was starting to get worried that the Shoshone Indians kidnapped you!" said Ma sarcastically.

Little Pebble and Speedy Legs giggled.

"What's for dinner, Ma?" asked Little Basket "I'm starving!" "I'm preparing an elk that grandpa shot today right now, and then we'll have some roots and berries with it." said Ma. "It won't be ready for a while, though, so why don't you find some nuts outside for a snack?"

"Okay, Ma!" Speedy Legs and Little Pebble said.

Speedy Legs and Little Pebble went outside and started to look for nuts. They quickly found some and went back inside.

"Well, that was quick!" exclaimed Ma.

"I know!" replied Little Pebble.

Little Pebble sat down on the dirt, and Speedy Legs did the same, both happily munching on their pinyon nuts.

Suddenly they heard a loud crash, followed by a scream.

"Attack!" shouted someone outside.

Ma said "Quick, follow me! I'll lead you to safety."

Little Pebble and Speedy Legs were terrified, so they did as told. Ma led them to a small room at the back of their cliff shelter that the siblings had never seen before. It was very dark in the room, so Ma lit a fire. Now Little Pebble and Speedy Legs could see that the room had some dried meats in it, along with some supplies to make a fire. There was also some water and other items to survive.

"What is this place?!" asked Little Pebble.

"Since when did we have this room?" questioned Speedy Legs.

"This is our emergency hideout." said Ma. "We've always had it."

"Really?!" asked Little Basket. "I've never noticed it- ever!"

"Yeah, me neither," replied Speedy Legs.

"That's the point! If the enemy tribe invades our house, they won't be able to find us, no matter how hard they tried." explained Ma.

Just then, they heard some noise in the house.

"Freeze and be quiet!" whispered Ma in a stern voice.

"What if it's grandpa?" asked Speedy Legs, obviously still frightened. "It should be about time for him to be back from hunting with the other men of the tribe!"

"Stay here, I'll go check," demanded Ma.

Seconds later, they heard screaming.

"Ma!" shouted Little Pebble and Speedy Legs, disobeying the rule to be quiet.

Suddenly, there was complete quietness, so Little Pebble and Speedy Legs didn't know what to think.

Little Pebble asked Speedy Legs "Should we come out and look around to see if any more enemies are out there?"

"Yeah, but I'm going first. If nobody's there, I'll tell you to come out," said Speedy Legs

When Speedy Legs went out, it looked like nothing had happened, as if everything was untouched.

“Kay, you can come out!” said Speedy Legs.

“Positive?” asked Little Pebble in a high-pitched voice.

Speedy Legs looked around.

“Yep, positive!” he replied. The door squeaked. Speedy Legs saw Little Pebble’s small face peak through the door, a scared look on her face. She came out and looked around.

“That’s odd!” Little Pebble said. “Everything is in place- it’s as if it was a dream!”

Speedy Legs climbed out of his earth house’s ladder, Little Pebble followed. They looked around the village. They’d never seen anything so devastating in their lives! All their horses were gone, many people were injured, and many of their houses were damaged. The only things that remained were a few old tumbleweeds.

“Oh my gosh...” said Little Pebble.

“I know,” replied Speedy Legs

“Where’s Ma?” asked Little Pebble

“I don’t know. They probably kidnapped her. We’ve gotta start looking,” said Speedy Legs

“Okay,” said Little Pebble in a tiny voice.

“Well, the sooner, the better,” said Speedy Legs.

After Speedy Legs and Little Pebble were finished packing, Little Pebble slipped away and came back quickly and quietly.

“I’m ready!” she called.

After several hours in their journey, they heard twigs breaking in the thick forest.

“Freeze and be quiet,” whispered Speedy Legs.

A young boy that looked younger than Speedy Legs but older than Little Pebble walked out from behind a tree.

“Do not worry, I will not hurt you. I am a Flathead Salish Indian. My name is Black Raven.”

“Oh, you scared us!” said Little Pebble.

“Sorry about that. You scared me too! I heard voices and got scared,” said Black Raven.

“So, why are you way out here?” asked Black Raven.

“Well, our tribe was invaded by the Shoshone tribe. Our Ma was kidnapped. We’re searching for her,” replied Speedy Legs.

“Hey, why are you out here?” asked Little Pebble.

“The Salish got invaded too by the Shoshone. My baby sister got kidnapped,” answered Black Raven.

“What about your parents?” asked Little Pebble.

“Ma went out picking berries, and Pa died eight full moons ago. Right now, I don’t even know if I have a mother,” stated Black Raven.

“That’s too bad,” said Little Pebble.

"Hey, wanna join me?!" asked Black Raven.

"Great idea!" said Speedy Legs.

After what seemed like forever, they reached what they soon realized was the Shoshone's tribal ground.

Since it was very late, Little Pebble pulled off her sack. She got some dried meat out and divided up the rations.

After they ate, Little Pebble, Speedy Legs, and Black Raven decided that they would sleep just outside of the Shoshone tribal ground, then go back in the morning.

At about 3:00 in the morning, Little Pebble, Speedy Legs, and Black Raven went onto the tribal ground. They looked in a Shoshone Indian's teepees. Everyone was sleeping. They looked in another home. Again, everyone was in bed. They looked in nearly all of the houses, and nobody was the baby sister of Black Raven or Little Pebble's and Speedy Leg's Ma. They had lost track of time, and just as they got to the last house, someone from behind said "who are you?"

Speedy Legs turned around; Little Pebble and Black Raven did the same. They looked up and saw the tribe's chief standing over them.

"Uh, um, er..." said Speedy Legs.

Just then, two men walked up behind the chief.

"Get 'em and put em' with the others!" commanded the chief.

The men grabbed Little Basket and Black Raven and the chief got Speedy Legs. Little Pebble started undoing her braid. The boys were

very confused. Then they saw it, a black arrowhead sticking out of her braid. She grabbed it. She stabbed the man that was carrying her in the eye. He dropped her and started yelling and cursing. Before the other man and the chief could react, Little Basket cut them in the backs. The Shoshone fell to the ground in pain. Black Raven and Speedy Legs jumped out of the men's grip. They looked in the last teepee; sure enough there was Ma and Black Raven's sister, Falling Rain, sitting there tied to a log with some other people.

"Ma!" shouted Little Pebble and Speedy Legs.

"Oh my! I thought I'd never see you again!" exclaimed Ma.

"Falling Rain!" yelled Black Raven.

"Ba-Bo," said Falling Rain, Black Raven's two year old sister.

Everyone laughed. Little Pebble quickly cut everyone free.

"Thank you!" said everyone as they got untied.

They ran out of the teepee toward to the horses. They took the horses that were theirs and cut the other horses free and scared them off. They got on their horses and quickly rode off. Just as they were leaving the Shoshone chief got help, and got up just in time to hear "Bye". As everyone was riding home, Little Pebble held up the arrowhead and said, "I knew this would come in handy."