Eliza’s diary, by Anastasia Anzano

30th September 1659

It’s been a year since I shipwrecked on the island and five days since my last mate, William, died after a snake’s bite. I couldn’t do anything for him, even though I tried all the herbal remedies we collected and studied.

Lost faith, abandoned, I was about to give up, but today something happened: a man arrived on the island.

After the storm this morning, I saw his body lying unconscious on the sand.

I decided to get closer: he is tall and looks strong, he’s got long, dark hair and brown eyes.

His clothes, ruined and torn, do not look elegant; so I guess he's not a noble.

I looked around but didn’t see anyone else, he must be the only survivor of the shipwreck.

He started to wake up, so I rana way and went back in the cave.

Is he a signal sent by God not to make me give up? Or is he a threat?

I will observe him and decide whether he should live or die.

10th October 1659

These days I’ve been watching the man and I don’t think he’s dangerous (well, not as much as the others here on the island). He is very smart and also a hard worker, indeed he started to look for a safe place as a shelter and he chose a cave not too far from mine, so I have to be careful.

He built a table and some weapons like knives and a spear.

He’s quite a good hunter, agile but not too fast. Also, I’m keeping the cannibals away from him: they still scared of me and they won’t disobey. I don’t really know why I’m protecting him, but I think that this is a good occasion to find an ally and I won’t waste the gift God sent me.

24th October 1659

He hasn't come out of the cave for a few days. I thought he died so I decided to go to visit him and, fortunately, I heard him cough.

I hid under a rock and watched him: he was lying on the table, covered by the fur of a tiger and he was shaking, pale. I immediately recognized that the symptoms were those of a fever and ran to find the necessary for the remedy.

When I came back he was sleeping, so I mixed the herbs and the flowers to make the cure, I woke him up and made him eat it.

I know he won’t remember me: when the fever is so high you can’t recognize what’s real and what’s fake and everything seems to be a dream.

If he makes it through the night, he will survive.

25th October 1659

He did it! He is alive!

28th October 1659

The man yesterday fully recovered and he immediatly went to hunt and catched a big boar.

I’m glad I could save him: he looked so grateful this morning and he also started to read the Bible (as I was able to understand listening to him).

This evening I discovered his name: Robinson Crusoe. He said it while praying and thanking God for saving him. As I said, he doesn’t remember me.

7th November 1659

Today Robinson almost saw me. He was walking on the shore, reading the Bible aloud and singing a song I didn’t know. I followed him, trying not to go too far to hear him, but suddenly I heard a loud roar from the forest. Robinson turned abruptly and I jumped hiding behind a tree. He took off a knife and got closer, so I threw a stone as far as possible to distract him and go away. It was a weird feeling: I wasn’t scared, I was…anxious.

I want to meet him, but I'm not sure he's ready and maybe I'm not either.

I'll keep my distance from him, I can't risk it again.

3rd January 1660

It’s been a long since I last wrote something.

November and December were two quiet months. As I promised, I tried to stay away from Robinson and I only went near his cave sometimes to make sure he was allright.

He finished to build his fence and he also made a chair and some others “furnishings” for the shelter. Some indigenous wanted to attack him, but I told them that he is not dangerous and that he is my protege. They didn’t want to listen to me, so I made a deal with them: I hunt the beasts for them once a month and they’ll leave him alone.

16th January 1660

I think It’s time to meet Robinson.

I want to know him, I need to have a friend on the island, a mate who I can trust and someone that can help me to survive. He’s defintely the right person and I can’t waste no more time.

I can see his loneliness growing day by day and I can’t leave him in this pain: I know how it feels. I’ll show up tomorrow, but I’ll talk to him in a few days so he doesn’t get scared.

17th January 1660

It happened. I was very excited but I don’t think he noticed it.

He was at the river to fill up his water supplies and, after a few minutes, I sat on the opposite bank.

When Robinson saw me, he didn’t looked scared or shocked. His eyes lit up and he gently left the bottle on the ground. We stared at each other silently; I could hear the beats of my heart going faster and faster. “Hi” he said after a while, waving his hand “Do you understand me?”.

I didn’t answer, I just got up and waved back, then I went away.

I hope he’s thinking about me right now, I know he’s curious and probably he’ll start to look for me.

25th January 1660

We talked today. He did in fact start to look for me last days.

He went back to the river several times, but I never showed up (I didn’t feel it was the right moment). This afternoon, he was reading another chapter of the Bible and I was listening to him, as usual.

I don’t know how he knew I was there, but once he finished he said “Did you like it?”. I got up and nodded. He was surprised that I could understand him, but he also looked glad about it. “What’s your name?” he asked. “Eliza” I replied “And you’re Robinson”.

He laughed a bit, I didn’t understand why and how he was so calm, “So you’re following me since when?”. “Since you first arrived here.”.

“I knew I wasn’t alone, I could feel you.” he tried to get closer, but I stepped back.

“I won’t hurt you.” he dropped the knife and raised his hands “I promise.”.

I looked at him and then took his hands “Me neither.”.

He smiled and even if the beard covered his face, he was pretty nice.

These days I will see him again and, maybe, I’ll show him my shelter.

19th February 1660

I think I can finally say I found a new ally.

Robinson and I spent almost everyday together until today: he showed me his cave and all the tools he made. He even built an enclosure for goats and chickens and he is continuing to improve the shelter.

I can’t believe that he did all of this by himself!

We agreed to help and protect each other in every situation, even if we risk our lives.

I will teach him all I know about the herbs and the remedies you can make with them, while he will talk to me about God, the Bible and faith.

24th February 1660

Robinson asked me if I could show him my shelter, so I did it.

Mine is way less organized than his, but It has all I need. He was amazed by all the food supplies I had and by my little garden. He didn’t know that on the island there were so many edible vegetables.

We thought that It could be a good Idea to built a new shelter together, bringing in it all our things.

We’ll start as soon as possible, so I wont write too much.

12th March 1660

We’re working very hard and I’m glad that we make a good team.

We didn’t stop for two weeks straight and now we’re taking some days of break to regain our energies.

Robinson doesn’t talk too much while he’s working and I aprreciate it. It’s easier to concentrate if you don’t have to chat with someone, and you also finish to work earlier.

At night we were both always exhausted, so we went back to our caves to sleep, even if sometimes I felt like he didn’t really want to go. I know we don’t have too much time to know each other, but we will as soon as we finish the project, so I told him to be patient.

31st March 1660

A month passed since we started to built the shelter.

I had to give to the indigenous most of my food supplies to keep work with Robinson without having to go hunting, but he doesn’t know that. We have almost done and I’m very proud of the two of us.

8th April 1660

We finished!

Now we can move in the new shelter: it’s way bigger than our old ones and I can’t wait to take all my items with me.

12th April 1660

I officially have a new home.

We are both very happy and Robinson offered to celebrate our actions with a big dinner tonight; now we can rest and talk without the fear of being attacked by something (or someone…).

13th April 1660

I had a lot of fun yesterday: we danced around the fire as if we were the luckiest and most carefree people in the world. We ate fishes that Robinson caught for us, then vegetables and fruits.

He started to sing the song that he was singing on the beach when he almost saw me, so I asked him what the meaning was and why he liked it so much.

“My mom used to sing it to me when I was a child” he said, looking straight at the fire “It’s about a brave sailor who beats all the sea monsters to find the greatest treasure in the world. When I was scared or I felt sad, she hugged me whispering it calmly.”.

I could see the melancholy in his eyes, his voice deepened. I took his hand and we silently watched the fire until we both fell asleep.

17th April 1660

Today Robinson read the Bible for me. We talked a lot about God and how we feel about Him.

I discovered that we have a very similar vision: we both felt abandoned and forgotten by Him, but now we are reborn and full of faith.

“When I shipwrecked I thought that God wanted to punish me for my sins. He took everything away from me, making me feel lost, lonely and cursed. I didn’t understand why He hated me so much, what had I done in this life to deserve such a horrible sorrow! But then…then I realized. This island isn’t a chastisement, it’s not the end, but it’s a new beginning.”.

This were his words.

For the first time in my life I felt understood. I’ve spent my whole existence feeling different, wrong, but Robinson made me realize that it’s normal to struggle with faith.

We can’t understand God’s plans until we live them, and sometimes neither this way.

I thanked him and, after taking courage, I said “You are the reason why I’m still alive. The day you arrived I wanted to end my life, after my last friend died five days before. But God sent you here to save me and now I can tell that you’re the best thing that ever happened to me.”.

Even if he tried to hide it, his eyes filled up with tears.

9th May 1660

I’m falling in love with him.

I’m scared that he doesn’t feel the same and I don’t think I’ll ever tell him.

What a shame! Love is a weakness and I can’t show any breaking point, or I’ll lose the power I have on the cannibals.

16th June 1660

It’s been a hard month for me.

I tried to act normally and ignore my feelings for Robinson, but he noticed that something in me has changed. I pretended I didn’t know what he was talking about, but I don’t think he believes me.

“You know I’m here for you, right?”.

I couldn’t answer then, so I’ll do it now: yes Robinson, I know. That’s the problem.

30th June 1660

What have I done!? Oh, dear Lord please help me.

We had a fight and now he’s gone. I don’t know where he is, not even if I’ll ever see him again.

Robinson started to ask me too many question after I decided to detach from him.

I told him that I needed time to hunt, fish and explore the island like I used to and he got mad.

He understood that I was lying, but he didn’t get the reason: this is why the fight started.

He thought that I was hiding something from him and that soon I would betray him and kill him.

I shouted that this wasn’t the truth, but when he grabbed my arm and asked me to tell him, I told him to let me go or I would actually kill him.

He pushed me away, grabbed his knife, some food and water and went away.

8th July 1660

I miss him.

I hope he’s safe.

22nd August 1660

Still no trace of Robinson. Should I look for him?

I’m sure he wouldn’t want to see me, I’ll stay here and wait.

I’m praying for him every day.

5th November 1660

I knew God was listening to me! Thank you, once again, my Lord for being so kind to me.

I didn’t doubt even for a moment and I was paid off: Robinson, my love, is alive!

Unfortunately, it’s not all good news: I know he’s alive because I found in front od the shelter a rock wrapped in a piece of his shirt and marked with the colors of the cannibal tribe.

They didn't catch him though, otherwise they would have sent me a different signal like an ear or a finger.

What is he doing in their territory!?

Tomorrow, at dawn, I’ll go to talk to the chief of the tribe.

6th November 1660

So…I’ve made my decision.

The chieftain told me that Robinson has been circulating in their territory for a few days.

He didn’t notice them and the chief ordered not to touch him.

The indigenous weren’t happy, but they’re extremely loyal so they didn’t disobey the chief.

So what happened? Robinson killed one of their sacred animals and ate it.

The price for such an action is death.

They took a piece of shirt that broke while he was hunting and sent it to me because the chief wanted to talk to me before killing Robinson, in honor of our deal and our “friendship”.

My heart broke, my hands were shaking.

I tried to convince the chieftain to change his mind, but he told me that his people and his gods would never forgive him for it.

Then I took the only choice I had: I offered my life for his.

I’ve made my decision and I know it’s the right one.

I asked for some time to be with Robinson and they gave me six months.

10th November 1660

I went to get Robinson after the indigenous pointed me to his new lair.

He was reading the Bible, like every morning.

“Did you miss me?” I asked.

He stopped immediatly and looked up in disbelief “How did you find me?”.

“I would find you everywhere” I sat near to him; he closed the book.

“Robinson, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to act like that. Please, come back to our shelter…”.

He sighed “I’m sorry too Eliza, I shouldn't have left. I thought so many times about coming back, but I was afraid you hated me.”. “I feared the same thing”.

He gently stroked my cheek “My dear, I could never hate you.”.

Now he’s back and I can sleep peacefully again.

23rd November 1660

Robinson brought me some beautiful flowers, they smell really good.

I kissed him on the cheeck and I swear he blushed a bit.

19th December 1660

I told him! I told him I love him! And he loves me too!

I can’t believe it happened! I feel finally free.

This is the best day of my life. Oh Lord, my little heart is full of joy and I can’t stop smiling.

We spent the whole evening together, looking at the moon and the stars and talking about our future together. I know that all the things we said will happen only in our minds and that we won’t have any future to live together, but he was so excited that I couldn’t stop him.

6th March 1661

We wanted to further improve the shelter and now it almost feels like a real home.

We created a bigger table and better chairs. We also built a bed using animal furs to make it soft and we captured a herd of goats that we use for milk.

Everything goes perfectly.

14th April 1661

In less than a month I’ll have to pay my deal.

I don’t really know how I feel. Of course I’m sad, but it’s not just that.

I’m scared, I don’t want to leave Robinson, but I know I have to.

I’m trying not to think about it and to give the best of me everyday, so that he’ll have enough good memories to be strong.

29th April 1661

We got married!

He asked me if I wanted to be by his side forever, and I said yes.

We also had our ceremony and it was amazing, magical.

We exchanged the promises on the beach and, as a sign of our love, we engraved our initials on a rock and threw it into the sea. The same sea that made us meet.

I never expected to be so happy in my life.

5th May 1661

This was my last day here, tomorrow I’ll be in heaven and reach God’s loving arms.

This is my destiny.

Dear Robinson, I’ll leave this diary near you on the bed, so you’ll find it.

I want you to know that my death is not your fault: we promised to protect each other at all costs, and I’m keeping my promise.

Don’t be sad for me, I’m in peace now and I’ll watch you from above.

I know we haven't had much time together, but this time with you was the most intense and richest I've ever experienced. You’re the best man I’ve ever known; you’re not only my husband, but you’re also my best friend, my ally and my bigegest supporter.

I’ll never thank God enough for sending you into my life.

You taught me to live, to enjoy the joys and not to give up in the face of any obstacle.

I hope I have been a good companion and have made you happy half as much as you did with me.

Please, make me this last promise: don’t you ever let go, be always the man I fell in love with and take care of yourself. I'm sorry I didn't tell you the truth, but I wasn't strong enough to do it. I wanted to live these last six months in the best possible way and you managed to give me much more than I imagined.

I’ll always remember you as the wisest, bravest, most determinated and most valiant on the earth.

Goodbye my love, we’ll meet again.

Forever yours,

Eliza.