

An excerpt from Reach! By Lara Foot Newton

SOLOMON: When I got sick with the liver, when I was in hospital ... I started to have dreams. The same dream. Jonathan saying, 'Solomon, tell my mother I wasn't scared'. Then Jonathan's face becomes my face, and then the shot wakes me up.

In my culture the last person to see someone alive is supposed to speak at the funeral. You are supposed to tell the listeners what you saw and what you heard so that the living can be at peace with the whole story, with the truth about the death. I've been coming here for years, watching you - trying to find the right time. Carrying this thing with me. Walking with it. If you do not do this then you can become sick, you can be cursed with bad memories and bad dreams. I think that is why I got so sick. Then last year I went to the mountain, I became a man. On the mountain we are taught to face our responsibilities.