

SWAMPY CREE / ENGLISH EDITION

Δ^ˆΛ^ˆ bP VŁdŁ

Ispík káki péyakoyak

When We Were Alone



DAVID A. ROBERTSON
JULIE FLETT
ALDERICK LEASK







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Nana oma oci, mékwác kákí ayát
Norway House Indian Residential School.

Kakinaw tanto anihí kákí paspístakik éyako kiskinawátowikamik,
anikik ité kákí ayácik, éko mina
anikik mwéstas kákí ati mositácik kita maci
pakamiskákocik ékwéniw.

Nipakosénimon óma kita wícihikoyán masinahikan
inikok kita ati mino ayáyan.

For Nana, who attended
Norway House Indian Residential School.

For each and every residential school survivor,
both those who attended themselves, and those
who experienced the intergenerational effects.

I hope this book helps and heals.

Δ^ˆΛ^ˆ bρ V↳d↳

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When We Were Alone

David A. Robertson

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PRESS



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Anohc ká kísikák níkí wíciyáw kókom énocíciKET owápiKwaníya kistikanik.
 Tápitaw kikiskam éyákwastasinahikáténik kikiskikana. Mwéci mána ékí
 posciskak kimiwanéyápiy. Ispík mána ká nawakikapawici émanisak anihi
 átít anípisa anta oci wápiKwanik, mwác mána áskaw ká nókosit wina ékosi
 mwéci ésinákasot tápiskóc anihi ká nócitát wápiKwaníya. Mwésci ayáw
 itowa kámamátáwástépanit osikiyás.

“Nókom, kékwán óma kapé wéci itáspisoyan?” Nitisi kakwécimáw.
 Ékwáni ká itwét Nókom, “Háw, Nósisim...”

Today I helped my kókom in her flower garden. She always wears colourful clothes.
 It's like she dresses in rainbows. When she bent down to prune some of the flowers, I
 couldn't even see her because she blended in with them. She was like a chameleon.

“Nókom, why do you wear so many colours?” I asked.
 Nókom said, “Well, Nósisim...”





Δ^οΛ^α Δ^λ Δ^σ- b CC^οΡ^ο-τ^οτ^ο b^ρ CC^οΡ^ο-τ^οτ^ο σ^α τ^οU σ^ρα^ε
σ^οο^οΔ^οσ^αε^ε σ^οU^λ ∇^d σ^α L^α C^λC^ο ρ ρ^ρ^οα^ε ∇ Δ^d
Γ^α·Λ^οC^οU^ρ ρ^ρ^ορ^α·_x L^b τ^οU b^ρ Δ^λλ^λ ∇ ρ^α∇·σ^ΓbΔ^ο·λ^λ
ρ^ορ^α·Δ^οΔ^ο·bΓ^d <b^ρ Δ^οΔ^ο· ρ^ρ^ορ^α· σ^ρ Γ^σbΔ^ο·α^ε ρC
ρ^ρ^οb^L·_x b^ρα^ο Δ^σρ^λ Δ^Δ·ρ^λ <V^λb^ο· ρ Δ^C^οΛ^ρΔ^ο· ∇^d
Δ^σΔ σ^C<Γ^Γbσ^ασ L[·] Δ^Γ Γ^α·^οC^V<σ^α·_x Γ[·]Γ ∇V
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α^d· b Δ^U·_x ∇ρ α^C∇·σ^Γd^λd^λ Δ^L σ^αα^ε <V^λb^ο· ρC
Δ^Γα^dρ^λ·_x

Ispík óma anohc ká tatwáskínéyan kákí tatwáskínéyan nína, nété níkinák nititáwininák, nitotémak éko nína mána tápitaw kí kikiskénán é áko minwápisástéki kikiskikana. Máka nété kákí ayáyák é kinawénimikawiyák kiskinawátowikamikok pakán itowa kikiskikan niki mínikawinan kita kikiskamák. Kakinaw anikik awásisak pá péyakwan kí itáspisowak, éko anihni nitápacicikanináni mwác oci minwástápépaninwa. Mwéci épé kaskitwánaskwák mána níki isinákosinán ispík épé mámawi nókosiyák.

“Kékwániw máka ékosi pápéyakwan kákí ocistápisowék?” Nitisi kakwécimáw.

“Éká ékí osci cíkénitakik óma naspic éki áko minwáspisowák,” Nókom ká itwét. “Ékí natawénimikoyákok óma nínanán pá péyakwan kita isinákosiyák.”

When I was your age, at home in my community, my friends and I wore many different colours. But at the school I went to, far away from home, they gave us different clothes to wear. All the children were dressed the same, and our clothes weren't colourful at all. We all mixed together like storm clouds.

“Why did you have to dress like that?” I asked.

“They didn't like that we wore such beautiful colours,” Nókom said. “They wanted us to look like everybody else.”







Lb 4^b° DL bP 4N bb·P` 7b·- ∇ <V↳d↳` ∇d Lq DL
 b 4·U<b` ∇d b < Λq^CP 4σΔ 4σΛ↳ ∇d Lq ∇dC
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∇d 4_ _od^ b ΔU·' CΛC° L4·r 4σΔ b 4d
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Máka áskaw óma kákí ati takwákik mékwác é pá péyakoyák, éko mána
 óma ká wástepakák éko ká pá pinástaki anihí anípíya, éko mána ékota kákí
 natawi tátitipítíyák ita kákí isi mámawi pakitiki anihí anípíya. Ékwani mána
 éki wakitastayak anihí ánipíya ánta níki kiskaninani anihí ká kitwám.

Éko éyako níki cíkénitamihikonan.

“Éko anohc,” Nókóm ká itwét, “Tápitaw mawaci anihí ka ako
 minwástapépanínákoki kikiskikana ká osci kikiskamán.”

But sometimes in the fall, when we were alone, and the leaves had turned to their warm
 autumn hues, we would roll around on the ground. We would pile the leaves over the
 clothes they had given us, and we would be colourful again.

And this made us happy.

“Now,” Nókóm said, “I always wear the most beautiful colours.”





CP Δ^ob· Δ^oῖῶ ᄋσΔ b ᄋῑC' ᄋ·Λb·σῶ ᄋb·σ ᄋU
 ᄋCᄋ` b ΔᄋUῶ ᄋσL b Cᄋ` ᄋσb^o_x ᄋᄋC ᄋ σCΔ^oᄋᄋ·
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 ᄋ^oC^obᄋ_x Δ^oΛ` ᄋᄋ^oᄋ' ᄋᄋ· ᄋᄋ^c C ᄋᄋ^oC' ᄋσL
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 Δ^oᄋ σᄋ·ᄋUσ` ᄋσΔ ΔU b ΔCᄋUᄋ ᄋLῖᄋ·ᄋᄋ_x ᄋῖ ᄋ
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Kákí iskwá wíciyak anihi ká nócitát wápikwaníya, ékwáni nété otánák ká itotéyák anima ká takok ménikan. Ékota ki nitáwikinwa amaciwépakosa misiwé ménikanik, éko nété mína é isi níwékotéki mostaskamik. Ispík é kwéskít awa kókom ta mínwastát anima átápiskinikan, ká wápatamwak anihi otapikána mitoni cápasis nété é isko níwékoténik anihi ité ká itakotéki amaciwépakosa. Mwéci é osósot ésinákosit.

“Nókom, kékwán óma kápé wéci kinwániskwéyan?” Nitisi kakwécimáw.
 Ékwáni ká itwét Nókom, “Háw, Nósisim...”

After I helped with the flowers, we went over to the back gate. There were vines covering the gate, and they reached all the way to the ground. When my kókom turned to fix the latch, I saw that her braid hung almost as low as the vines. It was like she had a tail.

“Nókom, why do you wear your hair so long?” I asked.
 Nókom said, “Well, Nósisim...”





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**Awa omasinahikew
é ácinokét**

David A. Robertson (wína) kí
kaskitamásow anima ta mínit
Governor General's Award-
onitáwasinahikéw é ácimát
óki Anisinápéwa óta Canada
énókotát nistom pimácihona
kayásácimowina, éko itáwina,
éko mína é ánimótak anih
kékówna anohc ká kísikák ká
kinomáciskakémakaki.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Robertson (he, him, his)
is a Governor General's Award-
winning writer whose stories
about Indigenous peoples in
Canada reflect their cultures,
histories, and communities,
as well as illuminating many
contemporary issues.

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Julie Flett ᑰᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦ
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Governor General's Literary
Award.

Awa payiténakwasinahikéw

Julie Flett (wína) ápitawikosisán
itowa ininiw kí kaskitamásow ta
mínit anima Governor General's
Award-anih niyánananosáp
ácimowi masinahikana, éko
ékóma péyak Birdsong, éko
anociké kákí wínit wístá ékí
akimit óma ta mawinéyak ta
kaskitamásot anima Governor
General's Literary Award.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Julie Flett (she, her, hers) is a
Governor General's Award-winning
Cree-Métis author, illustrator,
and artist of more than 15 books,
including *Birdsong*, a recent
finalist for a Governor General's
Literary Award.

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Alderick Leask ᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦ
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O mīskotasinayikēw awa

Alderick Leask awa
omaskikomowin é nitá
kiskinawámákét éko Sapataweyak
Cree Nation, Manitoba kí ocíw.
Kayask ká oci kiskinawamakét
é apacitat anima opikiskwéwin
ta wítak kékówna kayitéyayik
oci wéká ká wítak ésinákoki
éko étápataki anohc ápacitáwina
ékówniw nókotáw.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Alderick Leask is a respected
Swampy Cree language instructor
originally from Sapataweyak
Cree Nation, Manitoba. He is an
experienced educator whose use
of the functional and descriptive
language of Swampy Cree
demonstrates its practicality.

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