

Candice Chit Nilii

Bossy Candice



Guuk'iighe' Leslie McCartney ts'at Garlen Andre chan gwit Ruby McLeod
By Leslie McCartney with Caroline Andre and Ruby McLeod

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Caroline Andre's story is based on a story she told and is published in *Our Whole Gwich'in Way of Life Has Changed / Gwich'in K'yuu Gwiidandàì Tthak Ejuk Gòonlih Stories from the People of the Land* by Leslie McCartney and Gwich'in Tribal Council, published by University of Alberta Press (2020).

Published by Gwich'in Tribal Council

Copyright © 2025 Leslie McCartney and Gwich'in Tribal Council

ISBN 978-1-896337-41-8

We wish to thank the following people for all their hard work on contributions to make this book possible.

ELDERS:

Caroline Andre and Ruby McLeod

FUNDERS:

Arctic Global Greengrants Fund

Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council

Canadian Heritage, Indigenous Languages & Cultural Program – Indigenous Language Component

Government of the Northwest Territories Community Literacy Development Fund

Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Language and Early Childhood Education

Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture & Heritage for their in-kind support of time

Snowchange Cooperative

University of Alaska Fairbanks for in-kind support of Leslie McCartney's time

GWICH'IN TEACHERS:

AnnaLee McLeod – Aklavik

Annabelle Tetlichy – Inuvik

Gladys Alexie – Fort McPherson

GWICH'IN TRANSLATORS:

Alestine Andre

Lisa Andre

Agnes Mitchell+

Eleanor Mitchell-Firth*

Karen Mitchell

Joanne Snowshoe

ILLUSTRATOR:

Linda Wright

With assistance from Dennis Wright and Alestine Andre

DESIGN AND PRINTING:

Outcrop Communications

Suite 203

5109 48 Street

Yellowknife, NT X1A 1N5

(867) 766-6700

info@outcrop.com

TEXT REVIEWERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Alestine Andre

Arlyn Charlie

Kristi Benson

John Byrne

Ingrid Kraitsch

Sharon Snowshoe

Thank you to National Park Service, Denali National Park & Preserve for allowing us to use a portion of their 'Caribou Audio Clip' in the audio version of this book.

Thank you to Reverend Trimble Gilbert for allowing us to use his Red River Jig as recorded on Neets'all Gwich'in Fiddlers CD, copyright 2001 Gregory & Trimble Gilbert in the audio version of this book.



+ Audio reader for stories by Elders Antoine Andre, Caroline Andre, Pierre Benoit and Joan Nazon

* Audio reader for stories by Elders Mary Kendi, Mary Martha Firth, Peter Kay, Sr., and Alfred Semple

Candice Chit Nilii

Candice Boss He is

Bossy Candice

"Garlen'," Na'ąą shooka'gjikhih, "Anàih."
"Caroline," my mother she called me, "Come."

"Garlen," called Na'ąą, "Come."

"Łèthch'ùh tałtsaa shits'à'tr'iniinjìh.
"Bannock I will make, help me.

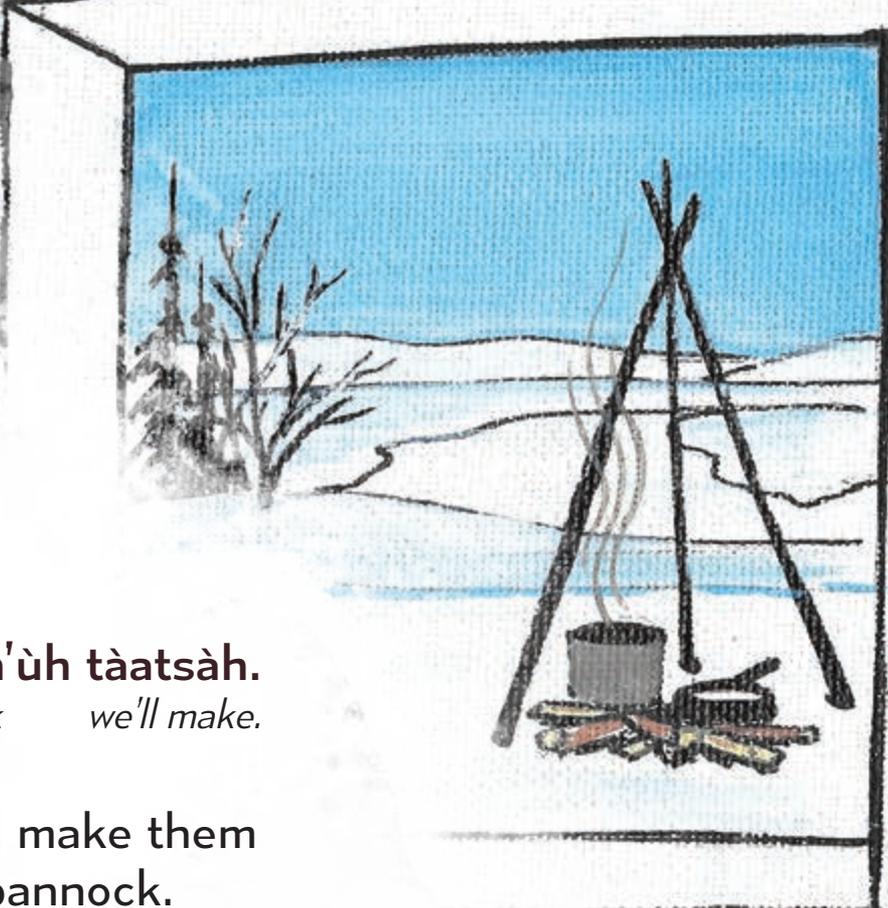
"Help me make bannock.

Nitsii Ts'ideht'i' ts'àt Nitsųų Marcrena
Your grandfather Ts'ideht'i' and Grandmother Marcrena
jùk drin k'egiteeda'àł.
today they will arrive.

Ts'ideht'i' and Nitsųų Marcrena are coming today.

Gweenjit gwiizii vike'tàach'ùh.
For them good we will cook.

We will cook really good for them.

A window view of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a campfire is burning on a tripod of sticks, with a pot hanging over it. In the background, a caribou is visible in the snow. The sky is blue.

Gweenjit fèthch'ùh tàatsàh.

For them bannock we'll make.

We will make them
fresh bannock.

Chiitajj kwàn' kak vadzaih

Outside fire on caribou

ver àh teezàh.

cooking with good.

It will go with the caribou stew
cooking on the fire outside.

K'a'gada'oo jì' guuzhì'gwitàhts'ìk."
They arrive when they will be hungry."

They will be hungry
when they get here."

Shizhifì'gwìdaanàjj!
I was excited!

I was so excited!

Niizhet däj' ah Shitsii ts'àt
Long ago my grandfather and
Shitsųų guunif'i'.
grandmother I seen them.

I had not seen Shitsii
and Shitsųų for a
very long time.

Tadh Tr'igjikhii ts'àt Nagwidandàih Drìn
Christmas and Easter
lames eenjit goozrąjh zheh guugwinah'ih.
mass for only town they come.

They only came to
town to go to church at
Christmas and Easter.

Shèk ah dechan tat guugwich'in.
All the time on the land they live.

They lived out on
the land.

Tajilgğğ ah guukwàndeek'it.
Tajilgğğ is their camp.

They spent all their
time at their camp
at Tajilgğğ.

Tajilgōō ah "njuu kat nihts'at
Tajilgōō "islands towards each other
ginàl'ee ah ginùu."
something standing they say."

Tajilgōō means "islands facing each other"
Tya'ąą had told me.

Tya'ąą jùu dìshàhnùh, "Uunjìt k'yùu ah
My dad told me this "Whiteman way
Eetsiigwał Tyek Van" giyàhnùh.
Forks Three Lake" they say.

He said, "In English, it is known as Three Forks Lake.

Tsiigehtchic chan gwìt Teet'et Zheh k'iteetak gùu'ęjh.
Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson between it is.

It is between Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson.



Jii van ah Tsiigehtchic ts'at Teet'et Zheh
This lake Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson
łajj k'ih shek guuzrjį diinch'ùh.
dog trail old besides it is.

This lake is on the old dog team trail that went between Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson.

Jii tājǰ ah Nìtsii ts'at
This trail your grandfather and
Nìtsyū kak gitee'al ts'at
grandmother on they will go on and
nikhwagitinahyàh.
come see us.

Nityè' tr'oodajh drin k'ideetak
Your dad last week
gwinoo goonìdhìzhèh.
around he visited with them.

Shiiyuughwàn kat da
My parents
Tsiigehtchic Nagwidandàih Drìn
Tsiigehtchic Easter
gwinàiyah ginùh.
we will come they said.

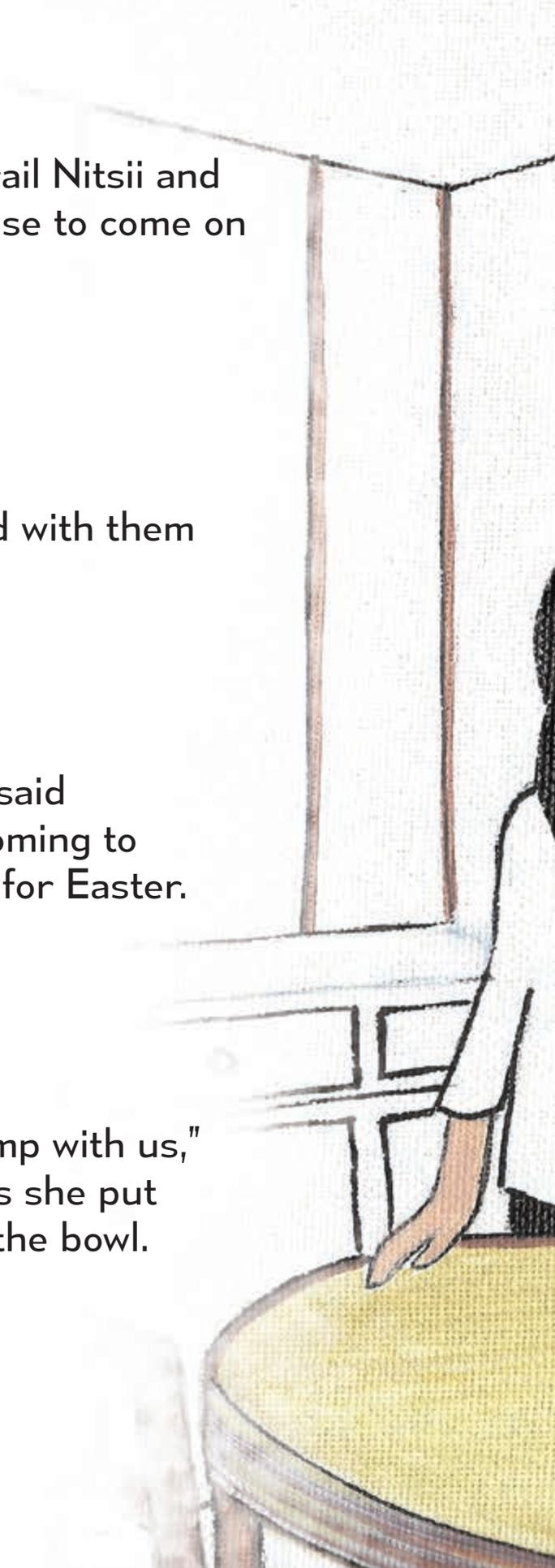
Nikhwàhgiteneehàà," Na'ąą nùh
They will camp with us," Mom said
guuzhik fèth ch'èk ghoo
while flour bowl big
zhìt tanjàh.
in she pour.

This is the trail Nitsii and
Nitsyū will use to come on
to see us.

Nitye' visited with them
last week.

My parents said
they were coming to
Tsiigehtchic for Easter.

They will camp with us,"
Na'ąą said as she put
the flour in the bowl.





T'ee lisel ts'àt fèth ta'tr'injal
Then salt and baking powder
yetat niinjàh.
among it she poured.

Then she put in some salt
and baking powder.

"Na' gwiizii nihtat t'ah'ih,"
"Here, good mix you do,"
Na'aa nùh.
Mom said.

"Here, you mix this up
good," said Na'aa.

Span choo àh dìtiishiiyaa
Spoon big with what I'm going to do
gàshoonìt'yìn.
she showed me.

She showed me how to stir
with a big spoon.

Łaą'əh Shìtsii ts'ət Shitsųų
Really my Grandfather and Grandmother
guut'iinihthàn.
I liked.

I loved Shitsii and
Shitsųų.

Didii ts'ət Diddųų shèk guuvihsrìh.
Didii and Diddųų always I called them.

I also called them Didii
and Diddųų.

Dinjii kat nizii giinlih gùu khe'
People good they are but slow
ts'at edi'gòonjìk.
too they move.

They were kind but they
moved so slow.

Łahch'yaa Aanjòo kat giinlih.
Really Elders they were.

They were very,
very old.

"Uunjit k'yùu ah Nitsii
"Whiteman way your Grandfather
Old Modeste vèazhìh.
Old Modeste he is called.

"Nitsii's English name is
Old Modeste.

Uunjit k'yùu Nitsuy Old Marcena

Whiteman way your Grandmother Old Marcena

vàazhìh," Na'ąą shàhnùh.

she is called," Mom told me.

Nitsuy's English name is Old Marcena," said Na'ąą.

Khè'ts'àt ah ch'èk ghoo zhùy chuy yenjàh.

Slowly plate round into water she pours.

Then she poured water slowly into the bowl.

Span àh nihtat t'e'ih, jùk

Spoon with I mix it, now

gwiintsal sheenjìt gàuuntrèh.

little for me it's getting harder.

It was getting harder and
harder for me to stir.

Łèth àh jidii t'àt nìjàazhìh.

The flour its thick getting to be.

The batter got thicker
and thicker.



"Jù'," Na'ąą nùh.
"Look," mom said.

Span òonjìk.
Spoon she took.

Gwiizii fèth nihtat t'ah'ìh.
Good flour mixing it she is.

Gwiizii ah achin nil'ìh.
Good I am watching.

Yeendòo, shiichan
Next time me too
akòodìtiishiiyàh.
I will do that.

Shaghàii ihtadh gwinlè' gùnlii guugàą ah
My years five it is even that
dìtiishiiyaa gàhshìndàih.
what I'm going to do I know.

"Watch," said Na'ąą.

She took the spoon.

She kept mixing until
the dough was smooth
and thick.

I watched real closely.

Next time, I would
know how to do it
myself.

Even though I'm only
five years old I know
how to do things.





Nikhwaʔuk deek'it jidii gwin tròo

Our fish place what kind wood

I know what wood to collect to burn to

ʔuk t'eh ʔat tahtsaa chan gàhshìndàih.

fish under smoke it makes too I know.

smoke fish at our summer camp.

Gwiniʔ'ii chan gwit ejihthh'ak k'iighe' gàhshìndàih.

Looking and listening by I know.

I learn by watching and listening.

Na'ąą, Tya'ąą, Shitsii, Shitsųų, Shuutr'ì' ts'at Sheek'aii

Mom, Dad, Grandfather, Grandmother, Aunty (Dad) and Aunty (Mom)

guuniʔ'ii ts'at guuvijìhth'ak.

I see them and I hear them.

I watch and listen to Na'ąą, Tya'ąą, Shitsii,
Shuu'ii, Shuutr'ì' and Sheek'aii.

"Anàih," Na'ąą nùh.
"Come," mom said.

Ch'tiidà'al eenjit nikhwagwidàl
Going outside for our clothes
nìidhaa nìdhàachùh.
warm we put on.

Ch'ek ghoo fèthch'ùh tahch'uu
Plate round bannock its cooked
t'ee eenjit chì'chàdhii'èjh.
after for I took out.

I carried an empty bowl to
put the bannock in once it
had cooked.

Tya'ąą adàj' kwàn ałtsàjj.
My dad already fire he made.

Tya'ąą had a fire going.

"Come," said Na'ąą.

We put on our
warm clothes and
went outside.





Vakak vadzaih tadinaadlèt.

On it caribou is boiling.

The caribou stew
was cooking.

Gwiizii vagwaatsàjh.

Good it smell.

It smelled so good.

Na'ąą friiban choo di'ih.

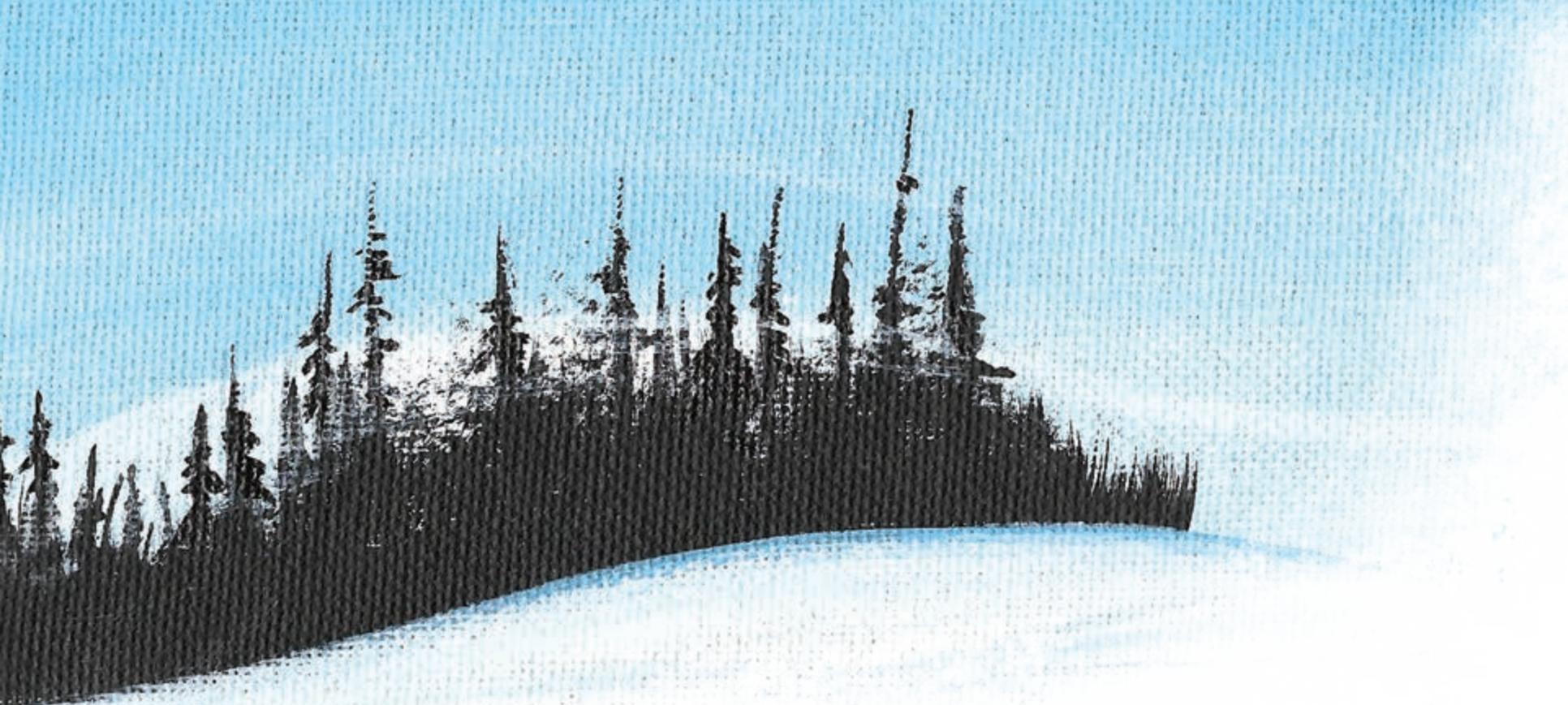
Mom frypan big she had.

Na'ąą had a big frying pan.

Dinjik k'eh choo yezhìtdahnàih.

Moose fat big she threw in.

She plopped a big hunk of
moose fat into the pan.



Friiban kwàn kak nàyiintyìn.

Frypan fire on she placed.

She put the pan on the fire.

Jii niŋ'ii sheenjít gwiizii.

This I see for me is good.

I loved watching this part.

Tr'oochit da ak'eh naaghàih.

First fat melted.

First the fat melted.

Tŋ'ee ah vizhìt dagoghoh niŋ'ìh.

Then in it bubbles I see.

Then it started to bubble.

"Jù'," Na'ąą nùh.
"Look," Mom said.

Span choo àh fèthch'ùh
Spoon big with bannock
ałtsąjį òonjìk
she made she took

ts'àt khaii zhìt yetfoh dahnàih.
and oil into plopped she puts.

Khaii zhìt ch'ùu jìhthh'àk.
Oil in cooking I hear.

Khaii gi'tr'ijìdhìtik.
Oil splatters.

Łèthch'ùh jidìi tthoo nìjàazhìh.
Bannock brown it is getting.

Gwiizii vagwaatsąjh.
Good it smells.

"Watch," said Na'ąą.

She took big spoonfuls of
the batter from the bowl

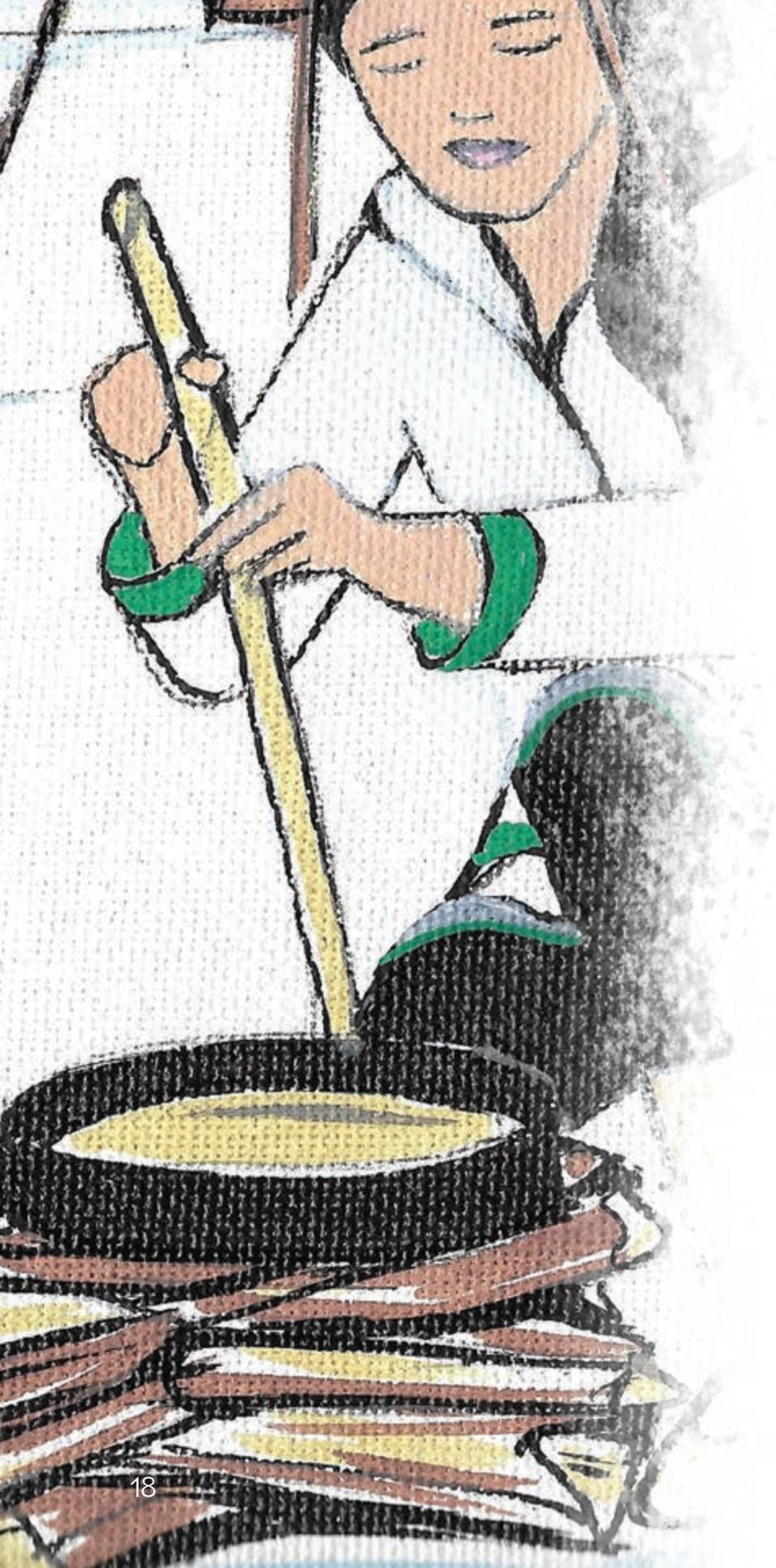
and plopped it in the grease.

The dough hissed.

The grease spat.

The dough started to
turn brown.

It smelled so good.



Łèthch'ùh gał ts'ik àh
Bannock stick skinny with
łihts'eeyedini'èih.
turns it over.

Then Na'ąą turned over the
bannock with a big stick.

Jii ts'ejj chan jidii tthoo nijàanàjh.
This side too brown it became.

Then the other side
got brown.

Jùk ah ąhch'ù'.
Now it was cooked.

It was now cooked.

Friiban zhuy yùunjìk.
Frying pan out of she took it.

Na'ąą took the bannock out
of the frypan.

Ch'ek ghoo oohvihtanh zhùu

Plate round I am holding into

nìiyèniinlìh.

she is putting them.

She put it in the bowl I held
for her.

Ih'ak tih'aa gwats'àt khadhilchì'.

One I will eat too I was in hurry.

I couldn't wait to eat one.

Na'ąą chìlzhìh.

My Mother sighed.

Na'ąą sighed.

Tth'aih ah fèthch'ùh àhtsìh.

Even that bannock she's making.

She continued to make
bannock.

Jùu dìnùh, "Nitsii ts'àt

She said "Your Grandfather and

Nitsyų guuviiyènji'ihthàt."

Grandmother I am worried about them."

She said, "I'm so worried
about Nitsii and Nitsyų."

Garlen, fèthch'ùh tsal ooniinjìh,"

Caroline, bannock small you can take,"

Na'ąą nùh.

Mom said.

You can have a piece of
bannock now Garlen,"
said Na'ąą.

"Jùk ah gwiintsal nìidhàh."

"Now it's little cooled."

"It's probably cool enough now to eat."

Łèthch'ùh tsal oodhiijik ts'àt ii'èt.

Bannock small I took and I ate it.

I took a piece of warm bannock and took a big bite.

Ahhh, dhandàih!

Ohhh, delicious!

Oh, it was so good!

Na'ąą fèthch'ùh nizii ahtsìh'.

Mom bannock best she makes.

Na'ąą made the best bannock in the world.





"Ja'aadèh nìiji'ihdhàt?" Na'ąą vahnùh.
"Why you worried?" my Mother I asked.

**"Why are you worried?"
I asked Na'ąą.**

Na'ąą jùudìnùh, "Nitsii
Mom said, "Your Grandfather's
ɬąjɬ chihdhidyeh Candice chit nilii.
leader Candice boss he is.

**Na'ąą said, "Nitsii's
lead dog, Candice, is
very bossy.**

Jùk Nitsii aanjòo nilii.
Now your Grandfather old he is.

Nitsii is getting old.

Nitsii diiyàhnuu Candice
Your Grandfather what he tell him Candice
akòo dìdì'jh kwàh.
that does not do.

**Candice doesn't do what
Nitsii tells him to do.**

Ihɬat ah Nitsii ihɬoh
Once your Grandfather somewhere
niteedik.
he went.

**Once Nitsii was out on
a trail.**

Candice ah ɬąjɬ chih dhidyèh.
Candice was leader he is.

Candice was his lead dog.

Tajj ezhii òonjik.
Trail different he took.

They came to a fork
in the trail.

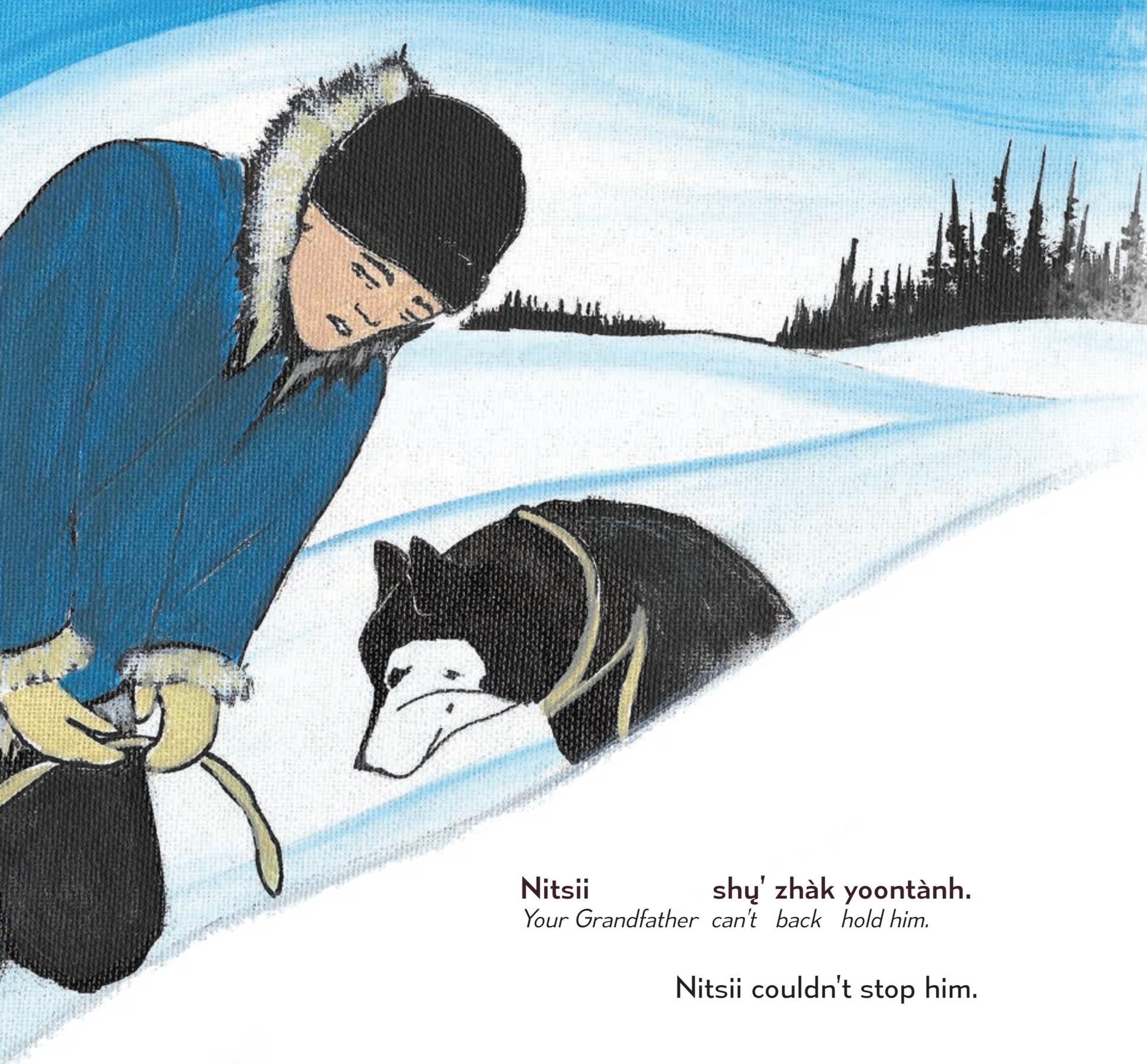
Candice Nitsii oodhèlch'ẹjh kwàh.
Candice your Grandfather didn't listen to.

Candice would
not listen to
Nitsii.

Candice ah yee'èt ch'ii'àn niidhan tahhèih.
Candice which ever way he want he goes.

Candice would just go whatever
way he wanted to go.





Nitsii **shy' zhàk yoontành.**
Your Grandfather can't back hold him.

Nitsii couldn't stop him.

Nitsii **aanjòo nilii ts'àt khe'**
Your Grandfather elder he is and slow
ts'àt gwitr'it'a'gwah'ih.
and he works.

Nitsii is slow and old.

Zhàk yoontanh veenjitgàgùntrèh.
Back hold is hard for him.

He has a hard time
stopping Candice.

Candice duuyeh nìjiihèih.
Candice will not stop.

Candice would not stop.

Niizhùk ezhii ts'ajj gùujit.
Long time different way they traveled.

They went for miles in the
wrong direction.

Gwiizii k'a'gida'oo gaovih'ih."
Good they arrive I expect."

I hope they get here safely."

Łèthch'ùh tthak ah jùk dhich'ùh.
Bannock all now it is cooked.

All the bannock had
been cooked.

Shityè' guuzhik troo chyàh.
My Father in the meantime wood he chopped.

Troo kwàn' kak nèniilèh.
Wood fire on he place.

Łèthch'ùh tsal vits'andhałtsajh.
Bannock small I gave him.

Na'ąą vadzaih nihtat t'iiyah'ih.
Mom caribou mixes she did already.

Nikhwazheh gwitsal
Our house small
nihdàniidìjìt.
we all came back inside.

Shitsii chan gwìt Shitsųų
My Grandfather and Grandmother
nàgoovàa'ih.
we waited for them.

Shityè' had been chopping wood while we cooked.

He put some more wood on the fire.

I gave him a piece of bannock.

Na'ąą stirred the caribou stew.

Then back into our little house we went.

There we waited for Shitsii and Shitsųų.





Shizhiṭi'gwìdaanàjji.

I was so excited.

Shų' ah nìgùuvil'ih

Couldn't wait for them

k'igiteeda'al eenjit.

to arrive for.

I was so excited.

I couldn't wait for Didi
and Diddų to arrive.

Shų' vinji'aiyaa njit gwiniṭ'ih.

Couldn't window through I see.

I couldn't see out of
the window.

T'ihshit ihtsàl.

I was too small.

I was too small.

Vindàii nì't'irdaṭtthak gee'al

In front of I'm jumping, coming

guutineṭyaa jì' eenjit.

see them if for.

I kept jumping up and
down to see if I could see
them coming.

"Zheh gwizhìt nì't'irdaḥtthak

"House inside jumping

kwàh," Na'ąą nùh.

no," Mom said.

"Stop that jumping in the
house," Na'ąą said.



Aazhìk gwà'àn gwiniŋ'ìh.

There around I looked.

ligis tsal niŋ'ìh.

There was a little box.

Vinji'aiyaa dàjj gwits'at chidhiilùh

Window front towards I pulled

ɛjj kak nal'èh.

on top I stand.

Jùk ah chiitàjj gwiniŋ'ìh.

Now outside I can see.

Zhidàh gwits'at gwiizii

Here from good

guutineŋyàh.

I could see them.

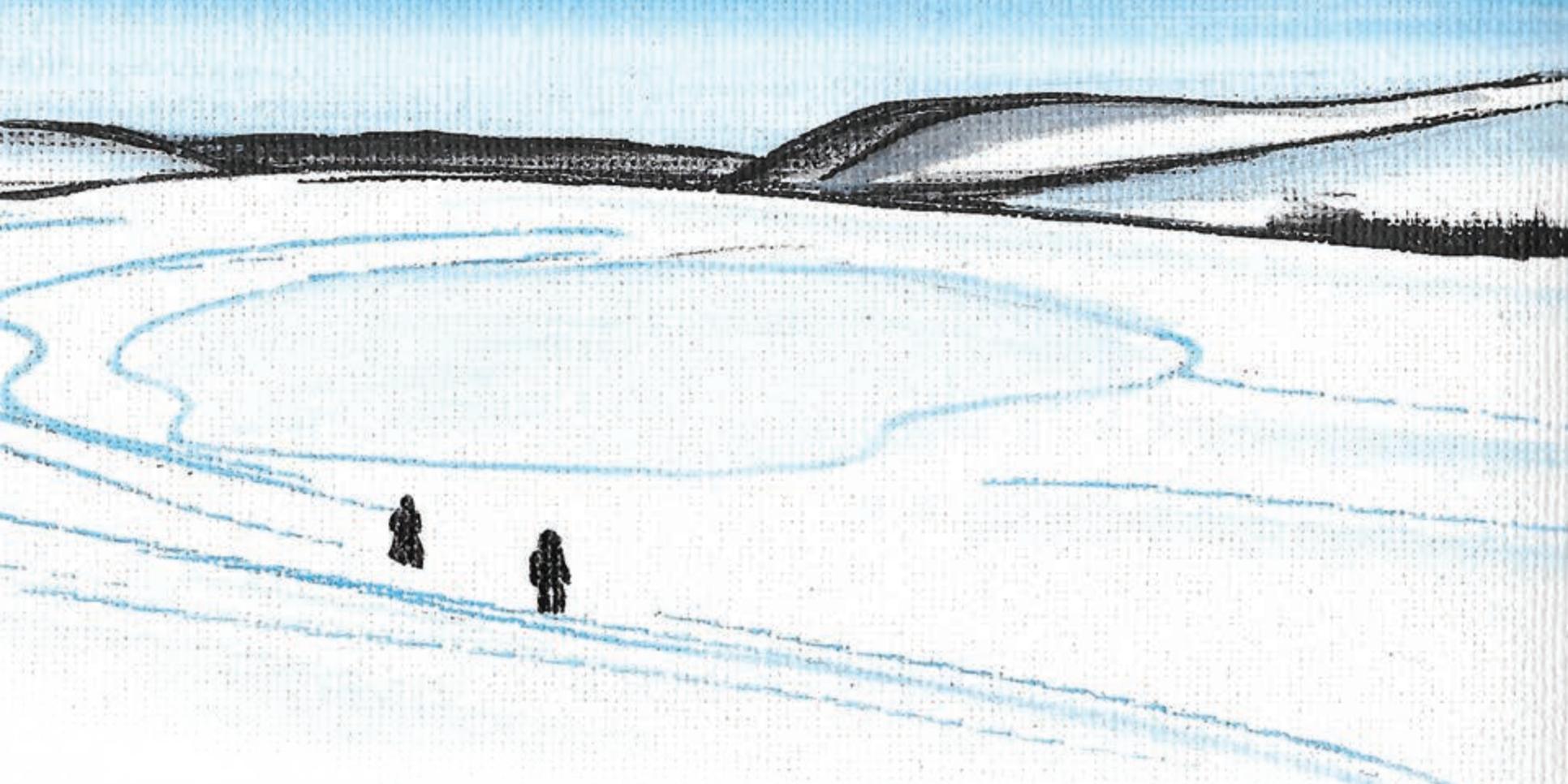
I looked around.

There was a little box.

I pulled it over and
stood on it.

Now I could see out
the window.

I had the best view to
see them.



Tąjh kak ah nikhwazheh diinch'ùh.

On hill our house it is.

Our house sits on a hill.

Vinji'aiyaa gwinjik yeetthàn gwini'ìh.

Window through downwards I can see.

Through the window I
could see down the hill.

Van Tsal ni'ìh.

Lake Small I can see.

I could see Van Tsal.

Nagwichoonjik ni'ìh.

McKenzie River I see.

I could see
Nagwichoonjik.

łèth kak shin dáj'
Flats on summer time

I could see the little piece
of flat land

nikhwaluk deek'it diinch'uu
our fish camp was
chan nił'ih.
too I can see.

where our summer fish
camp is.



Zhidah Tsiigehnjik Nagwichoonjik

Right here The Red Mackenzie River

gwits'at njlaih.

towards it flow.

It is where the
Tsiigehnjik flows into
Nagwichoonjik.

Uustik ih'aa ginijnj'ihthat.

Dryfish eating I am thinking about.

I started to daydream
about eating dry fish.

Mmmm uustik dhandaih.

Mmmm dry fish is delicious.

Mmmm dry fish is
so good.

Khanhts'at, ah ejèech'ii ni'ih.

Suddenly, something I saw.

All of a sudden, I saw
something.

Yeethan gwa'an.

Way down that way.

It was way down the hill.



Van Tsal kak tǎjj gwinjik ejèech'ii ni'ih.

Lake Small on trail along something I see.

It was on the trail that crossed Van Tsal
I saw something.

Khanhts'àt ah aagaŋ.

Fast it was running.

It was running so fast.

Jidii dà diinch'ùh?

What is it?

What was it?

Shintsih vinji'aiyaa ts'àt t'ihfèk.

My nose window too I put.

I put my nose on
the window.



Gwiintł'àth gwinił'ih.

Real hard I looked.

I looked real hard.

Zhaagah!

Oh my goodness!

Oh my goodness!

Shitsii vilik kat da t'igi'di'ih.

My Grandfather's dogs it was them.

It was Shitsii's dog team.

Candice ah łajj chih dhidyeh.

Candice dog leader.

Candice is in the lead.

Gwit Shitsii ts'àt Shitsųų

But Grandfather and Grandmother

guugweejih?

where are they?

But where was Shitsii
and Shitsųų?

Guunił'ih kwàh!

I see them not!

They were nowhere in sight!

Candice ts'at Shitsii

Candice and Grandfather's

vilik kat zrajh oochuu geedàh.

dogs only up they are coming.

Up the hill Candice and
Shitsii's dog team came.

Dachaavaŋ guut'yee geeliŋ.

Toboggan behind they are pulling.

They were pulling the
toboggan behind them.

Gwit Shitsii ts'at

But Grandfather and

Shitsyuy vakak guukwàh!

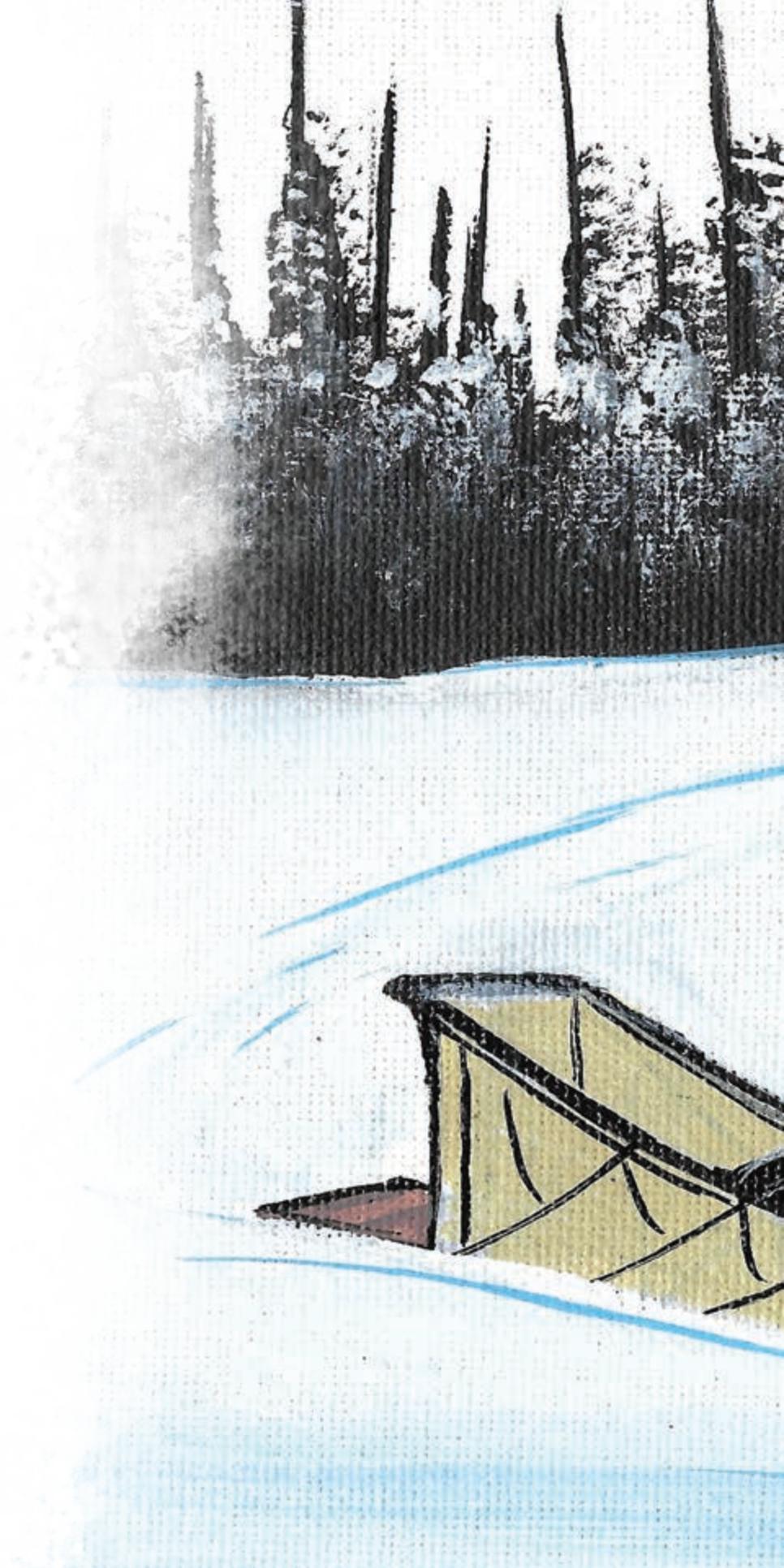
Grandmother on it they were not!

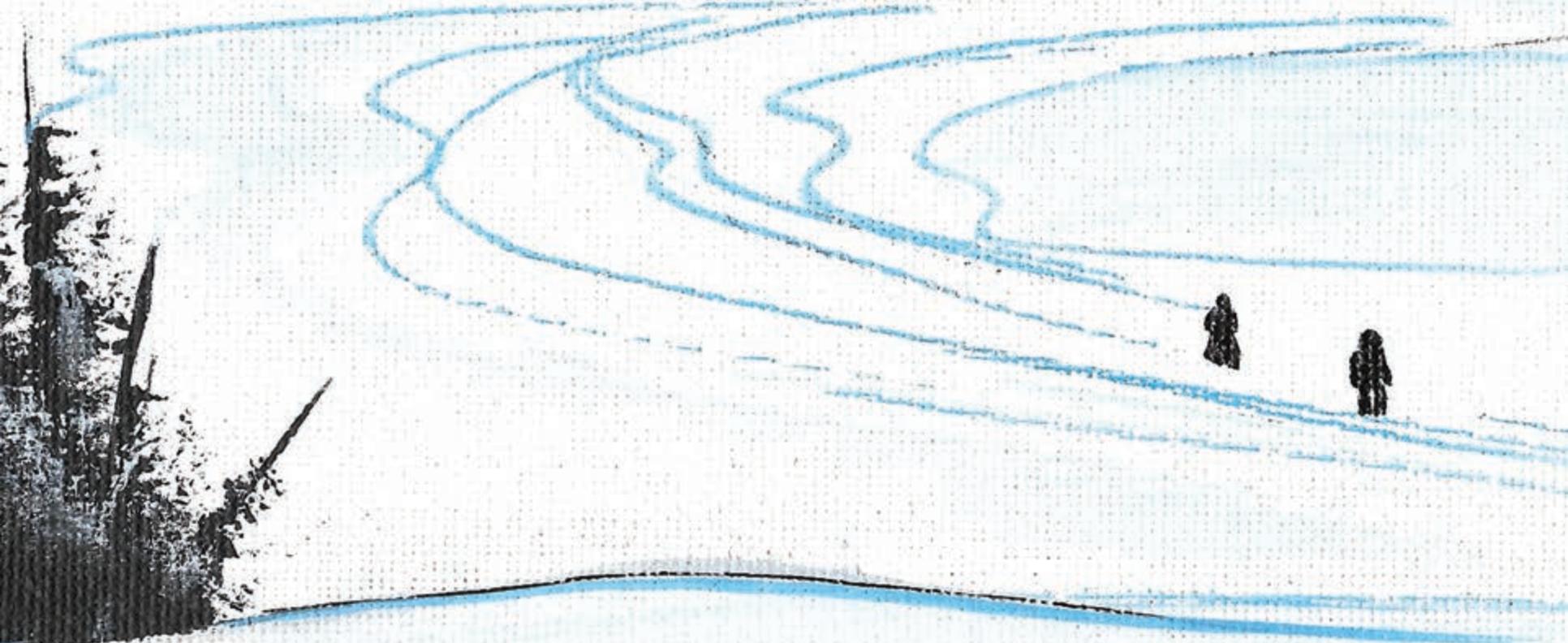
But there was no Shitsii
or Shitsyuy on it!

Jidii zhah nilih!

Empty it is!

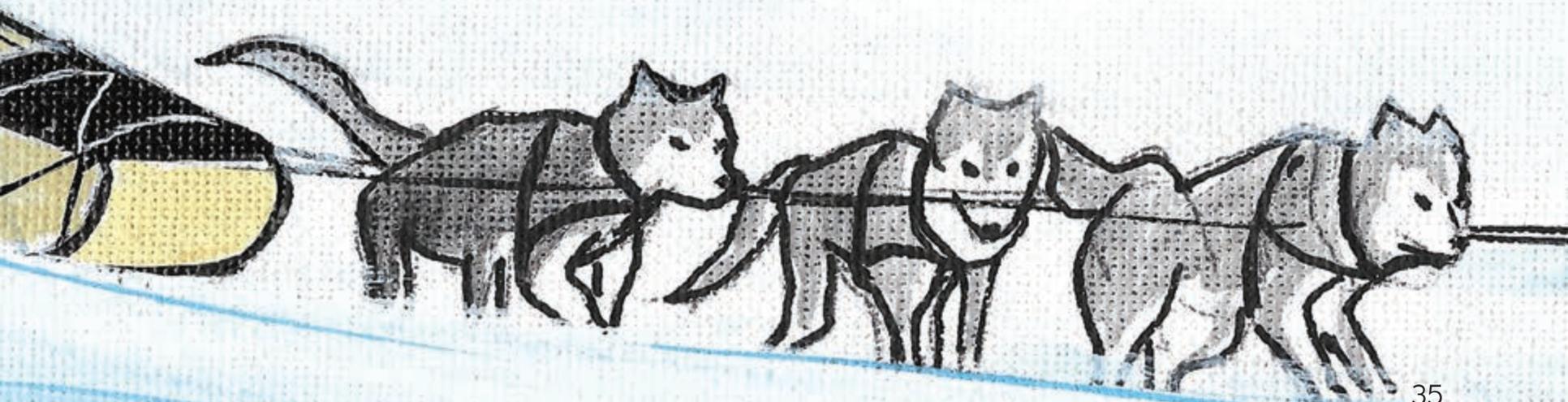
It was empty!

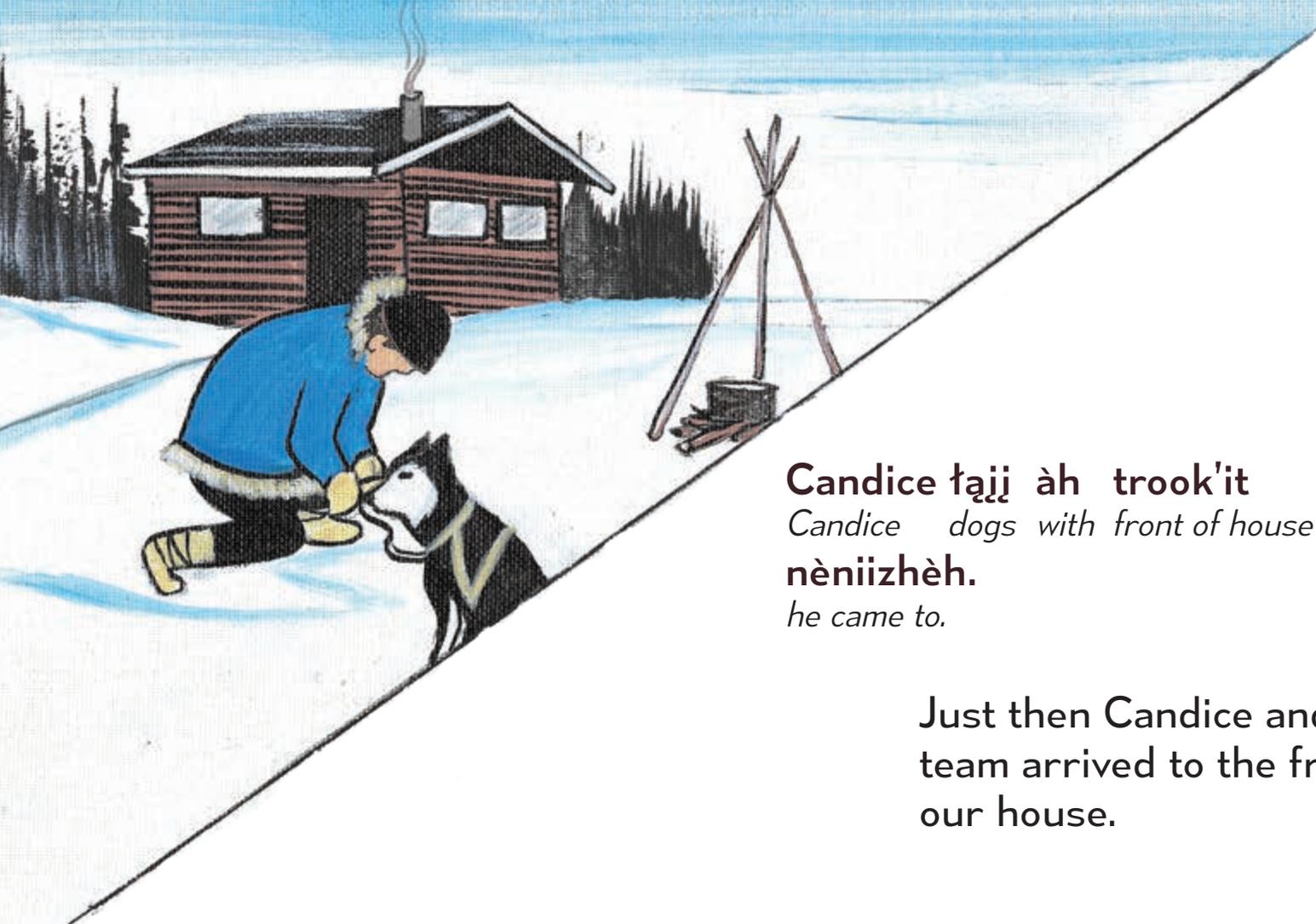




"Na'aq," iizràt, **"Shitsii ts'àt**
"Mom," I yelled "Grandfather and
Shitsyuy ihlòh t'igi'dizhèk."
Grandmother something happened to them."

"Na'aq," I yelled,
"Something has happened
to Shitsii and Shitsyuy."





Candice ʔajj àh trook'it
Candice dogs with front of house
nèniizhèh.
he came to.

Just then Candice and the team arrived to the front of our house.

Tya'ąą Candice àhchìt.
My Father Candice he caught.

Tya'ąą caught Candice.

ʔajj kat nì'gì'jùujìt.
Dogs they stopped.

He stopped him and the team.

ʔajj kat Tya'ąą ginah'ii
Dogs my Father they see
shòh giinlìh.
happy they are.

The dogs were happy to see Tya'ąą.

Netr'oogidahshih ts'àt giyechih.

They were jumping and barking.

They were jumping
and yelping.

Gwìt Shitsii ts'àt

But Grandfather and

Shitsyü guugweejih?

Grandmother where are they?

But where were Shitsii
and Shitsyü?

Na'ąą Tya'ąą ts'at chichùuzhèh

Mom my Dad to she went out

ts'àt yets'àt gjikhìh.

and to him she is talking.

Na'ąą went outside to talk
to Tya'ąą.

Dìgwiteediyàh?

What are they going to do?

What should they do?

Van Tsal kak tājį guugwinah'ih.

Lake Small on trail they looked.

They looked toward the
Van Tsal trail.

Gwìt Didii ts'àt Diddyü

But Grandfather and Grandmother

ginah'ih kwàh.

they see not.

But they didn't see Didii
and Diddyü.

Tya'ąą dilik kat t'ah zhìt
My Dad his dogs harness in
guuteelaa nùh.
he is going to put them he said.

Shitsii vilik k'ih
My Grandfather's his dogs tracks
kak teehàh.
on he will go.

Didii ts'àt Diddųų
Grandfather and Grandmother
guukagwitanahyàh.
he will go find.

Tya'ąą dilik kat srèe nàgoonjìlèih.
My Father his dogs ready he got them.

Ha'jìh, Van Tsal nee ah
Suddenly, Lake Small across
neekanh kat gee'al nà'ih.
two of them walking we saw.

Tya'ąą said he would get
his dog team.

He would follow the trail
that Shitsii's dog team left.

He would find Didii
and Diddųų.

Tya'ąą got his team ready.

Suddenly, we saw two
people on the Van Tsal trail.

Nakhwits'at ah gee'at.

Towards us they are walking.

They were coming toward
our hill.

Khè'ts'at ah gee'at.

Slowly they are waking.

They were moving really,
really slow.

"Shitsii ts'at Shitsuy t'igidi'ii

"Grandfather and Grandmother it is them

daavahlj, " iizrat.

must be," I screamed.

"That must be Shitsii and
Shitsuy," I yelled.

Tya'aa dilik kat ts'at chùuzhèh.

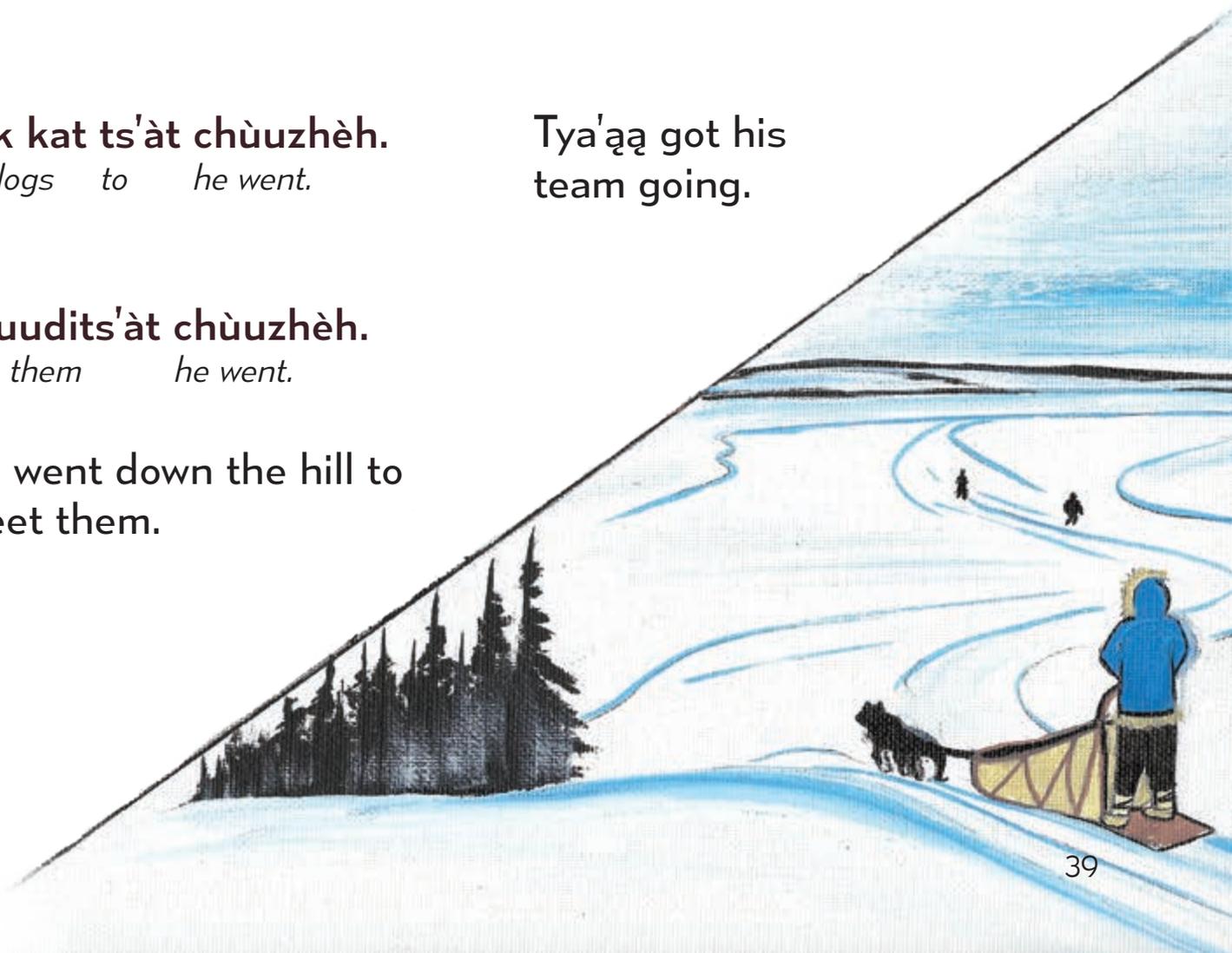
My Father his dogs to he went.

Tya'aa got his
team going.

Yeetthàn guudits'at chùuzhèh.

Down the hill to them he went.

He went down the hill to
meet them.



Vaṭ zhìt giteedyaa guuts'ànùh.
Toboggan in they will sit he help them.

He helped them get onto his toboggan.

Nikhwazheh guuvàh k'enidìk.
Our house with them he came back.

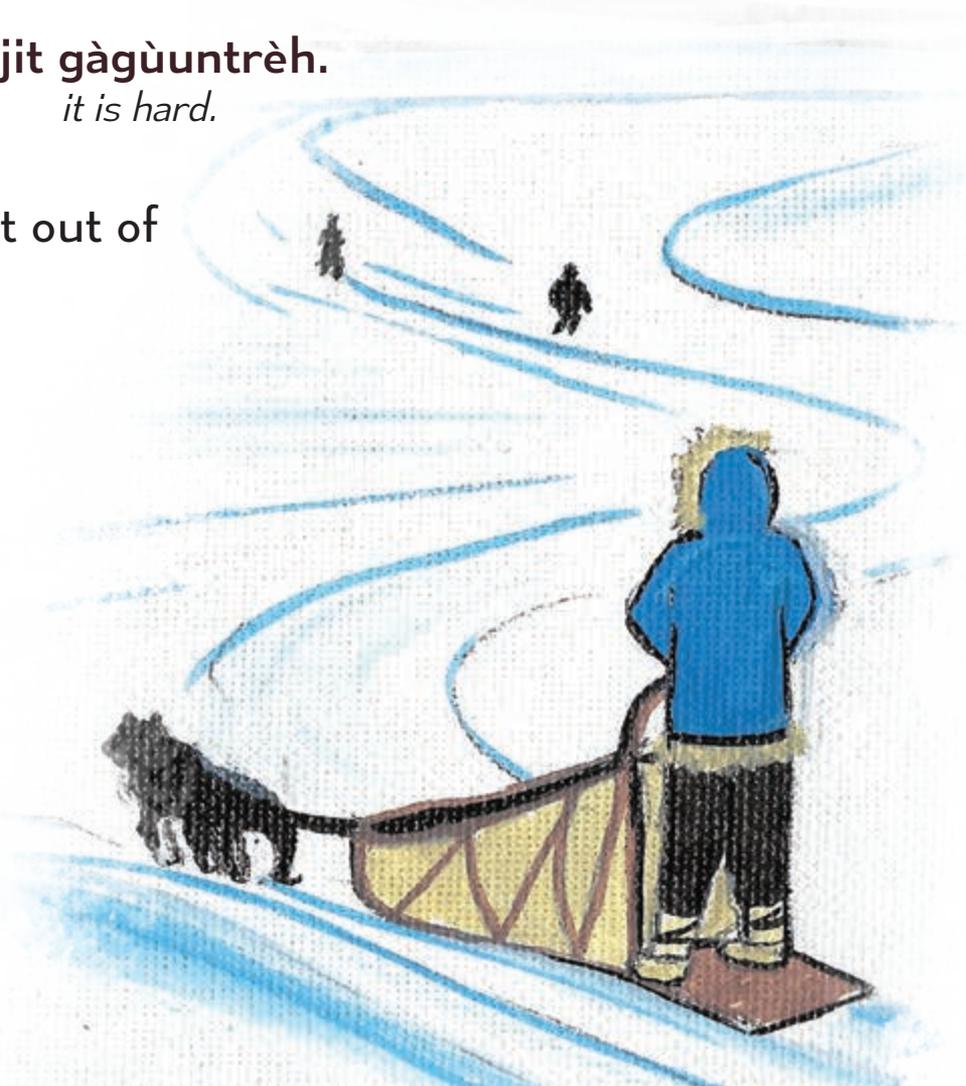
Then Tya'ąą brought them back to our house.

Vaṭ zhų dāk nagąhnjik gweenjit gągùntrèh.
Toboggan out up getting for them it is hard.

It was hard for them to get out of
the toboggan.

Aanjòo kat giinlii ts'àt
Elders they are and
khè'ts'àt t'igi'di'ii,
slow they are
gwìt geedláh.
but they are laughing.

They were so slow and old
but they were laughing.



Guu'uhchùh kat chiitajj
Their bags outside
ehkhè'oojìidìnùh.
we left.

We left their pack
sacks outside.

Nikhwazheh gwizhùu
Our house into
guuts'à'tr'inìidìnjìk.
we helped them.

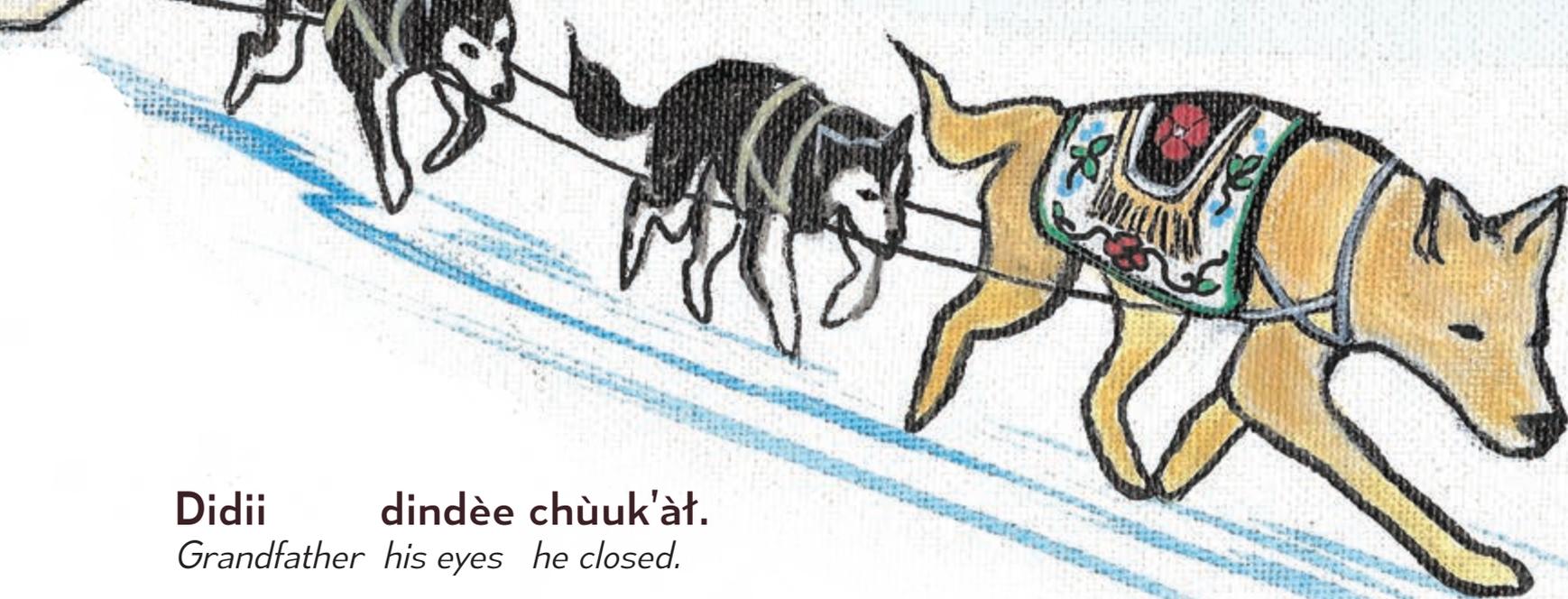
We helped them into
our house.

Vadzaih ts'àt fèthch'ùh tìidi'aa
Caribou and bannock we will eat
gwats'àt tthak nadhìidìdyèh.
to all we sat down.

We all sat down to enjoy the
caribou stew and bannock.

Nits'òo tagwjjdhat nikhwàh
How what happened with us
Shitsii ts'àt Shitsųų
Grandfather and Grandmother
gugwitandak, shų' nòodhil'ih.
their story couldn't wait for.

I couldn't wait to hear
Shitsii and Shitsųų tell us
the story of what happened.



Didii dindèe chùuk'ət.
Grandfather his eyes he closed.

Didii closed his eyes.

Dinlè' tàth kak t'iinlèk.
His hand cane on he put.

He put his hands on
his cane.

Nikhwàhgwichìdàk.
He started telling us story.

He started to tell the story.

Tthak khe'gwìdàach'ùh
All we were quiet
ts'ət vitaddhìidich'àh.
and listening.

Everyone was quiet,
listening.

"Ejji Candice.
"That Candice.

"That Candice.

Nikhwahts'at chit nilii yenjdhàn.
Towards us leader he is he thinks.

He sure likes to boss his
master around.

Diiyaniidhan gwik'it t'ididih.
Whatever he wants to do he does that.

He just does what he wants.

Oodhètch'èjh kwàh.
He does not listen.

He never listens.

Candice nikhwats'at chit nilih.
Candice towards us boss he is.

Candice bosses
us around.

Diiyaniidhan gwik'it nikhwats'at t'idi'ih.
What he wants like that towards us he does.

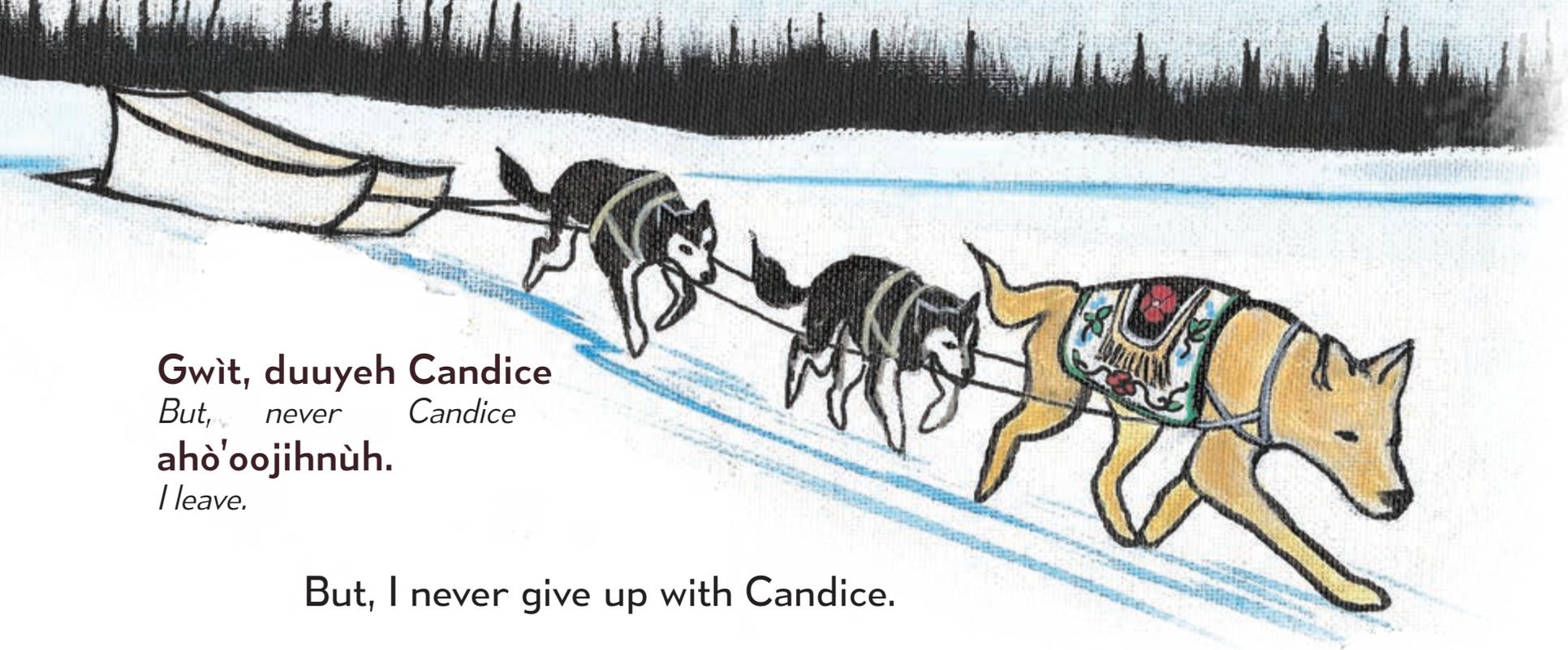
He does what he wants
to us.

Aanjòo ih'ii ts'at shit'ài kwàh.
Elder I am and I have strength no.

I am so old and weak.

Shų' zhàk ooviitàn.
Can't down I hold him.

I can't stop him.



Gwìt, duuyeh Candice

But, never Candice

ahò'oojihnùh.

I leave.

But, I never give up with Candice.

Nitsyù vaŋ kak

Your Grandmother toboggan on

teedyaa nìniŋjìh.

she will sit I prepared.

I packed Nitsyù on

the toboggan.

Vagwidàl tsal vazrjì nadhiilèih.

Her belongings little her side I placed.

I packed her little
belongings around her.

Shii ɛjì vaŋ t'yee tinal'èih.

Me toboggan behind I will stand.

I was going to ride at
the back.

Tajilgòò gehchèdhìidè'èth.

Tajilgòò we left.

We left Tajilgòò.

Łahch'yaa Candice gwiintf'àth needyàh.
Really Candice is hard he is going.

Candice was really running.

Niint'ài h chan.
Strong too.

He's so strong.

Ezhii taji ooteendal ooteendal.
Different trail they will take I thought.

I was afraid he would take the wrong trail.

Akò didi'jh kwàh.
He didn't do that.

He didn't.

Ejìn gwits'at tiididaa gahdìndàih.
Where to we are going he knows.

He knew where we wanted to go.

Tthak ah nikhwah gwiizih.
All with us is good.

Everything was going good.

Theetoh nee iididàh.
Overland across we are traveling.

We came to Theetoh Nìn.

Candice Tsiigehtchic gwits'at

Candice Tsiigehtchic towards

ìdìjyaa gàhdìndàih.

we are going he knows.

Candice knew we were getting
close to Tsiigehtchic.

Gwiintf'ath ni'tr'oodahnàjj.

Real hard he jumped.

He made a big jump.

Èjj ah Nitsuy ts'at shii

With that your Grandmother and I

vał zhuy nì'a'dàanàjh.

toboggan out of we fell off.

With that, both Nitsuy and I
fell off the toboggan.

Candice ts'at fàjj kat

Candice and dogs

nikhwahginii'èth.

got away from us.

Off ran Candice and the dogs.

Dàgwiteediyàh?

What are we going to do?

What could we do?

Duuyeh chan nìjiihèih."

Wouldn't too he stop."

He won't stop."

Jùk ah Diddyy nikhwàhgwitandàk.

Now Grandmother she will tell us story.

Now it was Diddyy's turn to tell some of the story.

"Neekanh ts'àt ah zhoh kak ch'idhàat'àih.

"Both of us snow on we are laying.

"There we were, both laying in the snow.

Łajj kat guukwàh.

The dogs are gone.

Our dogs had gone.

Nikhwahyhchùh kat

Our bags too

chan vał zhyy nainjìt.

toboggan out of they fell.

Our pack sacks had fallen off too.



Shų' iidàk nàdhìidìdyèh,
Can't up getting,
gwìt akòodìidìzhèk.
but we did it.

We had a hard time getting up, but we did.

Nikhwahųchųh kat iidàaghàh.
Our bags we are packing.

We had to carry our pack sacks.

Tsiigehtchic gwits'at tųj kak
Tsiigehtchic towards trail on
chedhìidì'èth.
we started walking.

We started to walk towards Tsiigehtchic on the trail.



Candice chan gwit ʔajj kat guunaa'ii
Candice and the dogs you see them
jì' gwiteezaa eenjit nà'oonùh.
if good, we are hoping.

We were hoping you
would see Candice and
the dogs.

Nikhwahkak gwitanahyaa gaoviidìlih.
For us you will look we are expecting.

We hoped you would
come looking for us.

Ts'àt akòodindi'ih! Hai' choo
And you did that! Thank you
Shèedèenùh nikhwadits'àt chèdhjzhhèh.
son-in-law to us you came.

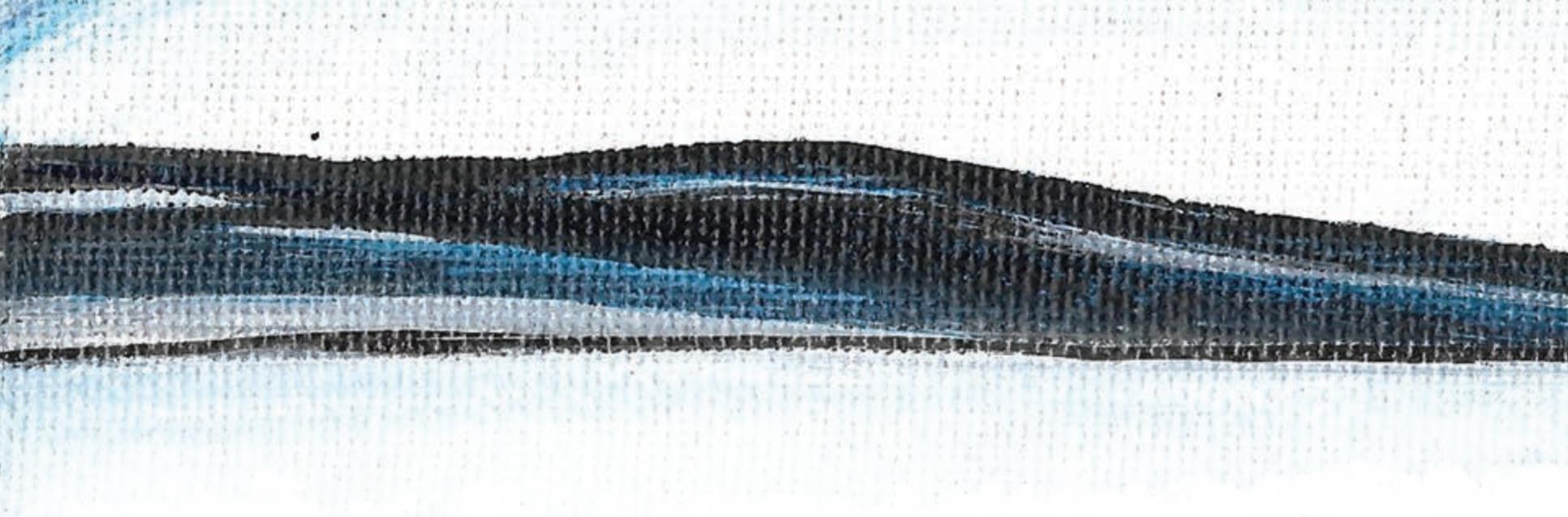
And you did! Hai' choo
Sheedeenu' for coming
to get us.

Mahsi' choo Shiyeets'i' vadzaih
Thank you my daughter caribou
dhandaii dhàhtsàjh.
delicious you made.

Mahsi' choo Shiyeets'i'
for making this
delicious caribou stew.

Mahsi' choo Shichee nahanh
Thank you Granddaughter your mom
vits'a'tr'iniinjik.
you helped.

Mahsi' choo
Shit'chee for helping
your mother.



Łèthch'ùh dhandàii dhohtsàjh.
Bannock delicious you both made.

Make this delicious bannock.

Shòh shits'an dhohtsàjh."
Happy gave me you made me."

You make me so happy."

Gwiintł'àth ìidìdlàh,
Really hard we are laughing,

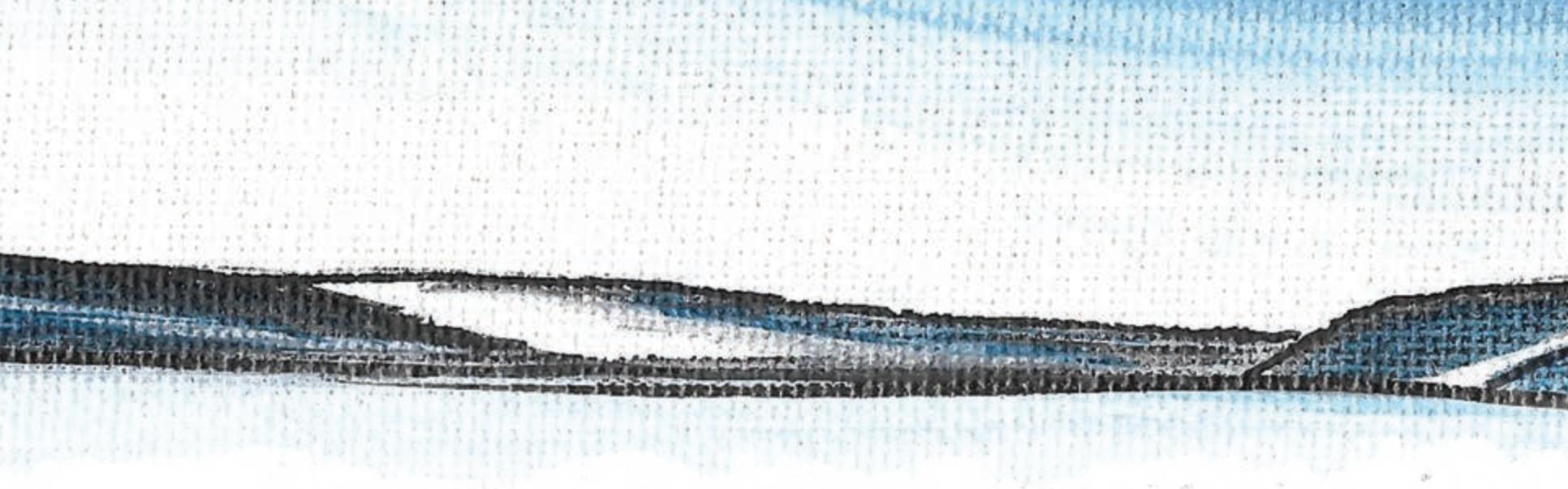
We were laughing so hard,

treechùy nikhwandee
tears our eyes
ts'àt daalàih.
from pouring.

tears were running down
our cheeks.

"Garlen aanàih," Tya'ąą nùh.
"Caroline come," my Dad said.

"Caroline, come," said Tya'ąą.



"Shits'at tr'iniinjih Nitsii
"Me help your Grandfather
ts'at Nitsuy guu'uhchuh kat
and Grandmother their bags
nihdeetiidilah."
we will bring in."

Kaiitreh ts'at ik chiidhiiyith.
Shoes and jackets we put on.

Chèdhiidi'èth.
We went outside.

Uhchuh ihlak shu' ihhah.
Bag one can't I carry.

**"Come and help me bring
in Nitsii's and Nitsuy's
pack sacks."**

**We got our boots and
coats on.**

We went outside.

**I tried to pick up one of the
pack sacks.**

T'ishit nidèh.

It was too heavy.

Gwiintsal tr'ichii jìhtth'àk.

Little barking I hear.

Jidii dà yhchùh zhìt diinch'ùh?

What is bag in it is?

Vidè'dèniityìn.

I opened it.

Ɓigitsal ihtadh gwinlè'

Puppies five

shinìn' gahch'èh.

my face they are licking.

Shitsii ah Ɓigitsal kat

My Grandfather puppies

zhigwits'àt jìghà!

to here he carried!

It was too heavy.

Then, I heard a yelp,
yelp, yelp.

What was in this pack sack?

I opened it up.

Five puppies started to lick
my face.

Shitsii had packed those
puppies all that way!

Agidanh chan vał
Them too toboggan
zhuu nìgìnaatth'at.
out of they fell.

Candice had thrown them
off the sleigh.

Ahhh Didiì chan gwìt
Ohh Grandfather and
Diddųų guugwilẹj्j!
grandmother, poor them!

Oh, poor Didiì
and Diddųų!

Jidìi ẹj्j Candice
What that Candice
guuts'at t'idi'jh!
to them he did!

What that Candice
did to them!





Zheh gwizhìt ah ỳhchỳh

House into bags

àh nihdènìidì'èth.

with we went inside.

Ìgitsal kat nigitaagìg.

Puppies they are running.

Chan tthak ìidàdlàh.

Again all we laughed.

Shitsii gwilẹ̀jị ìgitsal kat

Grandfather poor puppies

jịghà'.

he carried.

Tthak akòodìidìnùh, jii ah

All we said, this

gwindak nizii diinch'ùh.

story good it is.

When we went back into the house with the pack sacks.

I let the puppies run.

Everyone laughed again.

Poor Shitsii had packed those puppies.

Everyone agreed, what a good story that was.

Ruby vi'èthch'ùu gwinjik

Ruby her bannock

Ruby's Bannock Recipe

- Chuu tyàh neekàjj òèth
cups two flour
2 cups flour
- Span tsal ih'fak lèsel, suugàjj, òèth tatr'injal
Spoon small one salt, sugar, flour you pour among
1 teaspoon each of salt, sugar, baking powder
- Chuu tyàh ih'fak chuy, *cup one water*
1 cup water
- duulèe chuu tyàh teenjir chan vizhìt t'uh'fèh
maybe cup half too in it you put.
add up to ½ cup more if you like

Èèth viilàjj ts'at ditj', span ts'at gwiizii khaii

Flour smooth and thick, spoon from good oil

zhìt tr'iteelah eenjit.

into put them for.

You want the batter smooth and thick but it has to drop off a spoon.

Span àh khaii zhìt t'uh'fèh, khaii gùu oil span
Spoon with oil in put it, lard or oil spoon

ih'fak zràjh ts'at chan span ihlak jùudoh'ih.
one only and again spoon one do like this.

Drop mixture by spoonful into grease, lard or oil a spoonful at a time.

Èi'ts'eenidinòolih nihts'ajj jidii tthoo teelaa gwits'at.
Turn it over both sides brown it is until

Turn when brown on the bottom to brown on other side.

Jidii jak dhandaii chan vitat
Something berries sweet too among

t'oh'fèe jì' gwiteezàh
you put if it will be good.

You can add dried fruit to batter too if you like.

Glossary of kinship terms and place names in Gwichyah Gwich'in dialect:

Na'áá – mother

Nagwichoonjik – Mackenzie River

Sheek'aii – auntie – my mother's sister(s)

Sheedeenu' – my son-in-law – my daughter's husband
(woman speaking)

Shitii – my uncle – my father's brother(s)

Shitsii (or Didii) – my grandfather

Sitsuy (or Diddyuy) – my grandmother

Shiyeets'i' – my daughter (mother speaking)

Shuu'ii – my uncle – mother's brother(s)

Sheek'aii – my auntie – my father's sister(s)

Tsiigehnjik – Arctic Red River, ID 1696, *Gwich'in Place Names Atlas*

Tya'áá – father

Van Tsal – lake-small or Ghost Lake, ID 1595, *Gwich'in Place Names Atlas*

Tajilgog – 'Islands facing each other' or Three Forks Lake. ID 1413, *Gwich'in Place Names Atlas*

Theetoh Nìn – Portage trail-across. This trail is also called Teet'it Zheh Gwits'at Gwatatr'aatajj, ID 1952, *Gwich'in Place Names Atlas*

Tsiigehtshik – formerly known as Arctic Red River, also spelled Tsiigehtchic, ID 1697, *Gwich'in Place Names Atlas*

Jii gwandak tr'oohadhahch'aa geenjit jii
This story it will be listened to for this
thumb drive gwakak diinch'uh.
thumb drive on it it is.

The thumb drive enclosed here will allow you
to listen and read along to this story.

This story talks about the Gwich'in values of:

Yiinjinihtetr'ichil'eh (Respect)

Nakhwigwandak (Our Stories)

Tr'eedlaa (Laughter)

Zhuh Ghat T'igwidich'uu (Kindness)

Nihk'atr'inaatii (Sharing and Caring)

This story talks about Gwich'in Principles of:

Our Elders play a crucial role as teachers. They are keepers of our knowledge, history, language, protocol and culture.

Our Youth are the future of our Nation. We must listen and hear their perspectives and provide opportunities for them to learn, understand and develop into our future leaders.

The preservation and respect for the land are essential to the well-being and subsistence lifestyle of our people and our culture.

Our family history and linkages to our relatives in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska is important to our identity.

Cross-cultural understanding and awareness between Gwich'in and non-Gwich'in, is essential in building a new relationship based on respect, reconciliation and cooperation.



ISBN 978-1-896337-41-8