

## The Captured - Reading Guide

Thesis and evidence

Big issues / events / characters

Experiences of the captured children

Treaties

Be sure to take good notes of the prologue "The Trail," and the epilogue "The Trail Fades"

### Prologue: The Trail

- Adolph Korn (1895) is what the headstone the guy found read
- He realized that it was his own family. There was "an old yarn" his family had told about Adolph being captured by Indians, and nobody knew the details exactly. Each of his family members said something different. The narrator is in the Texas Hill Country, between the Llano and James Rivers, just south of Mason. Him and his buddies grew up in this area that is rich in Native American history and tales.
- The narrator calls up the town historian and asks why Adolph wasn't buried with the rest of his family, and he says "well, Adolph was always a little strange". This spikes his interest, and he decides he wants to find out information, at least enough to give him a decent headstone
- "White Indians" are what people would call children who were kidnapped by Indians and raised in that way of life. Many of these captured children ended up resisting rescue attempts; they preferred the Indian lifestyle. Even after they were forced to return to their original families, they would still act like Indians
- Adolph, like many Indians, went relatively untraced, so there wasn't a lot of info on him, so narrator kid turns to the documented things of other children who were captured around the same time
- He left notes for relatives, crashed family reunions, anything to find out information about his Uncle Adolph because people were alive that knew him, and knew of him. Responses came pouring in, and he soon began to learn a lot
- He visited the Comanche tribe in Oklahoma to learn about their way of life
- He decided that he wouldn't let these captured children, including his uncle, to have their stories be lost.

### Chapter 1

- Adolph and his twin brother Charlie Korn are herding sheep out in the open as Indians (they didn't think they were Indians as they were approaching) rode towards them. They only spoke German
- Three Apache men rode up, and Charlie was able to hide. One of them caught Adolph, whacked him over the head with a pistol, then took him away.
- This was the worst and the last in a series of disasters during their 10 year bout with the Texas frontier. Apparently their decision to move there was a terrible one
- He says "For all its delicate beauty, the Texas Hill Country is an unexpectedly harsh land"
- Grandpa, Louis Jacob Korn, moved around a lot after arriving in America. He ended up being a baker before finally moving to Texas to try out his hand at ranching
- Charlie and Adolph are twins, and their Momma married Grandpa when she was 21 after the death of Grandpa's wife.
- They moved from San Antonio to Mason country, where their new living conditions sucked compared to the city
- The immigrants' dwellings at the time were crudely made log cabins of one-two rooms. The walls were weak and didn't do a great job of protecting from the cold. The floors were hard-packed dirt. The thatched roofs leaked.
- Their diets consisted of whatever they could take off the land, deer, turkey, rabbits etc.
- The Korn children didn't attend school because there wasn't any.
- The youngsters spent almost every day carrying out tedious and repetitive chores
- Grandpa Korn had invested \$1,200 in cattle-his life savings-and never got a dollar back. Failure in the cattle business was a result of the Civil War. They lost their biggest consumer - the federal army
- Living conditions plummeted during the Civil war. The Korns were desperate. Grandpa Korn ended up having to raise sheep. They lived like mighty sorry white trash
- The threat of Indian raids where they moved were worse because they were so spread apart
- The Indian's scalped their victims, killing the young and old alike
- Many people who moved to Texas hated it, but were trapped there by poverty.
- 5 murders in the little community of Saline in one year.
- Clinton Smith was a white Indian captive, and he said sometimes they'd scare settlers and watch them run just for fun.
- Comanches and Kiowas were the main Indians attacking and kidnapping
- One man accidentally shot his own son, thinking he was an Indian
- Many families gave up and left, including the Korns
- Adolph was taken, and everyone frantically looked for him. It was the Apaches that took him, on New Year's Day. As a captive, Adolph was property of the man who abducted him. His owner traded him for stuff. He fell off a horse and hurt his leg, and they wanted to kill him but a woman saved him
- His father searched high and low, reported his kidnapping, and had the government look for him even
- Grandpa's wife was mad and decided they'd been on the frontier too long. They packed up and went to San Antonio.

### Chapter 2

- Adolph roamed the land with the Comanches.
- **Treaty with German-Texan forefathers in 1947**
  - WE are the Promise of our Ancestors, we agree to uphold the Treaty of Peace made between the people of Fredericksburg and the Comanche nation. We are not afraid of war; we choose peace. We shall walk blah blah blah all about keeping the peace.
  - The signers are people who wanted to tolerate and coexist with one another
- The bond of friendship between the Comanches and German settlers hadn't been bad
- Comanche German treaty is remarkable, unique
- The federal government didn't own Texas, so they couldn't help the Comanches get the boundaries they wanted
- The Germans traded with the Comanches, which saved them, else they might have starved
- The Germans had plans to settle all this land - land belonging to Comanche hunting grounds
- The Germans saw white men the Indians had caught. One was a man, who loved living with the Comanches, refusing to return with the Germans. Also, a little white boy
- **Comanche-German agreement**
  - The Germans were free to visit any part of the land grant between Llano and San Saba Rivers
  - The Comanches were free to visit the German communities
  - The Comanches wouldn't disturb the fledgling German settlement on Llano River
  - They would help each other fend off marauding tribes and bring criminals to justice
  - The Comanches would allow the Germans to survey the uninhabited parts of the Grants
  - The Germans would give the Comanches \$3,000 worth of presents
  - Both sides would work to maintain peaceful relations
- The Comanches main concern was land, not separation because of race or skin color
- **Ferdinand von Roemer**
  - The only observer who took a clear-eyed, unsentimental look at the Comanches' prospects for the future
- The Comanches and Germans were getting along great
- Everything went to shit, and they started killing each other
- **Rudolph Fischer and Adolph Korn:** two main white boys taken and made Comanche warrior men
- **Dot and Banc Babb, Herman Lehmann, and Clinton and Jeff Smith:** The children who shared their stories
- Dot and Banc Babb spoke admiringly about their captors
- Reasons the Southern Plains Indians took women and children captive
  - Commercial: Used for trade, or held as ransom
  - Adoption: Captives would be used to replace family members who had died, or just build up the tribes' population.
  - If the captives proved their worth and were adopted, they were granted full tribal rights and treated as natural-born Native Americans
- They took children between the ages of 7 and 14
- They liked young boys because they could ride, and become warriors to help them in battle
- Banc lived with a Comanche group
- Tekwashana became Banc's adopted mother
- Banc had a lot of free time, playing with kids and learning to ride horseback
- Dot traveled with his Comanches, and was eventually placed with Watchoedadda
- Dot went into training to be a warrior
- The children commented on how easy it was to assimilate to the Comanche life, culture, and food
- Persummy trained Dot
- *A day as a Comanche man: breaking wild horses, hunting deer and buffalo, practicing with his bow and arrow, and lounging around the camp. The manual labor was left to the women*
- Dot's final stage of training to be a warrior was in an actual battle. He was told to shoot a man and he did
- A man came to the Comanche village asking for Banc back. Her Comanche mother, Tekwashana, was extremely upset. Dr. Sturm was the man who got Banc. He found her, and took her.
- They found Dot, and negotiated his release. he said he wanted to go back to Texas with his father. It was really hard for him to leave
- Dot and Banc were the only captives who willingly when back with their white families, cause they weren't gone as long as the other captives
- **Their stories show how rapidly the child captives could aquire the ways of their captives**

#### Chapter 4

- Quahada Comanches: Adolph Korn, Rudolph Fischer
- The October 1867 treaty between the Comanches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Kiowa-Apaches was the last great Indian council of its type. The gathering was huge at Medicine Lodge

- The Treaty said that the Indians had to go to reservations, and stop roaming. Give up their extensive hunting territory, and couldn't settle permanently off their reservation. The commission was basically asking the Indians to stop being Indians
- This treaty Of Medicine Lodge didn't stop the Texas raids
- Raids weren't for vengeance, it was just as much part of their culture as buffalo hunting, constructing teepees, or wearing moccasins
- The main purpose of a typical raid was **horse gathering**
- Raids were also a right of passage. No one would respect him till he brought back some horses, a scalp, or captive from a raid
- The settlers were vulnerable to attacks at anytime, not just during the few seasons as rumored
- **Gen. William T** blamed the settlers for tempting and making it easy to raid
- **Legion Valley**: not a town or a village, smaller than Castell. Betsey Johnson was being pulled in too many directions: nurse, caretaker, mom, etc. She and a bunch of ladies went to a friends house. An Indian was there to steal a pony! Indians (15 of them) charged the house, and this chick Matilda fought back, and got shot, and then they scalped her and stabbed her while she faked being dead, and they stole the children and other women. She got back to a friends house, and they ran and hid while they left her alone to die.
- The Indians had 7 captives from this raid. A baby started crying, so an Indian bashed its head open on a tree
- The women were raped and tormented
- They slit another baby's throat because they didn't need to travel with an infant
- Men from the community went out on a search party. They found the bodies of the murdered
- All the adults had been murdered, and they found all the bodies. They think the two children are still alive!
- They'd ride a horse until it fell from exhaustion, then cut it open and eat it raw
- The two children's names are Minnie and Temple
- Minnie and Temple were sent to the stream to get water, and they got into an argument and Temple hit Minnie in the stomach. When they got back to camp, they were taken to a tent, and an indian grabbed Temple by the hair and told them he was going to cut off his head for hitting Minnie! They pleaded, and he was saved
- Apparently the man was just fooling with them.
- They were separated at one point and sent to different Comanch groups
- The story of Temple's time with the tribes has been lost
- Minnie was treated great by the Indian women. She always spoke well of her captors. She said the Indians were real jokesters
- Minnies only spend half a year with the Comanches, like Banc ad Dot.
- The Indians began surrendering their white captive children for badly needed supplies
- The children often justified their family's murders after assimilating into Indian life

#### Chapter 5

- Many people said the claims of the Texas frontier families were false - that they were lying about the scalplings, attacks and killings
- Herman Lehmann was the last white Indian to roam the Southern Plains
- Herman was the older of the two brothers captured, and he was tested severely by the Indians on his shooting and riding capabilities
- The younger brother, Willie, fared better.
- Herman and Willie were in the hands of the Apaches, which no one suspected
- Willie fell off the back of a horse as they escaped from some cowboys, and Herman didn't see his brother again for 8 years
- He eventually made it back to his home, and told his parents that Herman had been taken on
- Herman got away from the Apaches, and was lost in the wilderness. So, he figured if he chased them down to follow them they might be pleased that he didn't escape. Instead, they took him and punished him by tying him to a pole all night
- Carnoviste, Herman's captor, adoped him. His new name was "Edna" (White Boy)
- Herman's jobs were fetching the man's horse, bringing him food, washing his feed, painting his body, catching lice for him, lighting his pipe. He pounded corn, skinned game, built fires, carried water, and hauled off dung from the camp.
- His new father taught him to ride wild ponies and jump on a horse as it ran by. He was trained to use a shield. He was beginning to be treated like an Indian instead of one of their slaves
- The same Indians that captured Herman and Willie returned to their home and stole some stuff. Their family hid inside, and Herman's mom shot two of the Indians. Not killing them, but wounding. One of the ones that she shot was Herman's adopted father, Carnoviste. Herman was beat for this, and was told that they killed his entire family
- There were only really 3 times that the male captive children were abused
  - Initiation by hazing
  - Punishment
  - Vengeance for injuries and killings by the white men