

Tasha Spillett Natasha Donovan

Surviving the City Vol. 2

From the Roots Up



Surviving the City *Vol. 2*

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Natasha Donovan


**HIGHWATER
PRESS**

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THE DEBWE SERIES

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Treaty 1 Territory and homeland of the Métis Nation

For the ones resting below and those rising above.

-TS

*For Haley, who has been a source of courage
for two decades and counting.*

-ND

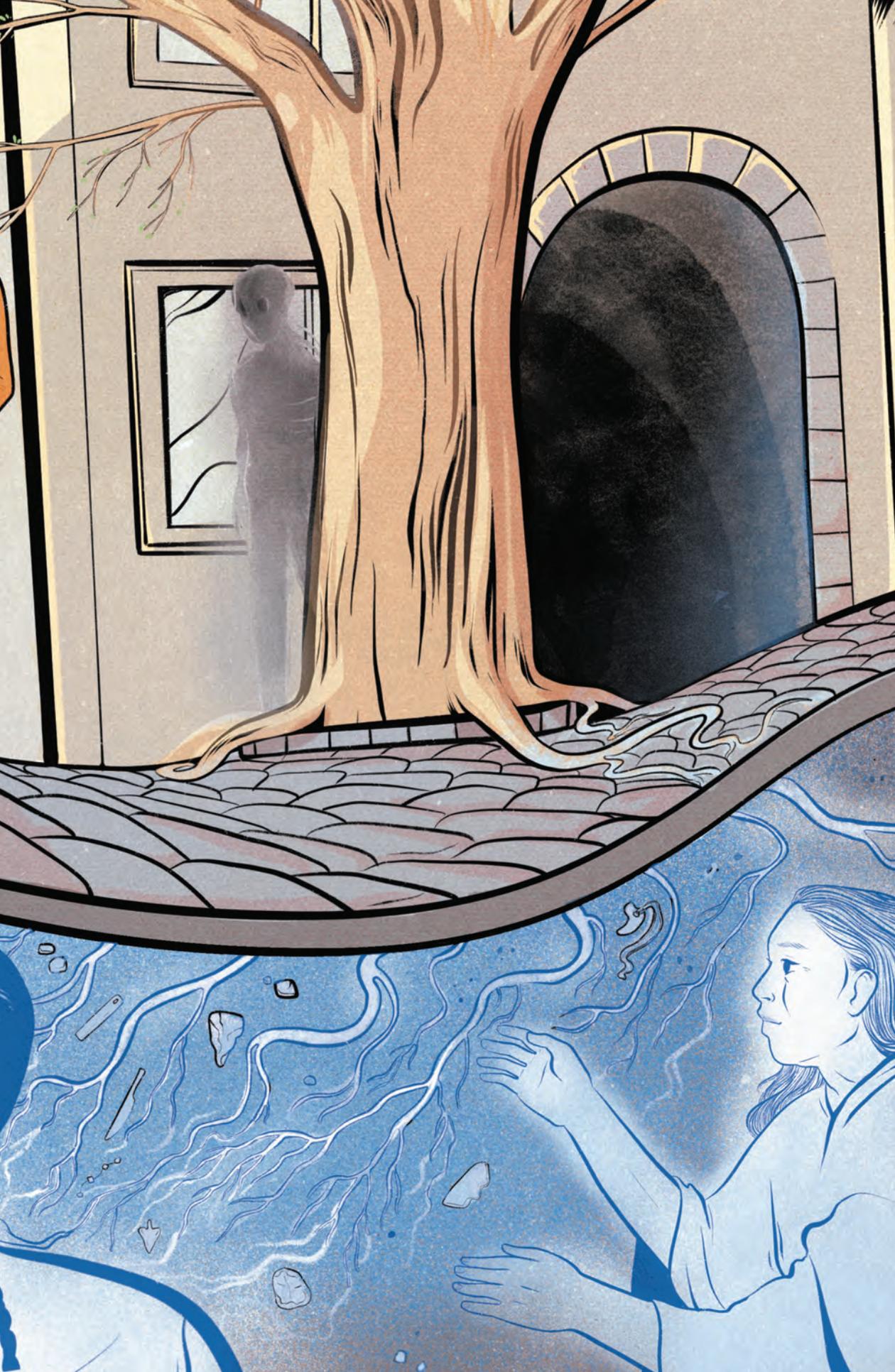


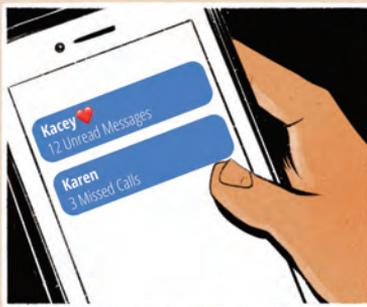


















WHAT'D YOU BRING THIS ONE IN FOR?

CAUGHT HER MARKING UP A BUILDING.



GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PARENTS LET THEIR KIDS RUN AROUND LIKE SAVAGES.



WE'RE THE SAVAGES? WE AREN'T THE ONES *STILL* TAKING KIDS AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES!



YOU'D BETTER WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.

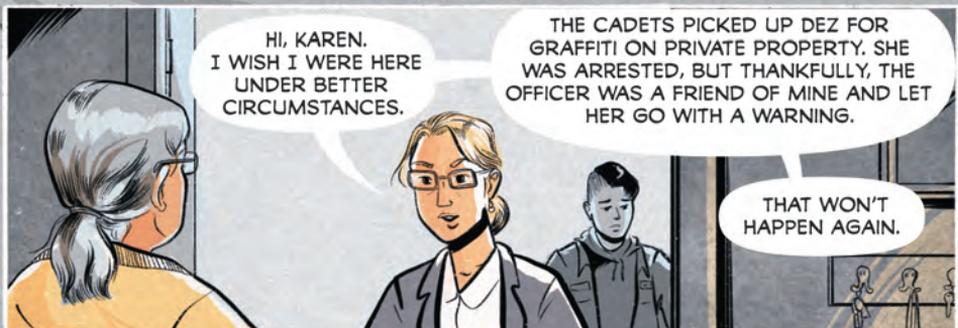






WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET IT, DEZ? THIS IS YOUR HOME NOW, AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. RUNNING AWAY ONLY GETS YOU IN TROUBLE.

THIS WILL NEVER BE MY HOME! I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO AFTER KOKUM DIED.



HI, KAREN. I WISH I WERE HERE UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE CADETS PICKED UP DEZ FOR GRAFFITI! ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. SHE WAS ARRESTED, BUT THANKFULLY, THE OFFICER WAS A FRIEND OF MINE AND LET HER GO WITH A WARNING.

THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



HERE ARE HER THINGS.



IT'S UP TO YOU, BUT I THINK THERE SHOULD BE IN-HOUSE CONSEQUENCES, LIKE LIMITED PHONE ACCESS AND NO MORE SKATEBOARD ADVENTURES.



DEZ, WE WERE SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK.

COME IN--WE CAN DEAL WITH THE REST IN THE MORNING.



IF SHE KEEPS GETTING INTO TROUBLE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO WITH HER.



SHE GOT LUCKY TODAY, BUT THE POLICE MIGHT NOT BE SO GENEROUS NEXT TIME.



SO WHAT NOW? THERE HAVE TO BE SOME CONSEQUENCES.



HER GRANDMOTHER JUST PASSED AWAY.



SHE'S GRIEVING AND IS UNDERSTANDABLY HAVING A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO STAYING HERE.

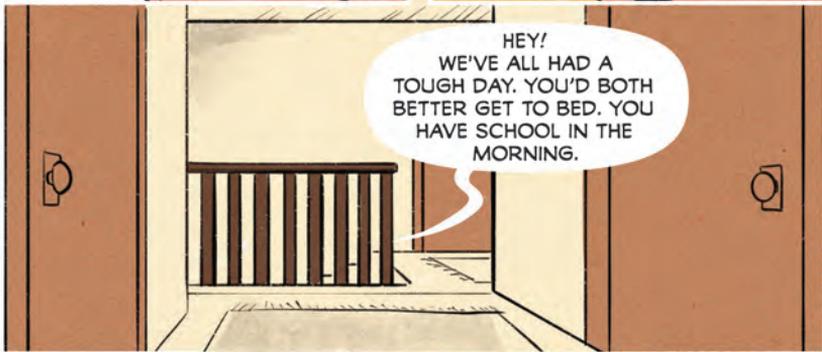
LOOK, IT'S LATE, AND WE ARE ALL EXHAUSTED.



I'LL TALK TO HER IN THE MORNING. FOR NOW, WE SHOULD JUST BE HAPPY SHE'S SAFE.







Beautiful, poignant, and emotional.

–The Tiny Activist

Dez and Miikwan's stories continue in this sequel to *Surviving the City*.

Dez's grandmother has passed away. Grieving, and with nowhere else to go, she's living in a group home. On top of everything else, Dez is navigating a new relationship and coming into her identity as a Two-Spirit person.

Miikwan is crushing on new kid Riel, but doesn't really understand what Dez is going through. Will she learn how to be a supportive ally to her best friend?

Elder Geraldine is doing her best to be supportive, but she doesn't know how to respond when the gendered protocols she's grown up with are thrown into question.

Will Dez be comfortable expressing her full identity? And will her community relearn the teachings and overcome prejudice to celebrate her for who she is?



Tasha Spillett (she/her/hers) draws her strength from both her Nehiyaw and Trinidadian bloodlines. She is a celebrated educator, poet, and emerging scholar. Tasha is most heart-tied to community-led work that centres on land and water defence and the protection of Indigenous women and girls. Tasha is working on her PhD in Education (University of Saskatchewan) and holds a Vanier Canada Award.



Natasha Donovan (she/her/hers) is a Métis illustrator originally from Vancouver, British Columbia. Her sequential work has been published in *This Place: 150 Years Retold*, and the *Wonder Women of History* anthology. She is the illustrator of the award-winning graphic novel *Surviving the City*, as well as the award-winning Mothers of Xsan children's book series, and the forthcoming picture book biography *Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer*. She lives by the Nooksack River in Washington State.
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