

TALES FROM BIG SPIRIT

The Peacemaker Thanadelthur



DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON

WAI TIEN



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BY DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON
ILLUSTRATED BY WAI TIEN



HIGHWATER
PRESS

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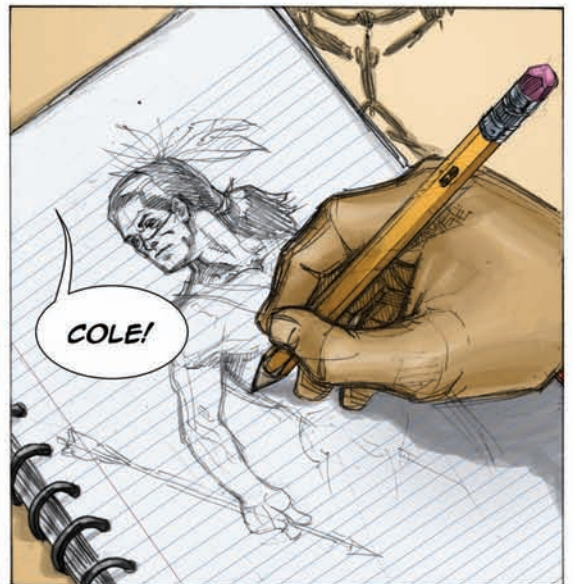
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COLE, WAS IT CLASS? WELL, I THINK I HAVE *JUST* THE THING.

SINCE COLE SEEMED SO *BORED* WITH MY TALK ON ABORIGINAL HISTORY MAYBE *HE* CAN TEACH THE CLASS. A BIT BETTER.

WHAT? ME? I WASN'T BORED, I...

TOMORROW AFTERNOON, YOU WILL PRESENT TO US ON AN ABORIGINAL HISTORICAL FIGURE.



LATER, AT THE DINNER TABLE...

I'M NOT HUNGRY, MOM.

WELL I'M NOT TODAY.


YOU'RE ALWAYS HUNGRY, LITTLE GUY.

ARE YOU *SICK*?

I'LL BE *SICK* TOMORROW, RIGHT IN FRONT OF *EVERYBODY*.







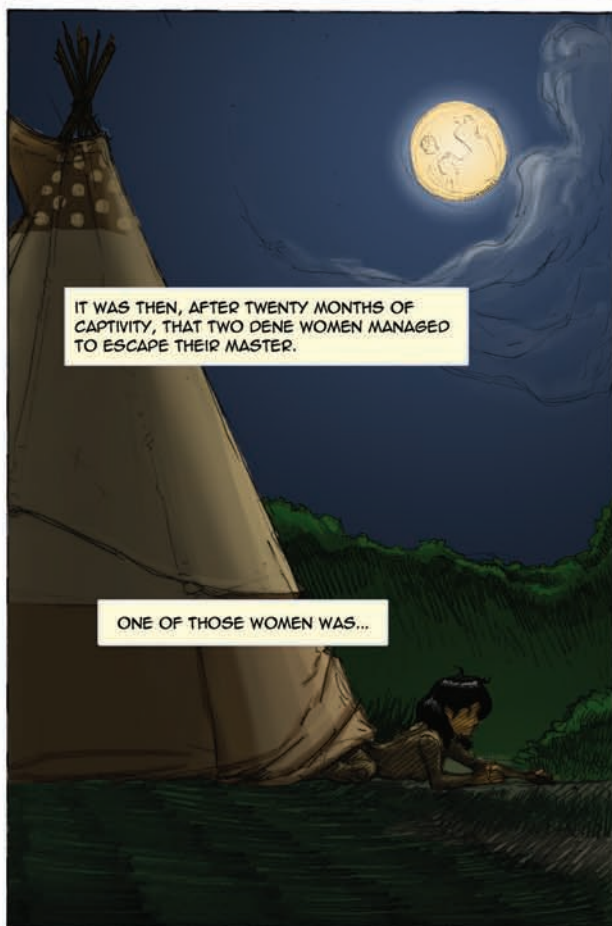
IN MARCH 1713, A GROUP OF WOMEN WERE CAPTURED BY THE CREE. THIS WAS COMMON AT THE TIME.

THE CREE WERE MUCH STRONGER THAN THE DENE BECAUSE OF THEIR GUNS.

STRONG DENE WOMEN WERE A PRIZE TO THE CREE. THEY NEEDED WOMEN TO DO LOTS OF WORK BECAUSE THE MEN HUNTED.



IN THE FALL OF 1714, THE CREE HAD SET UP A CAMP ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NELSON RIVER.



IT WAS THEN, AFTER TWENTY MONTHS OF CAPTIVITY, THAT TWO DENE WOMEN MANAGED TO ESCAPE THEIR MASTER.

ONE OF THOSE WOMEN WAS...

...THANADELTHUR.



THE PEACEMAKER



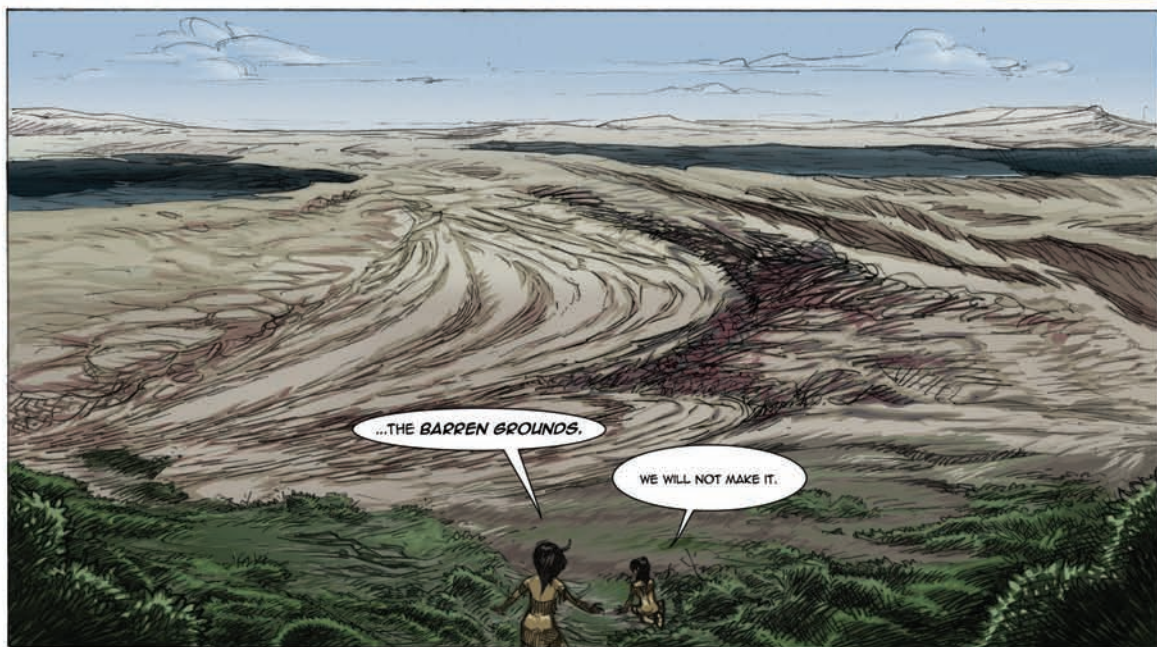
THEY INTENDED TO GO NORTH,
BACK TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE.



BUT THEIR JOURNEY WOULD
PROVE TO BE DIFFICULT.

WE HAVE COME
TO IT...*

*TRANSLATED FROM DENE



...THE BARREN BROLINDS.

WE WILL NOT MAKE IT.



WE CAN MAKE IT.
WE MUST, IF WE WANT
TO SEE OUR HOME.

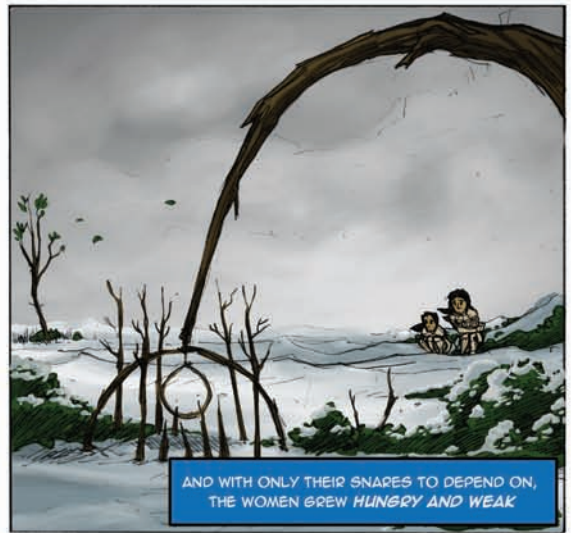
YES...



COME THEN, WE
HAVE A LONG
JOURNEY AHEAD.



THE WEATHER SOON TURNED COLD.



AND WITH ONLY THEIR SNARES TO DEPEND ON,
THE WOMEN GREW HUNGRY AND WEAK



WE...WE CANNOT CONTINUE ON.
WE WILL NOT MAKE IT.

I KNOW...I KNOW...

WE MUST TURN BACK.
THERE ARE TRADERS THERE.
THEY CAN HELP US.

I HAVE HEARD OF THEM.



WE ONLY NEED TO
FIND THEM. IT SHOULD
NOT BE HARD. YOU
WILL SEE.

THEY...THEY CAN HELP...



...YOU...I JOIN MY
RELATIONS...NOW...

SLEEP WELL, MY FRIEND.



When Cole's teacher catches him drawing rather than listening in class, he gives Cole a special assignment: an oral presentation on an important Indigenous figure. Cole will do almost anything to avoid speaking in public – even feigning illness. But when he hears the story of the remarkable woman known as Thanadelthur – peacemaker between the Cree and the Dene and interpreter for the governor of Fort York – he is so inspired by her bravery, he overcomes his own fears.

TALES FROM BIG SPIRIT is a unique seven-book graphic novel series that delves into the stories of some of the great Indigenous figures from history – some already well known and others who deserve to be. Other titles in the series include

The Scout (Tommy Prince)

The Land of Os (John Ramsay)

The Ballad of Nancy April
(Shawnadithit)

The Poet (Pauline Johnson)

The Rebel (Gabriel Dumont)

The Chief (Mistahimaskwa/Big Bear)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Robertson is an award-winning writer. His books include *When We Were Alone* (Governor General's award-winner), *Will I See?* (winner Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Award Graphic Novel Category), and the YA novel *Strangers*. David educates as well as entertains through his writings about Indigenous Peoples in Canada, illuminating their cultures, histories, communities, and relevant contemporary issues. David is a member of Norway House Cree Nation.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Wai Tien graduated with honours from the School of Art at the University of Manitoba. When he's not busy drawing comics or painting murals, Wai pulls double duty on guitar and vocals with his band, All On Red. He also illustrated another graphic novel in the series, *The Land of Os: John Ramsay*.