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Report on *Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival*

A book can depict various periods and sides of human life. The competition among creative works has been progressing along with the development of society, due to the growth of the publishing business. Meanwhile, more creative writing works have touched the subject of diversity in living standards and personal issues. Velma Wallis, in her book *Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival*, has uncovered a fascinating story about surviving in an Alaskan winter. According to the author, the book recounts the story told to Velma Wallis by her mother. The main characters are left in the wilderness due to a tribal belief that the weak and the old should be abandoned during times of the tribal hardships. The story illustrates the extent to which people will struggle to survive on their own.

Wallis specifically tells a story about two old women, Ch'idzigyaak and Sa', who are left behind as the rest move on in search of food. Although Ch'idzigyaak's daughter and grandson do not oppose the tribal decision, they secretly leave behind a bundle of moose skin strips and an ax. After being abandoned, the two women decide to do something before death takes them. In order to survive, they return to a fishing place that they knew from a young age. They had many years of experience that help them make warm clothes and shoes to resist the cold, as well as rabbit

snares and fishing lines for sources of food. Before the summer comes, the two women manage to accumulate enough meat and dehydrated fish on which to sustain themselves. The women live quite comfortably the following summer.

Besides depicting two old women who use their lifetime knowledge to survive winter without the help of others, the book shows how abandoning the two old women does not help the rest of the tribe, who encounter starvation. As their last hope, the tribe returns to their original land and are amazed to find the abandoned women leading a comfortable life. According to the narrator, the tribe feels ashamed of their callous actions after reuniting with the two women.

The tribe is fascinated by how the women stored the food and managed to survive the cold. Although the women were abandoned by their tribes-people, they are still kind enough to share their storage with the group. Their caring attitudes teach the group that they should seek wisdom from these old women. They realize that all tribal members have value and should never be abandoned or discounted in solving life's problems. The book illustrates that it is important for the integrity of a group to share knowledge and skills, instead of dividing itself based on physical abilities only. Finally, the book illustrates the idea that people should not give up, regardless of their age, intelligence or physical condition.

Work cited

Wallis, Velma. *Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival*.

Kenmore, WA: Epicenter Press, 2004. Print.