



THE QALUPALUK

Story by: Elisha Kilabuk

Illustrated by: Joy Ang



THE QALUPAIK

by: Elisha Kilabuk

Illustrated by: Joy Ang

Elisha dedicates this story to all those who are named after his mother, Muckpaloo, for his work would not be possible without her storytelling.



Inhabit Media Inc. would like to acknowledge the support of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). Without their generous support this publication would not have been possible.

Published by Inhabit Media Inc.
www.inhabitmedia.com

Editors: Neil Christopher and Louise Flaherty
Art Direction/Design: Danny Christopher

Inhabit Media Inc. (Iqaluit), P.O. Box 11125, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 1H0
(Toronto), 146A Orchard View Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1C3

Design and layout copyright © 2011 Inhabit Media Inc.
Text copyright © 2011 by Elisha Kilabuk
Illustrations copyright © 2011 by Joy Ang

All rights reserved. The use of any part of this publication reproduced, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, or stored in a retrievable system, without written consent of the publisher, is an infringement of copyright law.

Manufactured by Global PSD in Shenzhen, China
March 2011
Job# 43390

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Kilabuk, Elisha, 1969-
The Qalupalik / story by: Elisha Kilabuk ; illustrated
by: Joy Ang.

(The Unikkaakuluit series)
For ages 6 to 8.
ISBN 978-1-926569-31-4

I. Inuit--Juvenile fiction. I. Ang, Joy, 1985-
II. Title. III. Series: Unikkaakuluit series

PS8621.I533Q35 2011 jC813'.6 C2010-908130-7

Foreword

Several years ago I had the privilege of hearing Elisha Kilabuk sharing Inuit traditional stories. I was immediately impressed by his talents as a storyteller, and I was amazed at his memory for story details and Inuktitut terminology.

So, when Inhabit Media decided to create this, *The Unikkaakuluit Series* of books featuring celebrated storytellers retelling some of their favourite traditional stories, I invited Elisha to be the first storyteller to work with us on this project. I sincerely hope you enjoy Elisha's work and that you will continue to explore the rich storytelling tradition of the Canadian North.

Neil Christopher
Inhabit Media Inc.

Note on Pronunciation:

Qalupalik, singular (ka-loo-pa-lick)
Qalupaliit, plural (ka-loo-pa-leet)

In the Arctic there are strange beings that live in the ocean, under the ice. They are called qalupaliit. They each have an amauti made of eider duck skins. These beings kidnap children by putting them in their amauti.



• a piece of a qalupalik's amauti



The qalupaliit make strange sounds that can be heard coming from under the ice. They sound similar to underwater air bubbles, like “biibii... biibii...biibii...”

The skin of the qalupaliit is wet and slimy like fish scales. When they catch children and put them in their amauti, the children cannot escape because their slimy skin is too slippery.



• qalupaliit skin



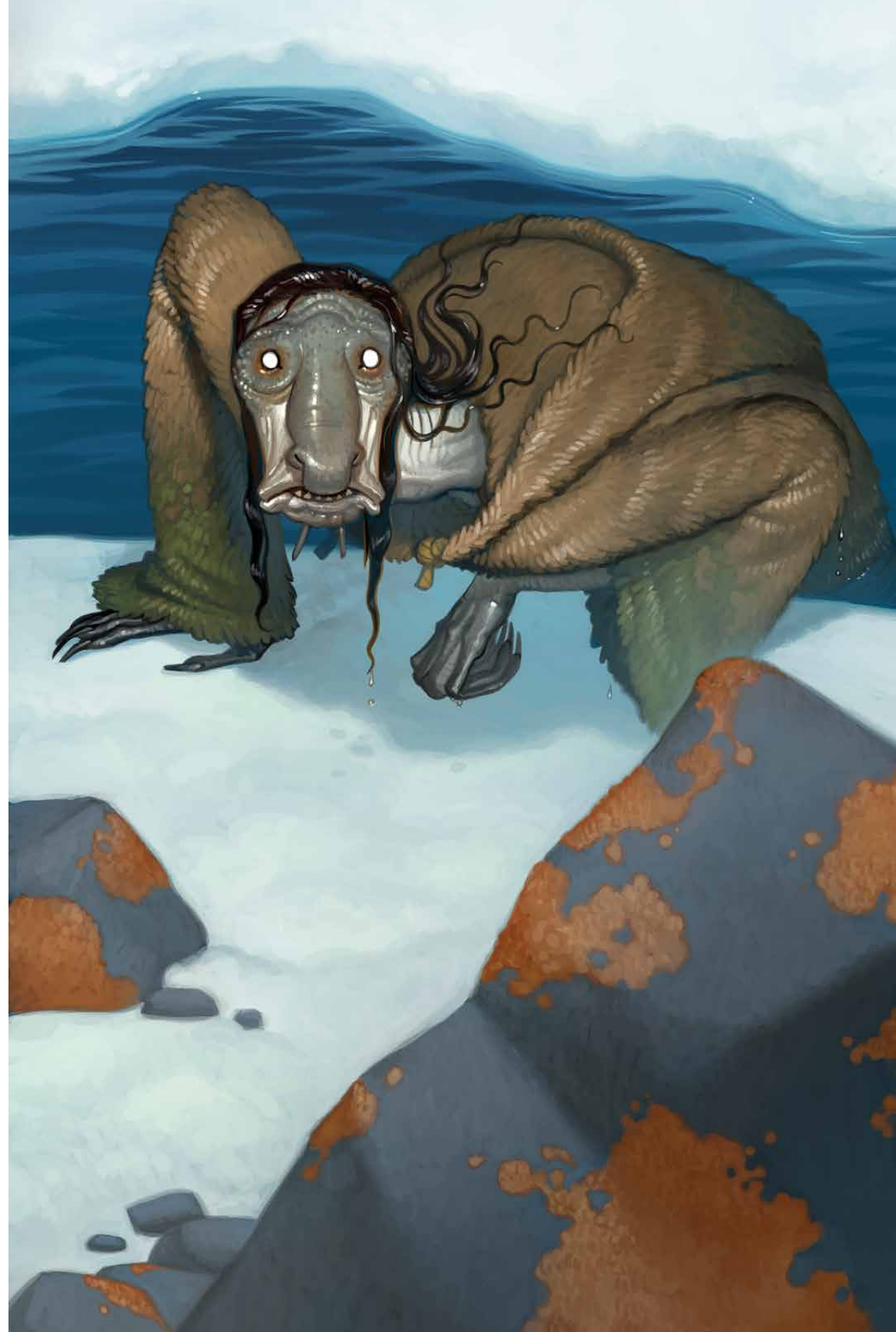
The qalupaliit are magical beings. They can turn into any kind of animal.

It is said that if anyone strikes a qalupalik with a harpoon and says the name of an animal, the qalupalik will immediately turn into that animal.



The qalupaliit rarely come onto land. When they do come out of the water, they must be careful as their fishy skin sticks to the lichen that grows on rocks.

From our stories we know that the qalupaliit are not very smart and can be easily tricked.



THE DALUPAIK
AND THE ORPHAN



In the spring, the frozen sea begins to break up. This is a dangerous time to be on the ice and children are told to stay away from the beach.

Once, in the spring, several children disobeyed their parents' warnings and went down to the beach to play.



One of the children was an orphan. No one looked after this unfortunate little boy. His clothes were ragged and torn, as no one took the time to mend his clothing for him.

His kamiik were so worn that his toes were showing.



When the children reached the beach, one of them saw something strange in the water amongst the broken ice.

“Watch out! There is a qalupalik nearby!” he shouted to the other children.



The children, including the orphan, all ran from the shore. They ran from the ice towards the lichen-covered rocks. They ran to get out of the reach of the qalupalik.

As the orphan ran, his foot almost fell out of his worn kamik. This slowed him down and allowed the qalupalik to catch up to him.



The orphan stopped and turned to face the qalupalik. The qalupalik examined the little orphan very closely.

“What are those?” asked the qalupalik, as he pointed towards the orphan’s worn kamik.

“Those are my toes,” answered the orphan.



Qalupaliit have webbed feet, so these separate toes looked very strange to it.

The qalupalik asked, “What do they do?”

The orphan answered, “They eat people.”

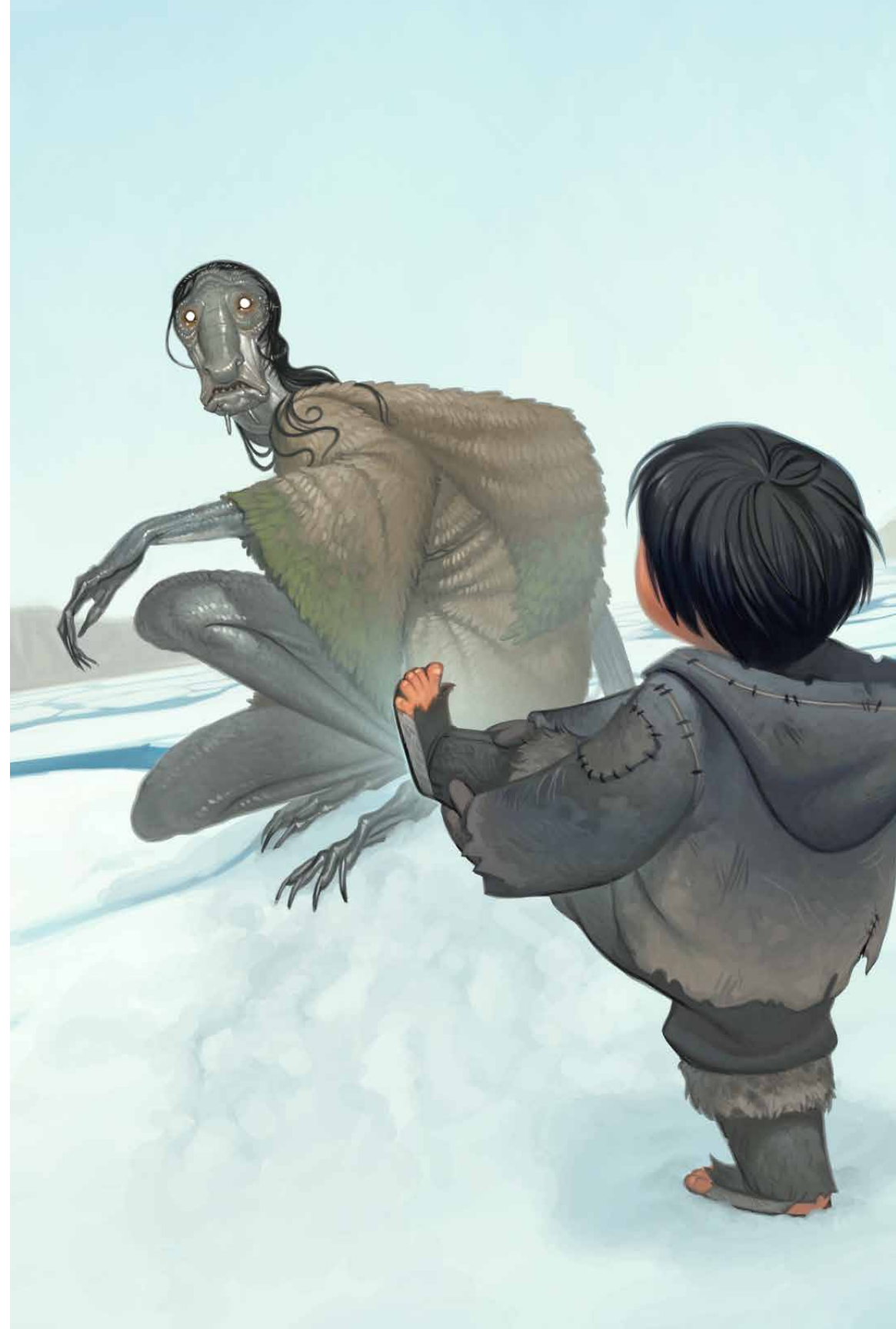


The qalupalik quickly replied, “Then grasp them tightly so they can’t eat me!”

“They have swallowed a person whole even when I grasped them as tightly as I could,” said the orphan with a little smile on his face.



When the orphan said that, the qalupalik backed away from him hastily, frightened that these toes might attack it.



When the qalupalik got back to the shore, it slipped under the ice and disappeared.

The orphan had fooled the qalupalik and managed to escape from being put inside the creature's amauti and taken into the sea.

The End



About the Author



Elisha Kilabuk, the youngest of fourteen siblings, was born and raised in Iqaluit. He learned traditional stories from his mother, Muckpaloo. Muckpaloo had a great memory for stories, which she learned from her father who lived on the east coast of Hudson Bay. Elisha is a celebrated cultural

performer and storyteller. This is his first publication. He plans to write more stories and find other ways to share the tradition of Inuit storytelling with the next generation.

About the Illustrator



Joy Ang is an illustrator living in Edmonton who has worked in both the comic and gaming industry. Recently she has been creating art for children's books as well as self-publishing a comic anthology called The Anthology Project.

When she's not creating art she's either enjoying board games with friends, reading a graphic novel, or figuring out what her next project might be.