WILL I SEE?

Based on the story by Iskwé and Erin Leslie

May, a young teenage girl, traverses the city streets, finding keepsakes in different places along her journey. When May and her kookum make these keepsakes into a necklace, it opens a world of danger and fantasy. While May fights against a terrible reality, she learns that there is strength in the spirit of those who have passed. But will that strength be able to save her? A story of tragedy and beauty, Will I See? illuminates the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

David Alexander Robertson is an award-winning graphic novelist and writer who has long been an advocate for educating youth on Indigenous history and contemporary issues. He has written several graphic novels, including the bestselling 7 Generations series and Sugar Falls. His first novel, The Evolution of Alice, was winner of On the Same Page (2016). David lives in Winnipeg with his wife and five children, where he works in the field of Indigenous education.

GMB Chomichuk is an award-winning writer, illustrator and public speaker. His work has appeared in film, television, books, comics and graphic novels. Sometimes he writes and/or illustrates occult suspense stories like The Imagination Manifesto, Midnight City and Underworld, science fiction works like Raygun Gothic and Infinitum, or inspirational all-ages adventure stories like Cassie and Tonk. Watch his creative process in the Kelly-Anne Riess documentary Artists By Night.

Called one of the “10 Artists to Watch in 2016” by CBC Music, Iskwé’s cross-cultural aesthetic is as striking as her tripped-out blend of soul. The name Iskwé (pronounced iss-kwé) means ‘woman’ in her native language. The Winnipeg bred singer/songwriter weaves together her Irish and Cree/Dene roots, writing about her struggle to fit into/break away from Western archetypes, as Iskwé’s connection to her roots and traditions is an important part of her artistic vision.

Erin Leslie is a 25 year old digital artist who has spent her life drawing and finding inspiration for her work in the world around her. She aspires to design video games that feature stories about women of colour, LGBT and gender minorities, and other stories too often left untold in an industry that has been long overdue for a refreshing dose of diversity.
WILL I SEE?

Story by Iskwé and Erin Leslie
Script by David Alexander Robertson
Art by GMB Chomichuk

Trigger Warning: Violence against women.
For each of the women we’ve lost, together, we stand as one.

— Iskwé

For the over four thousand Indigenous women and girls we have lost and for my daughters, that they grow up strong, and in a safer place.

— David Alexander Robertson

For the seen and the unseen. For the forgotten and the remembered.

— GMB Chomichuk
THE PRESENT.
OH, HELLO THERE.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

ARE YOU GOING TO STUDY WITH ME, GIRL?
I THINK WE'LL KEEP THIS.

COME ON.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOUR
I wonder if Grand Ma will let me keep you? I think...

MEOW.

What've you got there?
MEOW.

I GUESS SOMEBODY LOST IT.
LET'S KEEP IT.

YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE TREASURE HUNTER, AREN'T YOU?

LOOK AT THAT.

WHERE'S ALL THIS STUFF COMING FROM?
Hey, girl. Do you wanna party?

I know you do.

Leave me the hell alone.

Get off me!
HEY...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS OPENS?

MEOW..
YOU FIND THE NICEST THINGS IN THE STRANGEST PLACES, HEY?
What's going on today?

This isn't right.
I WANT TO GET HOME...

...NOW.
WHAT
WOULD YOU
DO IF
I DIED?
The spirit animals in this story represent the Seven Sacred Teachings—natural virtues that form a foundation to achieve Mino-Pimatisiwin, the good life. Each animal embodies a teaching to illustrate our connection to the natural world. In receiving these teachings, we are told to respect the earth and all living things inhabited within. Indigenous Peoples lived for thousands of years with these connections to the earth through the animal world. We came from the earth, and the earth is mother to us all.

Medicine Bag: a pouch, often referred to as a bundle, which contains an individual’s sacred items. This pouch hangs from the neck in order to keep these items close to our hearts.
BEAR
Courage: the mental, moral, and spiritual strength to overcome fears that keep us from living the way we are meant to live.

EAGLE
Love: loving oneself as the Creator loves each one of us, and extending that love to others.

BEAVER
Wisdom: using the talents you have been gifted with for the benefit of others and to contribute to creating a healthier community.

WOLF
Humility: knowing there is a higher power, and through this knowledge, understanding we are all equal to each other.

TURTLE
Truth: understanding the original laws given to us by the Creator, and remaining faithful to them.

BUFFALO
Respect: showing deep respect for mother earth and all living things, including the differences that make us unique.

SABE or MISTAPIW
Honesty: being honest to yourself in how the Creator made you and accepting the person you are meant to be.
Nobody Knows

Lay me down now
Lay me to the ground
Lay me down now
Lay me down in the shade
I won’t be afraid
   No I won’t
I won’t be afraid
   No I won’t
I won’t be afraid
Lay me down in the shade

And nobody knows, nobody knows
Where we’ve been, or where we go
Nobody knows, nobody knows
Where we’ve been or where we go
Nobody knows

I won’t let you look away anymore

— Lyrics from the song by Iskwé
May, a young teenage girl, traverses the city streets, finding keepsakes in different places along her journey. When May and her kookum make these keepsakes into a necklace, it opens a world of danger and fantasy. While May fights against a terrible reality, she learns that there is strength in the spirit of those who have passed. But will that strength be able to save her? A story of tragedy and beauty, Will I See? illuminates the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

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