

La Tamaleada

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**Story Premise:**

Raul and Lala, were abducted as children from a caravan their adoptive community hunted and killed. They grew up in a world of violence and depravity, together with a little help from their cannibal friend they survived it. Their past long forgotten except for in their nightmares. Now as adults, they discover that a new caravan has moved into their lands. Now they must hunt and butcher them to be able to survive their resource depleted world. Can they harvest this caravan without calling attention back to their isolated community or will this new caravan finally turn the tables on them and their community? And what secret does a member of this caravan hold that will make Raul and Lala confront their forgotten past? And what changes will it bring with the mysterious person in the caravan?

**Historical Background Information or Timeline:**

America has fallen as a unified country and the remaining independent states have become isolated chaotic communities. Some cities have been abandoned and people have taken to living in what used to be the National Parks. Law and Order have given way to chaos and vigilantism. Resources are limited even in the wilds of the forests and parks with no conservation to police poaching. And with millions of people starving some communities fell into cannibalism. Now

with no one to guard the borders caravans of migrants come to this new land and try to build a life and colonize it. Some meet success other are met with distrust and are chased off if not killed. The ones that runaway, try and form communities in the parks but are met by cannibal communities who hunt them down or befriend them and treat them like livestock to fatten up and eat them. This is where our story takes place. One of these caravans is met with distrust and run off into the wild park. They settle in a plot of land unknowingly owned by a small cannibal community. Thinking they are safe, they build small shelters and are soon hunted down by the cannibals. All the adults are killed and butchered and the children “adopted” and raised as cannibals. This is the story of Raul and Lala, two abducted migrant kids that are raised as cannibals. Neither remember their past except in their nightmares, will they ever remember? And how will that change their lives? And after a long summer drought with resources dwindling, can they continue their cannibal lifestyle without attracting attention to their community? Or will this new caravan finally turn the tables on them and destroy their community?

### **Main Character: Raul**

Raul was one of the children that were abducted as a child from one of the victim caravans the cannibals hunted and ate. His family came from somewhere south of what used to be Texas. They tried to settle in a small impoverished town but were chased out by the locals who were barely hanging on to their dwindling resources. They fled to the wilds and tried to form their own community. When they settled in, they were discovered by the cannibal community that owned that piece of land. They then were hunted down and eaten. A childless family from the cannibal community abducted Raul as a child and raised him. His life as a cannibal was not an easy one. He was forced to learn to live and work off the land, and to accept cannibalism. His daily life

consisted of beatings and isolation from both the community and his “adoptive” parents. As he grew up he forgot his biological parents and repressed all memories of that day. He learned to fight from having to ward off fellow cannibals who tried to kill him. He spent most of his days hunting, fishing and caring for his pet pigs, who he loved. He learned about the outside world by scavenging raided communities of discarded belongings such as magazines, electronics, and such. His whole life he only had his best friend Lenn, the only person who he trusts. That is until he encounters Lala who shares a similar past as he. As they get to know each other they learn they have a lot in common and fall in love. They live together but never marry. Raul and Lenn go out on hunting expeditions, searching for stragglers or lost people to butcher. Both have become very good at what they do but the caravans and neighboring towns are starting to become aware of their activities. Now Raul is faced with the reality of hard choices he is going to have to make to continue their lifestyle and to protect the people he loves. Raul will also be confronted with his past soon enough.

### **Supporting Characters: Lala, Lenny and Tia Shela**

Lala, a member of the same caravan Raul was abducted from. But they grew up isolated from each other. She was only 6 years old when she was abducted from her caravan, same as Raul. She was forced to care for the whole community and cook and clean. Unlike Raul she was forced to endure many hardships from fellow cannibals such as beatings, rapes, and other psychological hardships. She is the opposite of Raul in that she is in a more fragile psychological state of mind and very fearing of people outside of her small circle. She is very open with Raul and Lenny, but hardly ever wanders outside her home. She is also prone to nightmares and fits of terror and violent outbursts.

Lenny, was born and raised into the cannibal lifestyle and community. He is very outgoing, prideful and a risk taker. He loves his community and his people. He also loves the whole thrill of the hunt and takes pleasure in killing strangers. He sees it as his birth given right. At an early age he fell in love with the whole idea of being a rebel when he ventured into a town and saw a pack of bikers raiding a caravan. Lenny is a 6 foot, 200 lb., cigar smoking, alcohol loving, package of murderous rage. But when it comes to Raul and Lala, he is overly protective of his friends. That is his one weakness and his biggest trigger. He loves them more than anyone else.

Tia Shela, is the mystery person. She is the person who has a deep connection to Raul and Lala's past. Not very much is known about her, yet. She is 75 yrs old, gentle and loving. She cares for her caravan like her own family. That is all that is known of her.

#### **Locations:**

**Black Horse Valley-** A valley around what once was the hill country of San Antonio. What was once a lush valley with cliffs, trees and wildlife is now mostly polluted, overgrown with more grasses and bushes than trees. When America fell, the utilities and government services fell and people used it as a dumping site. Vehicles and other appliances now litter it since after the riots and looting destroyed it. It was also used as a dumping site for dead bodies and as an execution place for many victims. This gave rise to the cannibal communities that formed when people were starving. Now people fear it due to the many disappearances that occur within it often.

**Las Palmas (Old San Antonio)-** This is the westside of Old San Antonio. About two thirds of the population of San Antonio died during and after the Great Fall. San Antonio shrunk down to the size of a small town, and most of its inhabitants settled in its westside, that being Las Palmas.

People venture out during the day still trying to cling to the civilized ways and customs. The houses look old and shattered, streets are littered with abandoned vehicles and trash. Some lots have been converted to gardens and small ranches. Leadership is almost nonexistent. Disputes are settled by any means. Religious leaders have stepped up to control the masses. Stray cats, dogs and pets have become feral and compete with people for food.

**Los Campos** This are smaller tent like sites built by traveling caravans which consists of poorly built shacks of wood, metal and plastic tarps. They are a tight community but are not immune to criminal activity. These inhabitants are nomadic and not very educated. They survive by whatever means they can think of. Traditions and religious practices are mixed due to the peoples different points of origins.

**Additional Information:**

The cannibal communities still speak English mainly but some mix it with Spanish and other slang words from before the Great Fall. The cannibals are a melting pot of different races also. They do not have a social structure per se, they are a loose community of families that tend to stick together for survival purposes. The technology they use is outdated and broken. They use stolen or abandoned vehicles that are jerry rigged to work, communications are based on letters, verbal or signals such as morse codes using lanterns and flashlights. They have limited gas and electric utilities. Their cooking is mostly done by firewood or homemade solar devices. They learned most of their skills by what was passed down to them from old survivalist communities. Their religious beliefs have all but been abandoned or butchered down to some customs that fit their lifestyle. They have adapted to the ways of the caravans they eat and kill, and have such

traditions as making tamales, menudo and such from latin american. They celebrate some holidays but with a cannibalistic twist to them.

The small town folks that live in Las Palmas are divided into two religious sects: Catholics and Christians. They are English speakers and a small number are Spanish speakers. They are also a melting pot of different races but still call themselves Americans. They try hard to keep their American way of life going but through time it is slowly changing with the incoming caravans. The whole Las Palmas population is what was once called the working class of America.

Los Campos are mostly Spanish speakers and of Latin American descent. They carry their Catholic beliefs and customs with them. They build their tent cities wherever they settle. Those that are accepted into the towns are usually the ones that bring some sort of skill with them and have something to offer the towns. The rest are usually discarded by these towns and run off to settle elsewhere. They have no technology whatsoever and only own what they can carry with them. Their social structure is one of hierarchy, the leader being the strongest and smartest. Then you have their curanderos which provide makeshift medical skills, and the thieves being the hunters and gatherers. Both men and women share the same responsibilities. The leader is usually also the law and order of the caravan. Women hold the responsibility of religious tasks.

**Story synopsis:**

The cannibals have adopted Raul and Lala since their abduction from the caravan. They were forced to accept cannibalism. Raul learned to survive beatings, isolation and forced labor. He learned to avoid abusers until he met his friend Lenny. Lenny was born into this community, but

took pity for Raul. They become friends, and he teaches him to defend and survive in their world. One day he encounters a girl on the verge of suicide, and both help her. Lala falls in love with Raul, and all three are inseparable. All three claim their own land, until a fateful day. A caravan settles into their land unbeknownst to the three of them. They hunt down the caravan and start to harvest them. But among the caravan, one of their members is an old relative of Raul's and Lala's, who holds the key to their past. The old lady remembers Raul as her murdered sister's son. She tries to confront Raul with evidence of his past, but Raul has a hard time accepting it. When the caravan decides to turn the tables on the cannibals, the old lady is killed, and Raul's old memories finally emerge. He is enraged at the killing of the last thread of his past life, and has a falling out with Lenny. They get into an altercation, and Lala fearing for hers and Raul's lives kills Lenny and their adoptive family. They take off together into the wild, looking for a new start North.

**Story excerpt:**

“Raul, are you done cleaning that kill already?” Lala yelled at him.

“I am almost done, babe.” Raul yelled back. The carcass was big and heavy. He had spent hours carefully skinning to preserve it intact.

Raul loved seeing what new and interesting ways Lala used the skins around the house. Slowly, surgically, he peeled away the skin. Then he began carving the fat away, slicing away at the meat off the bones, and laying them on a table covered in butcher's paper. After he was done, he wrapped it up and put it in the freezer to store for the long winters and drought-filled summers ahead. The fat, bones and cartilage he threw to the hogs to fatten them up, or grind them up to

make fertilizer for their vegetable garden. Several more hours had passed as he worked on the carcass and stored the meat.

“The guests are starting to arrive, and I have not put the meat to boil or cook.” Lala screamed at him from outside the garage.

“Calm down.” Raul came out shouting. “I am done, you know dang well I have to do it just right.” He handed her two heavy bags, one frozen stiff and another still dripping fresh blood.

“Good, I have to get this boiling and start making la masa for the tamales.” Lala said as she hurried towards the house and into the kitchen. “Hurry, go bathe and get ready, the familia will soon be here. Tia Eva is bringing her special dish, and by the sounds of it, it is still fresh.

“What is it, Lala?” Raul asked excitedly, savoring the thought of her special culinary skills. “Is she bringing Mexican, French, Greek or maybe an Indian dish?”

Raul hurried upstairs, washed and put on some new clothes Lala had bought him from the thrift store in the neighboring town. Just as he had finished brushing his teeth, he heard a car pull up into their dirt driveway. He threw down his toothbrush and ran to the front door. He swung it open, and before him stood a hunch-backed old lady dressed all in black. He held his breath and stared at the old lady. Behind her stood a small crowd of middle aged adults and several children waiting to be let in. Raul stretched out both arms and hugged her tightly. As he stepped aside, the elderly lady came into the house and was almost knocked down by the rushing children.

“Raul shut that door quickly, all the cold air is rushing in.” Lala exploded with anger as she continued to cook. Raul walked the old lady to her place on the table and helped her seat down.

“We are starving, Lala.” He said, motioning to her to serve dinner. “The family has been traveling a long time, and they are ready to munch.” The old lady just smiled at Lala, exposing yellow worn out crooked teeth.

“So where is the surprise culinary dish you brought us?” Raul asked, salivating, as he helped clear the table and set out the forks and knives.

“And who might this exotic youngster be, Auntie?” Lala asked, pointing at the only person that did not fit in the crowd.

“This young stranger is who we brought for dinner.” The old lady explained. Raul looked at the stranger with hunger in his eyes. He walked over to her and took a whiff of her. He could see that the stranger was becoming uncomfortable and trying to back away. He tore at her clothes, undressed her, and poked at her meatier parts. As the stranger pushed away, more hands reached and grabbed at her. They quickly overcame her and threw her naked body onto the table.

“Lala, looks like we will have another head to boil for the tamales.” Raul motioned for her to get the pot ready to boil her head for fresh tamale meat. The old hag got up and grabbed the stranger by her jaw, slowly lifting it. She got closer and licked at the naked neck of the stranger. Then she opened her mouth wide, filled with crooked teeth, and took a deep bite into the throat. All at once, they started tearing into her body as the stranger went into convulsions. Lala, still cooking, took the biggest pot off the stove and pulled out a head. The meat off the head was easily peeling off, she set it onto a big platter.

“Ok everyone, I hope you are all well fed now and ready to work.” Lala said cheerfully, and ready to start the annual making of the tamales. As she set the first head onto the table, Raul said to everyone, “This year the Tamaleada is brought to us by our kind Sheriff Walters and a kind hiker Raul caught squatting in our lands.”

Everyone laughed at the pun she had made and uncovered the platter. There in the middle of the platter was Raul's kill, the hitchhiker. He smiled proudly as everyone joined in on deboning the meat and chopping it up in preparation for the tamales.

**Adobe Visual Element:**



Image of Raul eating a caravan member he hunted down. Made via Adobe Photoshop.

**References**

The above image was used from images from the following sources:

The above person picture is myself Carlos Arce.

The blood platters is from an image by Kilra03 from the Devian art website:

[Bloody wall by kilra03 on DeviantArt](#)

The kitchen image is from website:

[e95d8b3042d11e8909f7bb7f7d38a680.jpg \(960×640\) \(pinimg.com\)](#)

The image of the severed arm is from fearfx:

[Severed Arm - Fear FX](#)

The image of platter with body parts is from:

[Bloody Severed Body Parts \(thecostumeshop.ie\)](#)