



The Benjamin's New Beginning

Jerome Benjamin stood on the deck of the steamer and looked back towards the continent of Africa. It was barely a line on the horizon and in a matter of minutes his homeland would disappear behind the choppy waves; possibly forever. The thought made his eyes well up. He was leaving his parents and brothers behind and may never see them again.

The sadness was matched by excitement at the new adventure that lay ahead of them. An adventure on a new continent, in a new country, and one that he would share with his soul mate.

Jerome looked across at Marie-Thérèse. She was sat on a wooden bench next to the ship's railings. In her hands, she held long needles and was busy knitting them both jumpers for the 'long, cold' winters. She looked beautiful. Her cheeks glowed in the sea wind, and her eyes sparkled with a magic that had drawn him to her. For a while, he simply gazed at her; feeling the same attraction that had first compelled him to ask her to dance.

Marie-Thérèse looked up and caught him staring. She blushed and, for a brief moment, looked coy and child-like. In the blink of an eye, she changed and waved him away with mock anger.

Jerome did as he was told and looked in the other direction.

Africa was gone. He had been so absorbed by his new wife that he had missed the moment.

Maybe that's the way it should be, he thought. Looking towards the future rather than fixating on the past.

They had worked hard to get themselves into this position, and they were determined to make their new life a success. His father had told him to change the world, and when Jerome had told him what they were going to do, he supported them without reservation.

They may not change the whole world, but they would change their world. When they arrived, they would find good jobs, work hard, gain respect and earn more money than they could ever have dreamed of back home. Within a few years, they would have enough to buy a little house in the countryside; grow their own food in the garden and start a family.

Jerome smiled, and his face lit up like the sun. He was on his way to a better life, and the icing on the cake was that Marie-Thérèse was by his side.

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