

# *Nizhoni* By: Katie Huang

## *A Navajo Cinderella*

Once upon a time there was a Navajo girl named Nizhoni. Her dad had multiple wives because in Navajo, their religion allows it. Her dad was a silversmith, her mom was a weaver, and she was a weaver's apprentice. Her job was to untangle the thread, but when she watched her mom and she taught herself how to weave with her hands. Her family lived happily before the 1864's. One day, she had heard the Americans were moving westward into the tribe's territory. She also heard Americans killed 30 indian men in a horse race! When she and her friends were playing Na'azhozh. Hoop and Pole Game Most popular traditional Navajo Game played. Played with a hoop wrapped in a sheep hide, that is rolled on the ground, then a decorated stick or pole is tossed into the hoop while it is in motion and the participants try to toss as many sticks or poles into the hoop and whoever gets the most is the winner. Suddenly, american soldiers came and made them walk to Bosque Redondo, where their new reservation was located.

On the way to the reservation, many Native Americans died, including Nizhoni's mother. So, one of the other wives had to take care of her. The mother

who was supposed take care of her had two twins, Nakoma and Nukpana. The twins took advantage of that. The twins didn't do their own chores, instead they gave Nizhoni their chores! When they arrived at the reservation there was a lack of firewood, clean water, and there wasn't even rich soil! Soon, the chief declared a new rule, you can't kill a sheep unless it is an emergency because there isn't enough resources. Right after that the twins tried to kill a sheep, but Nizhoni stopped them. At night, the twins and their mom slept in a hogan, and Nizhoni slept outside. Surprisingly, the sheep Nizhoni saved repaid by giving her his wool.

"Thank you," replied Nizhoni.

That happened for two month. One day, Kaat'áan, the chief's son, told everyone:

"I'm hosting a ceremony for a better life."

The twins and stepmother got dressed.

"Can I go to the ball," asked Nizhoni.

"Isn't that foolish," said Nukpana. Nakamo nodded while holding back giggles.

"Sure you may," said the stepmother.

The twins gasped. Nizhoni was so excited.

"But, you have to harvest all the corn," she finished.

The twins and the stepmother stole all her weavings, and made them into dresses. As they rode off, Nizhoni started weeping. Magically the sheep appeared and gave her a huge bundle of corn. Nizhoni finally realized the corn was all the corn in the fields. She realized she didn't have any clothes.

*"I don't have any clothes," Nizhoni told the sheep.*

*The sheep wrote on the soil with her hoof:*

## *I NEED ONE THREAD OF STRING*

*Nizhoni fetched one strand of string, and watched as he turned the string into a beautiful cloak. Then the sheep wrote:*

## *ONE RODENT*

*She fetched a rodent and the sheep turned into an snowy, white horse.*

*Nizhoni gasped, horses were not common now that they moved to the reservation, Fort Sumner. She rode to the ceremony when she got there they were getting ready to pray.*

*After praying, the Naat'áan came and said hi to Nizhoni. They talked for an hour, the twins were watching and were jealous.*

*Nizhoni ran home before the ceremony ended. She hid all her clothes and material for the praying ceremony. When the twins came back they told Nizhoni all the "fun" they had.*

*"The Naat'áan loved us," they lied.*

*But, Nizhoni knew that wasn't the case.*

*The next day the sheep wrote on the ground:*

*Today is the second day, I can't help you on the fourth day*

*Nizhoni nodded. She wished the sheep had told her earlier. She thought of an idea. She started right away she had no time to spare. She went to the ceremony, the twins tried to get the Naat'áan, Naat'áan, to hang out with them, but the chief*

and his son reminded them this wasn't for marriage. When saw the mysterious girl in a more beautiful outfit with the Naat'áan Nakoma and Nukpana got more jealous. During the night, the sheep wrote on the ground Nizhoni:

I'm not going to be here for the whole other part of the ceremony your on your own.

The next morning, she goes to the third day of the ceremony they pray once again. The twins spy on "the mysterious girl" with the Naat'áan. The thorns and spikes

"I heard your mom died in the long walk, and you live with two sisters. Is that correct," he asked raising an eyebrow.

"That is..." as she saw her sisters' shadows follow them.

Before she could finish she rode away on her horse.

"WATTI DIDNTCATCH YOUR NAME," the Naat'áan screamed after her.

When he walked back to the hogan she spotted one of Nizhoni's gorgeous, precious moccasins. After the ball, the stepmother and the twins locked Nizhoni into their storage hogan. The twins found Nizhoni's clothes, and the twins were fighting over who should wear it. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

Naat'áan was there and said, "There isn't going to be a praying ceremony."

The twins nodded. Nizhoni heard that and she was glad.

After a day, Naat'áan came back and told them if the moccasin fit he would marry him. The moccasin was way too small for the twins. The prince walked out disappointedly. When he saw the snowy, white horse trotting around the storage room, he opened the door and found Nizhoni clutching the other moccasin. Nizhoni told Naat'áan the whole story, excluding the magical sheep.

*"Oh," he said.*

*Nizhoni lived with Naat'áan and huddled together to keep warm.*

*The next morning they learned the whole tribe could move back to Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, their native land. When Nizhoni got there the sheep was there waiting for her. They had a wedding and had a big celebration because they got to move back to a place with great resources. The two twins married Naat'áan's brothers. The whole tribe*

*came to the festival (the marriage) and ate delicious, fresh food the chief prepared. Naat'áan became the chief and everyone lived happily ever after.*

***THE END***



# Jamaican Cinderella

By: Sri Ravella

Once upon a time in Kingston, Jamaica a girl's mother died of sickness. The girl's name was Adelaide. Her father married the meanest and ugliest lady in Kingston. She had to call her Belme (Belme means stepmother). She had one ugly daughter her name was Kares, she was now her step sister. Adelaide's beauty brought jealousy to her Belme so she made her do all the chores. Adelaide asked her father to not do all the chores but he said he couldn't do that because Belme ruled over him completely. A few years passed and her father passed away from sickness. Belme still made her do all the chores and her stepsister still treated her like a maid.

One day the Prime Minister's son decided that he wanted to marry someone. He made a festival for every lady in town. Once Belme and Kares found out they immediately went shopping for Kares and bought the most beautiful dresses they could find. They also asked Adelaide since she was pretty and she knows about fashion. Adelaide made Kares' hair and ironed her dress that she chose to wear. Adelaide really wanted to go to the festival so she asked Belme if she could borrow a fine dress to go to the festival. Belme laughed at her and said, "Why would I give you a dress ugly girl." Adelaide felt sad inside and felt like crying.

Belme took Kares to the festival with some food while Adelaide was crying outside of Belme's house. Just then a holy pret appeared (pret means priest). He said, "What do wish for young child." and Adelaide answered, "I wish to go to the festival that the prime minister's son set up." The holy pret nodded his head and used his magic to change Adelaide's rags into a beautiful dress and put the a ring on her finger. Then, he asked, "What will you go there with." and before I could answer he made a chariot with a coach and horses with 5 pumpkins, 4 bricks, and 15 watermelons. The Holy pret also said, "remember the magic wears out by midnight."

Adelaide went to the festival but when she got there she realized that everybody was looking at her and admiring her beauty. The prime minister's son came up to Adelaide and said, "my name is Vladimir, would like to dance with me." and Adelaide said, " I would love to my lord." Everybody gasped of surprise. Adelaide danced and danced until she wanted to see Belme so she went up to Belme and Belme said, "who are you?" but Adelaide said, "I can't tell you that."

She was too busy dancing she forgot that she was supposed to go by midnight so she remembers and runs as quick as she can but she drops the ring on her finger. Vladimir chased her and yells, "I want to marry you.". Vladimir was so sad that he didn't have a

chance to marry her but he finds the ring she dropped and figured out a plan so he tells the royal guard to go through every young lady there to see if the ring fits them and to spread the word out for everybody to know. The word also spread to Belme and Kares.

The royal guard searched many homes through Kingston but the ring didn't fit on any young lady. Once the guard reached Adelaide's home 1 month has passed since the festival. At Adelaide's home Adelaide asked Belme if she could try the ring but Belme stood quiet and locked Adelaide in the attic. When the royal guard arrived he said, "are there any young ladies in this house". Belme said, "why yes my daughter Kares would love to try the ring." Kares tried on the ring but it didn't fit so the guard said, "are there any more young ladies in this house" and Belme replied, "no." When the guard left the house Adelaide thumped on the attic window so the guard went in the house and opened the attic up. He found Adelaide and thought she was quite beautiful so he let her try the ring. When Adelaide tried the ring it fit and then the guard yelled, "I found her! I found her!"

Then, the guard went back to Vladimir and told him that he found her. The next day Adelaide got cleaned up and wore a wedding dress to marry Vladimir. Next, the guard took Adelaide to a special church where Vladimir was. When she got there the prince immediately went up to Adelaide and said, "Would you like to marry me my lady?" Adelaide said, "it would be my honor my lord." So they got married and after the marriage was over they kissed (smooch! smooch! smooch! ). After that, Belme and Kares went running to get forgiveness from Adelaide so Adelaide forgave Belme and Kares. She also gave Belme and Kares a mansion. One day a snake bit Belme and she died on the spot but nobody knew it. Adelaide and Vladimir lived happily ever after.

The End



# The Indian Cinderella

## By Charan Bala

Once upon a time in a far away India, there lived a girl named Padma who lived in Gooty, countryside in India. She lived with her stepmother whose name was Gayyali and her step sisters whose names were Gauhar and Aishwarya. She also lived with her dad, Jay who was an auto rickshaw driver but he was driving someone and it would take him a long time to come back so she had to live with her stepmother and stepsisters. The stepfamily was very mean to Padma. They made her do the dishes, make food and so much more that it would fill up a lot of pages.

The holiday that everybody was waiting for came. It was Diwali! Everybody in Gooty went to the temple which is a place to place to pray God for Hindus. They went to the Temple to pray to God, light oil lamps to God, have poojas which are blessings from God and the priest, and also to impress one of the priest's son, Ajay. When Padma asked Gayyali if she could come, Gayyali said "You want to come to the Temple? Only beautiful faces like mine and my daughters' go, not ugly faces like yours." Gayyali also locked Padma up in a room with no windows and left with her daughters. Padma cried and cried until Vishnu who is one of the most important God in Hindu religion came. He said "I know what happened. I will help you." Vishnu told Padma to get him an apple, a belt, and a toy car.

So Padma got Vishnu an apple which Gayyali gave her in case she starves to death. Vishnu turns the apple into a driver. Then, Padma gave Vishnu a belt which she found in the room. Vishnu turned the belt into a sari. A sari is what women wear on special occasions. Finally, Padma got a toy car which her dad gave her when she was a baby. Vishnu turned the toy car into a auto rickshaw. Before Padma left, Vishnu told Padma that if she doesn't come back by midnight, then all the magic will go away. Then Vishnu opened the door.

In the Temple, Ajay stared at Padma. He asked Padma what her name was but Padma just giggled. There was five minutes left to midnight but Padma saw the clock and told the auto rickshaw driver to drive her back home.

When the step family came home, Padma said "You guys went to the Temple for a very long time." Gauhar said "We went for a long time because we saw the most prettiest young lady in the whole world!" Padma knew that the pretty lady was no one but Padma herself. The step family really wanted to know who the pretty lady was.

The next day was the day that all the women came to the Temple so that Ajay could decide which one is the prettiest to marry him. The stepfamily locked Padma up again in a room with no windows and left.

Vishnu came back this time with a pretty sari and and auto rickshaw with a driver. Vishnu told Padma that she has to come back by midnight or the magic won't work. Vishnu gave Padma all the stuff that she needed and Padma left.

At the meeting hundreds of young ladies were in a line so that Ajay could see which lady was the prettiest. The first lady looked like a pufferfish. The second lady was as skinny as a spaghetti noodle. When it was Padma's turn, Ajay's eyes were fixed on Padma. *I want to marry you.* thought Ajay. Padma saw that it was one second after midnight so she started running back home. Ajay started screaming and sobbing and then he stopped the meeting. Padma came back just in time. Ajay thought that he would never see Padma again.

# **The Indian Cinderella**

**By Charan Bala**

When Padma ran home, she dropped her necklace so Ajay was on his motorcycle, and trying the necklace on every girl to see which one was Padma. When Ajay came to Padma's house, Gayyali locked Padma up in the room. Padma was scared of Gayyali so she kept calm. After Ajay tried the necklace to the stepfamily and the necklace did not fit them, Ajay asked "Is there anyone else?". Then, Padma made a lot of noise and then Ajay told Gauhar to open it. Since Gauhar loved Ajay, Gauhar opened the door.

Ajay tried the necklace on Padma and it fit! Then, Padma and Ajay married the next day. As for the stepsisters, they had gotten married to Ajay's mean step brothers. Padma and Ajay lived happily ever after.

**The End**

# Pear Blossom *by Karis Park*

Once upon a time, there was a small village. In that small village was an old shack. In that old shack was a family. And in that family was a girl. Her name was Nashinohana, which meant "pear blossom" in Japanese. But despite her meaningful and beautiful name, her friends and family gave her the nickname, "Nashi", which means "pear". She was very kind, generous, compassionate, honest, smart, and beautiful. She also loved to work. Nashi always worked in the fields, but only had to harvest rice, barley, and soybeans in season and pull out weeds. Now Nashi had an older brother, which had plenty more chores. He had to help Nashi, wash dishes, brush down the oven's rust, sweep the floor, hunt down dinner, fetch water from the old wishing well, and help his father fish. Now both Nashi and her brother knew that their parents had a favorite. And they both knew that it was Nashi. Her brother was jealous of this. He knew that she was very quiet and independent, so he came up with a plan. On a piece of paper, he wrote down a very convincing note in his neatest handwriting.

It read:

親愛なる梨の花,

私はあなたが梨の花の私たちのお祝いに来ることができることを願っています。私たちは、発見された私たちの失われた娘を祝っています。行き方：

"Dear Nashinohana,

I hope that you can come to our celebration of the Pear Blossom. We are celebrating our lost daughter who has been found. Directions:

After that, there was a long list of pathways, temples, idols, forests, and wishing wells. He smiled at his work and slipped it under Nashi's futon. He knew that she wouldn't tell anyone but her parents, only for permission."

Smiling, Nashi's Nisan walked into her tiny bedroom.

"I heard you were invited to the celebration in-town. Excited?" Nashi shook her head.

"I don't know what you are talking about, big brother. What invite?" Her tone was very soft and silky. Her older brother on the other hand turned red, knowing that this "princess" probably hadn't found it yet. He thought that it would be more like "王女とエンドウ豆 Ōjo to endō mame", the Japanese version of "The

Princess and the Pea". "It's...Under your futon, I think. You should look, maybe?" Nashi's eyes widened as she carefully lifted up her soft, white futon. There was a note embroidered in pure gold, with dashes of silver and diamond dust. The ink was very wishy-washy, as if the messenger had come from afar. As her brother stared at the note in Nashi's hand, Nashi softly began to read the note.

“親愛なる梨の花,私はあなたが梨の花の私たちのお祝いに来ることができることを願っています。私たちは、発見された私たちの失われた娘を祝っています。行き方 : Dear Nashinohana, I hope that you can come to our celebration of the Pear Blossom. We are celebrating our lost daughter who has been found. Directions:" She stopped. The directions were very hard to keep up with, but she was determined to take the chance. Her Ani was very ignorant of the letter, thinking his plan backfired. So later that night, he came up with a plan "B". Opening up his old leather note book, he flipped to the next clean page (which was actually very dirty) and started to concoct his next plan to get rid of his parents' sweet little pear.....

As Nashi walked down the Shosenkyo Gorge first path, she noticed that the Imperial Palace was nowhere in sight. She pat her dirty dress. She hadn't been home

for a few days, so she knew that her parents have gradually been getting more worried. She sighed as she threw her sack onto the ground, laid it out, and then started to eat. This was the first bite that she'd taken since leaving home. Her lunch wasn't very filling, but it was enough for her. She had some rice which had dried out, and a piece of her Hanami Dango. She brought a wooden cup, but since she didn't have her mother to cleanse the dirty water, she scooped some water from the river flowing nearby and drank it. After a few more hours, she didn't have much time to get to the palace, and she knew that they wouldn't accept her as she was dressed. Her family had no silk and not much money, so they couldn't have gotten her a kimono and an obi. Further much, she wouldn't be very clean. She sat down and gasped, exhaling deeply. Either way, she knew that the palace was not anywhere nearby. Taking one more chance, she climbed up a tree using her blistered hands and her sore feet. Her knees ached and her shoulders were covered in bruises. Her head was tired, but she wanted to go anyways. She knew that she was closer to the palace than her own home. After she jumped back down, something hard hit her head, making her current headache worse. She looked around to see what hit her head, but her vision was blurry. It was an apple. More specifically a Fuji

apple. They were really rare in Japan, only to be found in orchards. She was surprised to see one in the deep, damp forest, but was happy to have another source of food. She took a big bite out of the juicy red apple. She immediately felt herself freshen up. She felt like a whole new person! But oddly, exactly the same. At the exact same time, a crane appeared in front of her. It was dipping some old rags into the river. After it lifted the rags out, the rags had turned into silk. But soon after, the silk had evaporated into a soft, shimmery glow. The crane had a disappointed face. "Kon'nichiwa?" Nashi turned her head to look at the crane's face.

"Ohayōgozaimasu."

"G-Good morning! W-Wait...It's...Morning?"

"Hai. That is correct."

"A-And you can talk!?"

"Hai. That is also correct."

Oddly enough, the crane sounded exactly like Nashi's long lost god-mother.

"My-My name is N-"

"Nashi."

"How did you know?"

"I just knew."

After that, Nashi told the crane about the whole situation.

"My, my. Gomen' nasai! That must have been a hard road to travel along."

"H-HAI! Thank you for understanding.  
Arigatōgozaimashita!"

"N-Now. If you want to go to the celebration, then you'll have to get me some items."

"You mean you'll help me?"

"Of course. After all, I am your god-m-I mean, never mind."

"O-Of course! I-I get it!"

"Y-Yes. Now, I will need these items."

"I-I'm listening."

"Rags..."

"Check!"

"A piece of scrap wood..."

"Check!"

"And..."

"And?"

"Your pets."



"How am I gonna get my pets? They are at home!" Nashi imagined her pets sitting next to her. There was a puff of smoke...and...her pet Cuckoostrike, Temmy, and her Japanese pond turtle, Miku appeared! "I don't know how THAT happened...!"

"And some warnings."

"Yes?"

"NO TOUCHING THE PRINCE!"

"Yes."

"BE HOME BY MIDNIGHT!"

Nashi smiled as she took off her outer layer, handing it to the crane. Then she looked around the forest for some scrap wood. She found a half of a log. "I hope this'll do!" Nashi ran back to the crane, but all she found was a wooden boat decorated with paper lanterns and Japanese drapes. There were also two boatmen dressed as farmers with a straw hat, a white strap wrapping around their chest, a Japanese robe with a black fabric belt, some wooden sandals, and some loose pants with a net layer inside. They paddled as Nashi sat inside the boat's passenger area. At one point, she went outside for some fresh air. She could see the palace but noticed something different.

Something different about her. She had on a silk obi and a beautiful pink kimono with pure gold embroideries. She had on wooden sandals that were very hard to balance on and was holding a parasol. Her hair was in a bun with a golden stick in her hair, holding the bun together. She had a bouquet of flowers in her hair and had on a ribbon to secure her obi. She was surprised that she hadn't noticed. After about two hours, it was 6:30 pm. Right on time! Nashi was only a few feet away from the dock as she slowly started to slow down. "Th-There it is!" Nashi ran into the the Imperial Palace. All the members there were eating dinner. When she stepped inside, everyone stared at her as the room commenced into an awkward silence. After about five minutes or so, the room gradually got louder and louder. All the gentlemen seemed to get up from the dinner table and welcome her. There was some very ugly ones and some very fine ones, but Nashi treated all of them equally. A few hours later, the announcer started to announce who is not allowed to the celebration. "Matashi Saguki, Namashi Ostaka, Komen-san Kesu, Midori Gurin, Hatsune Aki, Gasuni Tara..." As she stood below the big dragon, Nashi carefully listened to the called names. While she did this, she didn't see the prince slowly and carefully walk up to her. "Hello." The prince tapped her shoulder. She

jumped in shock. "O-OOPS! Gomen' nasai! Gomen' nasai!" Nashi quickly bowed in apology. "It is okay. Would you like to dance?" Nashi's eyes widened. "H-HAI! YES!" She took his hand, forgetting the crane's warnings. "Hey you, what's your name?" "N-" Nashi opened her mouth, but quickly got cut off. "Gamen Shinsuto, Yori Hiro, Nashinohana Hiro...." Hearing her name, Nashi let go of the prince's hand as she ran out, into the dark pathways of Japan. All she left behind was one of her wooden sandals.

Nashi ran as fast as she could, hearing the prince's footsteps behind her. She found a fast and efficient path home. The prince was very sad, so he sent out messengers, commanding them to search all of Japan, and all the girls that had a name beginning with an "N". As Nashi ran home, she tripped! She heard footsteps behind her, having no time to get up. She laid there in pain, hoping that her Mama and Papa would eventually find her. She heard the footsteps get louder and louder. When she looked to see who it was, she realized that the prince had tracked her down. "Are you okay?" Nashi nodded as the prince helped her up. "Where's your home? In an old shack, I suppose...?" Nashi shook her head as she realized that her clothes were now turned back to her same old rags. "Name?" Nashi

looked up. "N-Nashi. Hiro, Nashinohana." The prince looked doubtful, but slipped on the wooden sandal. It fit perfectly!

After a few moments of silence, the prince spoke up as he pulled out a ring. He kindly asked Nashi to marry him. She accepted happily and lived

*Happily Ever After...*

And... well... the brother got a punishment. (He was sentenced for stock for 100 years.)