

Kerenza Character Sketches

Jennette Mickan, June 2015

KERENZA:

Hello, my name is Kerenza and I come from Cornwall. And may I just say that it is not England, it is Cornwall! A fact that I need to make quite clear to you all. Where we lived in Cornwall, it was a beautiful place. So green and peaceful. My very favourite place, not far from where I lived was Penponds Woods. I loved going there. There are huge trees and a beautiful stream that bubbles and you know, it seemed to giggle at me. Especially on the last day that I got to sit there before we, my Mam, Da, my little sister and brother and I, had to move to this far off place, so far in fact that we spent weeks on a ship just to get here. I didn't want to go, I had to. It broke my heart to leave my big sister, Wenna and Nanny whom I loved so much. I even had to leave my cat, Willow. It just wasn't fair. But my Da told me that as the mine was closing we needed to go somewhere where we could have some land of our own. But Australia?

ELOWEN:

Hello, my name is Elowen. I am Kerenza's little sister, so I too come from Cornwall. But I'm not like Kerenza, I am excited about our move to another country. I know Krenza is sad about moving and I am sad that we left Wenna and Nanny and our cat behind but I just knew it would be a great adventure. I must admit, I am glad that Mam and Da came too. I don't think I would've gone if they weren't going to be with us. I put some of my favourite things in my trunk but mostly I had to pack clothes and then we were off to this place, Australia.

KITTO:

Hello, my name is Kitto and I am Kerenza's brother. I'm cute and I get into mischief, it's what little brothers do. I don't always do what I am told and I love to run and play. I'm too little to do jobs and my sisters have to watch me sometimes, which is fun. I knew we were moving but I remember it seemed to take forever to get there. The ship ride was grand. We were going to Australia.

HARRY:

Hello, my name is Harry and I am Kerenza's cousin. I have lived in Australia with my Mam, Da, brothers and sister all my life and when we heard that our Uncle and his family were moving over, we were very excited. Family means a lot to us and having them come over to share the land with us made my Da very happy. He and Uncle Clemo are very close. It had been 25 years since they had seen each other though, so you can imagine the excitement. And it didn't take long to see that they are both hard workers. My Uncle and his family would need to be to start a new life out here. It's so hot and the bush is very thick. We had to clear a lot of land before we could build homes and start farming. My brother was very excited about the hard work but my young cousin, Kerenza, didn't seem very thrilled. I tried to encourage and support them all I could, here in Australia.

JACOB:

Hello, my name is Jacob and I am Harry's older brother and Kerenza's cousin. Oh, what a pain she was when she first got here. Girls. When they first got off the ship, I laughed because she, Kerenza kept bumping into her Mam. They were all very wobbly on their feet from the time spent on the ship, it was quite a sight. They think they are now Australians, well, they're not. I am. I was born here. They're just new chums. Sometimes, I would get so frustrated with her, Kerenza and the worst part was that I had to go to school with her. I didn't want to go to school, I don't need to, I want to be a farmer but I had to go and it just made me angry. I just want to farm here on our land, Australia.

KERENZA:

So, at first I wasn't happy about moving to this new country, the heat, the dust, the flies but after a while, I discovered that it had a certain charm. I made some new friends, one girl I met in the bush. Her name is Winnie. When we started to go to school that was good, although cousin Jacob didn't take too kindly to it. He just wanted to be working the land. Although this was a new life for us, we still had chores to do. Feed the chooks, collect the eggs, milking the grumpy cow, weed the garden, help around the place. I must admit, I had a soft spot for my cousin Harry. He was always nice to me. Jacob, well, that's another story. We had our fair share of adventures too. One that sticks in my mind was the day of the fire.

ELOWEN:

It was so much fun going to school. We went by horse. Da and Uncle Malachi cleared a track for us to get there. Our teacher was very young. I liked her, she was lovely. I remember when the boys dug a well, with Kerenza's help. I was so excited because so was everyone else. It would help so much to have our own water. But it was salty. I suggested that we could bathe in it because it would be like being near the seaside. That was just one of the things that stick in my mind. The other was the day of the fire.

KITTO:

Being the youngest boy is good. I don't have to do a lot. I love to be outside except when I have to help with the chores. That's not much fun. When Ma needs to light the stove to cook, we have to go and collect wood. We wear hessian bags and stuff them full of sticks. My favourite thing to do is to collect the eggs and sometimes I don't even break any. But even if I do, Ma kisses me on the head anyway.

HARRY:

There's always a lot to do. We are always busy. In the evenings, after dinner, we are so tired. I have often fallen asleep in front of the fire. I am so sick of picking up sticks but it is what we have to do. I did ask my Da if I could have another job but he just said, "Nothing wrong with picking up sticks, boy." Then I suggested that we should dig a well. We were carting water so having our own well would be great. So Jacob, Kerenza, Kitto and I started work on it. We had a few problems and a near disaster but the day I won't forget is the day of the fire.

JACOB:

I didn't see the need to go back to school. I just wanted to work on the farm. What good would school do me? And, you know, I knew Kerenza was keeping something from us. I sent her into the bush thinking that she would get lost but she didn't. It was in the bush that she met someone but she wasn't going to say anything to anyone. I knew something was up when she screamed at me for shooting the gun off at a wild dog, possibly a dingo. Then one night, after a very eventful day, I heard whispering. Now, that was a day I won't forget. It was the day of the fire.

KERENZA:

I am very happy here now. This is my home. We have called our farm, "Trelawny". I love that name. My Da and I decided that it would be the perfect name for our new home. Oh, I miss Cornwall, I do. I miss Nanny, my friends, the green hills and pastures. But this is now my home and I am proud to be a new Australian.

Written by Jennette Mickan 11th June 2015