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Obsessions Prologue

Maracaibo was their ticket out of the war, that same war you don't remember but know like the back of your hand thanks to your 8th grade history teacher who decided that engraving the reasons for World War 2 in your head would hopefully stray the world away from another war.

The last boat leaving Dresden, 5,447 mi, touching Maracaibo Venezuela the destination of a young mother called Maxi and her newborn daughter Maxi Jane Schmidt Becker. This boat would travel for weeks until reaching their new home as well as Maxi Jane's father. They would be a family at last. For Maxi leaving behind her mother and father was not easy.

As the boat ride continued and the icy waters turned into land. They could observe Lake Maracaibo in its glory. The lake was shiny blue and warm, unlike the waters near Germany. The air was clean, not filled with smoke and dust or the warning of a nearing deadly war. The people spoke in Spanish, they were darker. The Germans stood out with their clear blue eyes and light hair. The baby squirmed in Maxi's arms, *she would love it here*. Would she?

The community of Germans in Maracaibo had grown. They were forced to move farther inside the town, no German was permitted near the docks. The war had destroyed families, had left children orphan and Maracaibo didn't want a part in it. Away from the warm waters, Maxi and her family felt farther away from home. The whispers of her parents came and went, but with them Maxi woke. An imminent ache had formed in her heart in the place of her parents, she should have forced them to come.

The news of World War 2 escalated and soon they would get no calls, no letters, no information from the family they had left behind. The news came shortly after the war had ended, a Russian plane flying over Dresden bombed the remnants of the Germany people

used to know. Taking along with them the house that saw Maxi Jane's eyes open for the first time, her grandparents and the life Maxi knew in Germany.

Germany had to be put behind. The memories in Dresden had to be tucked away in the boxes where they stored the pictures of the dead family. It all didn't matter anymore. Maxi had to forget, and she did, at least for a while.

As Maxi Jane grew to be a beautiful blonde German girl, Maxi Jane saw her failures and realized her tough exterior and skin was all to replace the ache of her mother. She failed to teach Maxi Jane to forgive, to love, to trust. As Maxi Jane treasured her riches, she didn't treasure her values, she trashed them,

On Maxi's death bed, bruised all over because of an ugly fall, she forgave.