



7

GENERATIONS

A PLAINS CREE SAGA

DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON

SCOTT B. HENDERSON

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BY DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON
ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT B. HENDERSON



HIGHWATER
PRESS

The logo for Highwater Press features a stylized, wavy line that resembles a lowercase 'h' or a series of connected waves, positioned above the words 'HIGHWATER' and 'PRESS' stacked vertically.

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To Jill and our four children: Emily, Cole, Anna, and Lauren – the future generation

— D.A.R.

To Angela for all of her support and sacrifice

— S. B. H.



ILUSTONZ

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COME ON,
PICK UP.



DEAR MOM ...



I'M SO TIRED OF HOPING.

I'M SO TIRED OF WAITING.



I THINK THIS WAY I JUST WON'T
KNOW ANYMORE.

I WON'T KNOW TO BE SAD OR HOW TO
BE LET DOWN.

I'LL JUST SLEEP.



NO WAITING OR HOPING. HOPE IS
NEVER REALIZED.

THE PHONE NEVER RINGS ...



... AND I DON'T WANT THIS ANYMORE. I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT WHERE I WAS WALKING IN THE WOODS UNTIL THERE WERE TREES EVERYWHERE, TOWERING OVER ME, AND I WAS LOST. I REALIZE NOW THAT I'LL NEVER WAKE FROM THAT DREAM. I DON'T WANT TO BE LOST ANYMORE OR WAITING FOR SOMEBODY TO FIND ME.







HI MOM.



HI, MY BOY.



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO.

I FOUND YOUR LETTER.

YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR.

I WISH YOU COULD SEE THAT.



OUR PAST HAS SHAPED US ALL. YOU, ME ...



... ALL OF US.



THE PAST ISN'T AN EXCUSE.

NO, IT ISN'T ...

... BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM.



THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY . . .

HELLO, STONE.*



*TRANSLATED FROM CREE.

BEAR!
YOU'RE BACK!



I ALWAYS RETURN BROTHER.



I WANT TO COME
WITH YOU ONE DAY.



YOU'RE READY
TO BE A MAN,
LITTLE BROTHER?

YES.

WELL, YOU MAY BE
ONE OF US AFTER ALL.



AND YOU WILL RIDE WITH ME,
WITH THE WARRIORS.



IF YOU CAN KEEP
UP, THAT IS.

YOU'RE GETTING
OLD, BEAR!

JUST WAIT
AND SEE.

SOON AFTER, STONE EMBARKED ON HIS VISION QUEST.

STONE ...

... WE SWEAT TO CLEANSE YOUR BODY AND MIND.

YOU NEED THIS FOR YOUR TASK AHEAD.

AFTER YOUR VISION, ITEMS WILL REMIND YOU OF IT ... FEATHERS, AMULETS.

KEEP THEM.

THEY WILL BRING YOU GOOD FORTUNE.

YOU ARE NOT TO EAT OR DRINK.

GO TO THE WOODS.



SEVEN GENERATIONS: A PLAINS CREE SAGA follows one Plains Cree family from the early 19th century to the present day. For Edwin, the story of his ancestors from both the distant and recent past must guide him through an uncertain present, to the dawn of a new future. Originally published as a four-part graphic novel series, *7 Generations* explores the life of Stone, a young Cree warrior, the smallpox epidemic of 1870, the residential school system of the 20th century and its familial legacy.

Praise for *7 Generations*:

“...David weaves an engrossing and unforgettable story with the precision of a historian and the color of a true Indigenous storyteller.”

– Rosanna Deerchild, author, *This Is a Small Northern Town*

“...a masterpiece of traditional knowledge; a powerful gift to share!”

– Betty Ross, Elder, Cross Lake First Nation

“...Healing lies in knowing our past, not just of our lives, but also the distant past of our ancestors. The interweaving movements from present to past and past to present are like waves of cleansing waters washing in to the present, and back out to that distant past. It’s mesmerizing.”

– Beatrice Mosionier, author, *In Search of April Raintree*

“...a powerful message through image and word [that] will engage readers in an historical and insightful story ...”

– David Booth, author and educator

“...Reconciliation is about respect... and self-respect is where it starts. A good story is worth telling, and when told well, is worth reading. Especially this one.”

– Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair, *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*


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