

በበኛኛጋኛ ፅጌ ወሲርጋ ላሊ ጎረ ያረኛበ by Jeela Palluq-Cloutier and Neil Christopher
በበኛጋሪኛጋኛ ረረ ፅጌጋጋ illustrated by Babah Kalluk

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MAHAHAA

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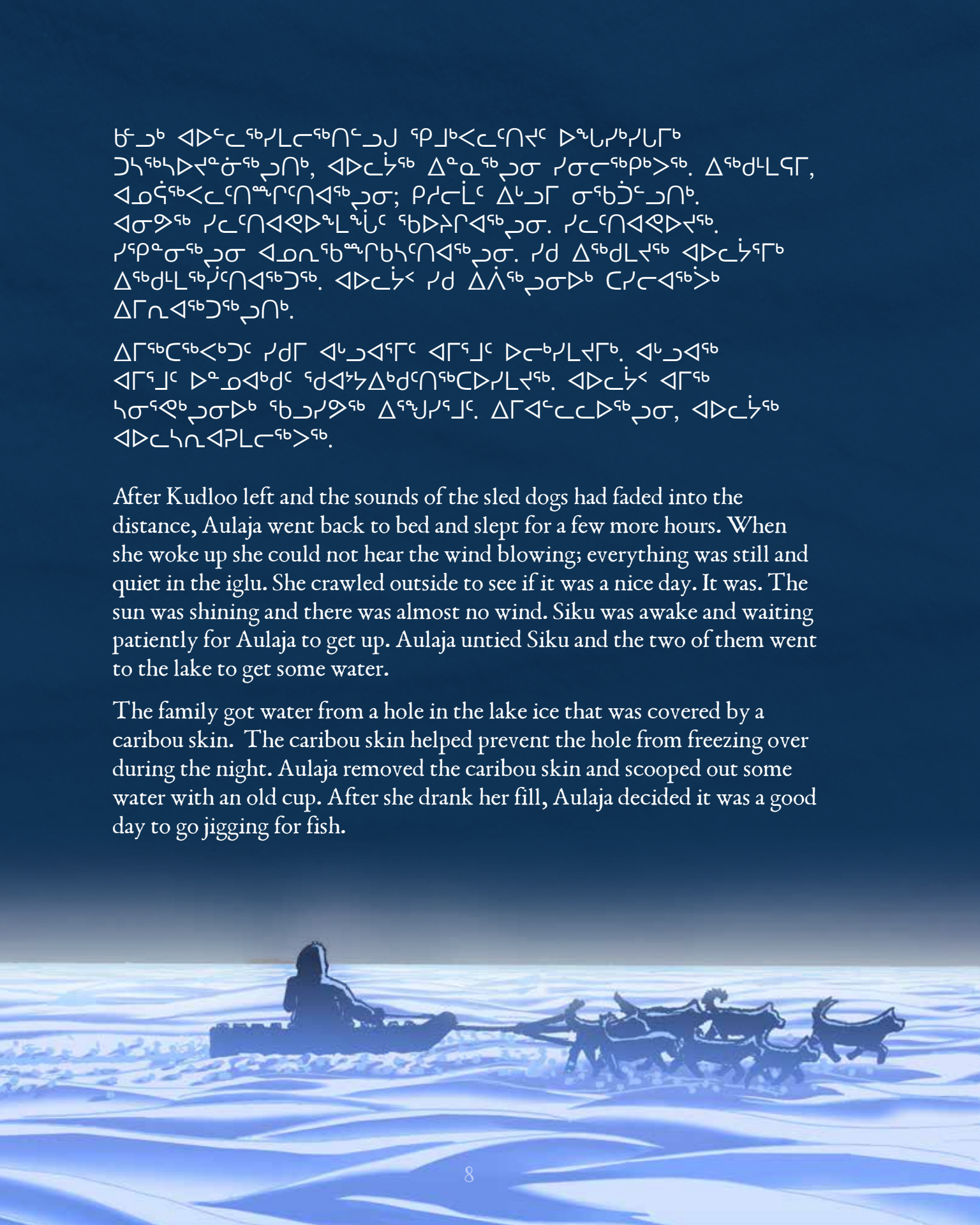
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၈၈၄၆၆၆ ၏ သူငယ်ချင်း ၏ အဖေ နှင့်
 by Jeela Palluq-Cloutier and Neil Christopher
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ᐃᐸᐸᐸᖅ, ᐅᖅᐸᖅᖅᐸᐸᐅᐅᐅ ᐃᐸᖅᐅᐅᖅ ᐊᐅᐸᐸᐸᖅᐸᖅ.

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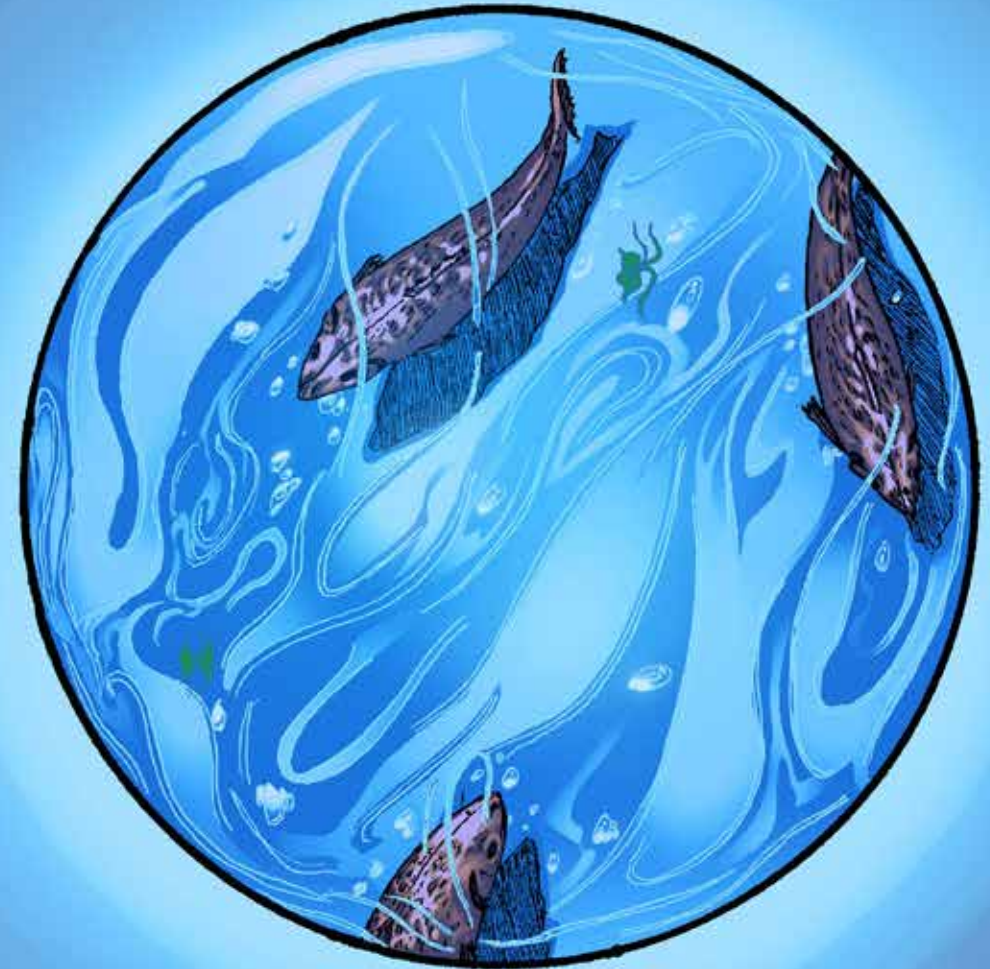
Aulaja ran back and tied Siku up near the iglu. Siku had no patience for fishing. She always whined and tried to make Aulaja play with her. But today Aulaja was not in the mood to play with her dog; she just wanted to fish. So, after she tied up Siku and found her fishing line and lure, Aulaja headed back to the lake.

The best place to fish was at the far end of the lake where the river ran out of it. There the lake had high banks and surrounding hills that protected the area from the wind. Today there was barely any wind and the sun was strong and warm.

Aulaja knelt down on the ice beside an old fishing hole. She used a piece of caribou antler to break the thin layer of ice that had formed during the night.

Aulaja stared down into the fishing hole. She could see many large, dark shadows swimming deep in the lake. *CHAR! Huge Arctic char*, she thought. And with that, she dropped in her lure and hook and began to jig.

Aulaja jigged for many hours. She watched as the dark shadows swam around her lure uninterested. Aulaja jigged and jigged, but the fish would not bite.





Just as Aulaja was about to give up, she noticed that the wind had picked up. Over the sound of the wind she heard Siku barking angrily, which was strange because Siku almost never barked. As she listened closer, she noticed another sound on the wind . . . it was laughter, wicked laughter. Aulaja thought she was imagining things, so she stood up and shook her head and tried to listen again. But this time all she could hear was the sound of wind and Siku barking in the distance.

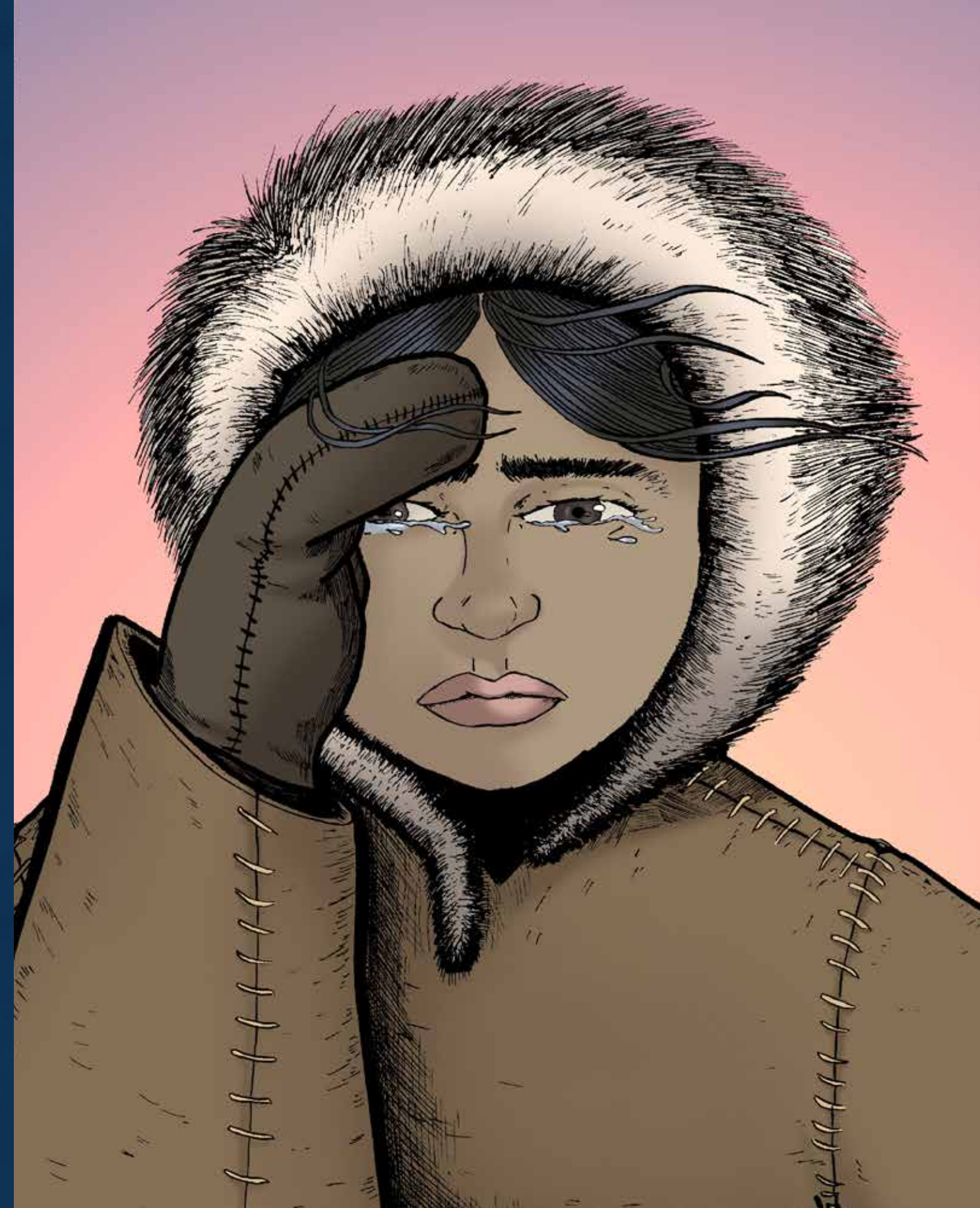


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As Aulaja walked quickly across the lake, she noticed that the wind
 was getting stronger and snow was beginning to blow around. All of a
 sudden, she heard it again . . . laughter, and this time it sounded as if it was
 whispered into her ear. The hairs on the back of her neck stood up, and she
 felt a shiver run down her spine. Aulaja spun around, looking for the source
 of this laughter. But all she could see was snow moving across the ice.

Aulaja knew that something was wrong. She was beginning to feel afraid, so
 she quickened her pace across the lake. She knew that she would feel safer
 near the iglu and Siku. Aulaja had seen Siku scare off polar bears, wolves,
 and other animals. She always felt safe when she was near her dog.



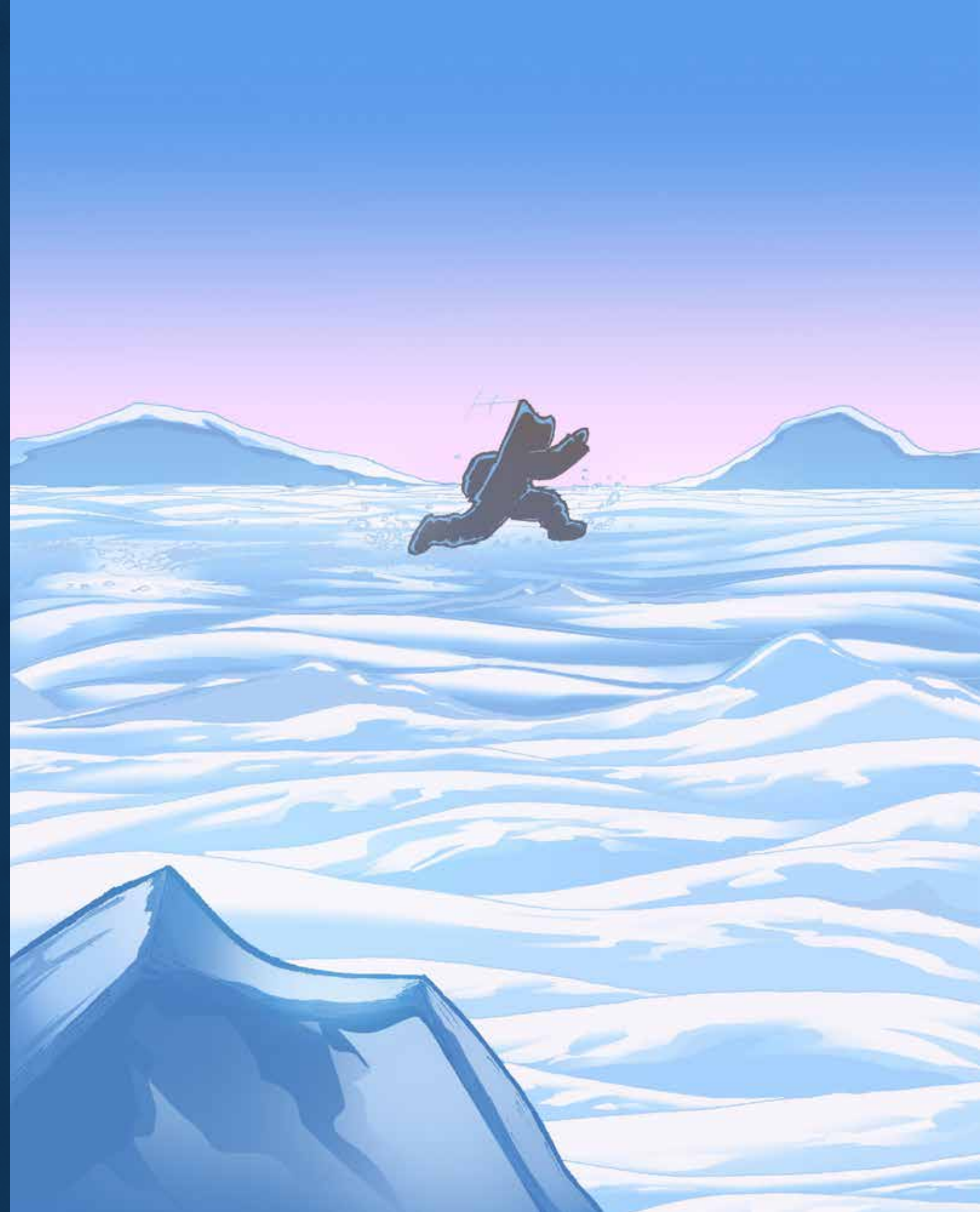
◀▷ငါ့^၄ ဖခင်^၅တို့အား အသေခံစားစေခဲ့သော အမေရိကန်
တပ်များကို အမေရိကန်အစိုးရက အကူအညီပေးခဲ့သည်။

[illegible][illegible]

Aulaja dropped her hook and line and ran towards the iglu, which she could barely see because of the wind and snow blowing into her eyes.

She was almost across the lake and still she could hear the laughing, but now it seemed to be farther away. She was going to make it to the iglu. She knew that she would soon be close to Siku and everything would be all right.

She jumped over the caribou skin that covered the drinking hole. She was almost home. Her heart felt like it was going to explode. She was breathing so hard the cold air made her throat burn.





And then she saw where the laughter was coming from . . . a strange creature, which showed off many sharp teeth as it smiled, stood between her and the iglu. It was Mahahaa—the tickler. Her grandfather had told her stories about this creature. This ancient, manlike demon was light blue in colour, like old ice, and very thin. The creature had barely any clothes on, but it did not seem to feel the cold. Its white eyes peered through the dark, stringy hair that hung in front of its face. Its fingers were long and bony with sharp fingernails. Mahahaa began to laugh and wiggle its long fingers, which moved like eels attached to its hands.

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Aulaja was frozen with fear. She had never seen anything so frightening in all her life.





ᐋᑯᓕጎᖃ ᐋᑂᖃጎᑭᑦᐱᓕᓕᑐᑂ. ᐃᓪᓕᑐᐊᖅᑲᑯᑦ ᑂᑯᑭᑦᐱᓕᓕᑐᑂ.
ᖃᑯᑲᒫᒻᑳᑦᐸᓪᓕᓕᐋᓕᖃᑲ>ᖃ. ᖃᑯᖃᑯᖃ ᐋᑯᓕᑯᑦ ᑲᑯᑯᑦᑐ
ᐱᓕᖃᑭᑦᐸᓪᓕᓕᐋᓕᖃᑲ>ᖃ ᑬᖃᑯᑯᐋᖃᓪᓕᓕᐋᓕᖃᑲᑐᑂ.

Aulaja could not breathe. She was laughing so hard she could not take in any air. She felt herself slipping into unconsciousness. The white world of ice and snow was disappearing as she slipped into blackness.

Δῶρῶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ΛΗΛΗΛ ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Δῶρῶ, ἄνθρωπος
ἄνθρωπος ΛΗΛΗΛ ἄνθρωπος ἄνθρωπος ἄνθρωπος.

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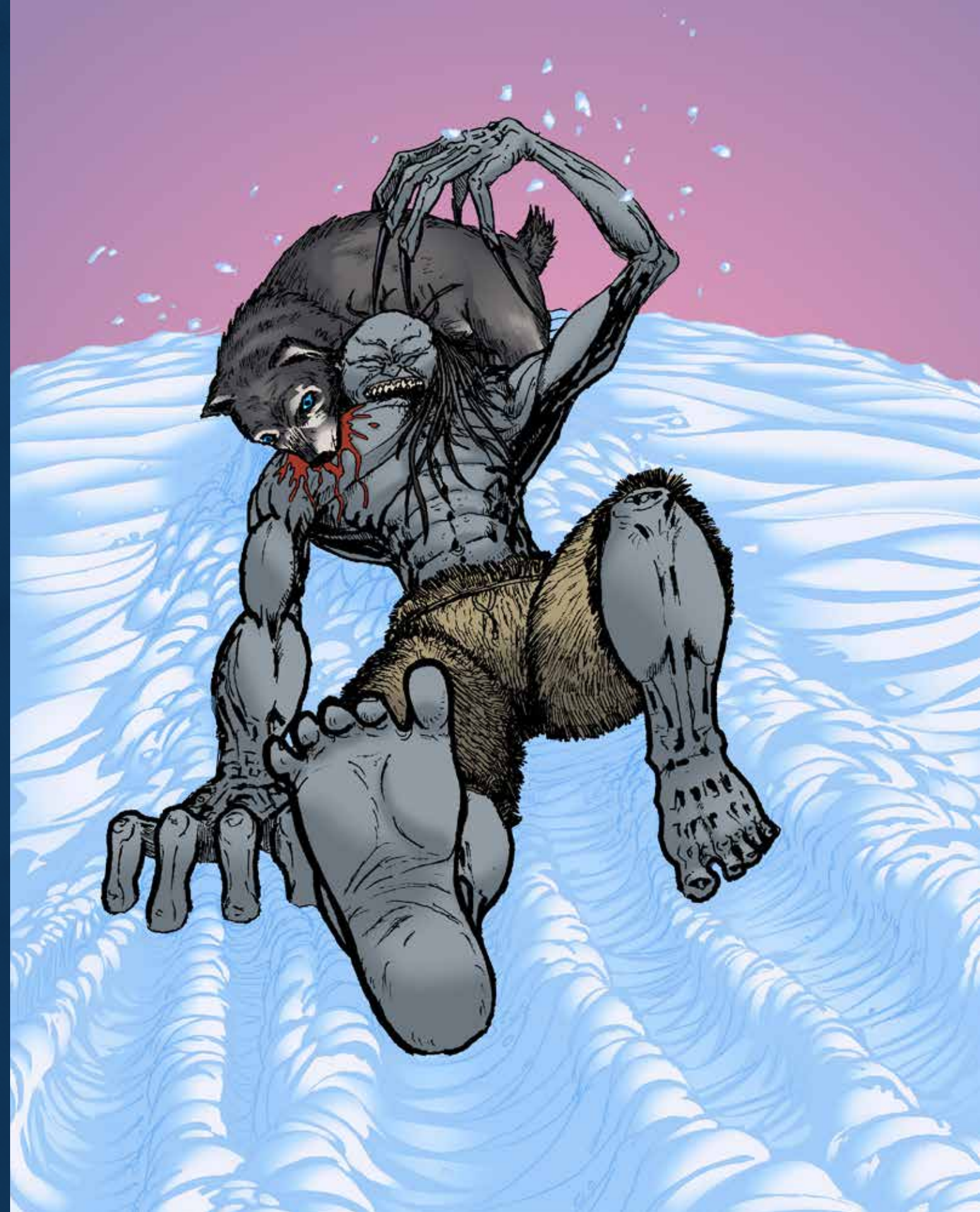
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But just before her life slipped away completely, Mahahaa stopped. As she
began to regain her senses, Aulaja heard Mahahaa screaming and the deep
throaty growls of Siku.

Aulaja quickly rolled over to see what was happening, and to her surprise
she found that Siku had broken her rope and was fighting with Mahahaa.

Never had she seen a dog fight with such fury. Siku grabbed Mahahaa
behind the neck and was shaking the creature back and forth in a frenzy.
Mahahaa tried to get hold of the dog but couldn't. It reached for the
dog's tail, but Siku did not have much of a tail, so there was little for
Mahahaa to grasp.

As if by instinct, Siku forced Mahahaa towards the water hole. The more
Mahahaa fought, the harder Siku bit down until finally, by dragging and
pushing, Siku got Mahahaa to the hole. Mahahaa did not know what was
happening until it was too late.



[illegible]

Siku had saved her friend from this demon. Aulaja ran to Siku and hugged her dog with all her might. Aulaja was so relieved she buried her face into Siku's thick fur. Siku was calm now, and Aulaja wondered how her dog had known exactly what to do when she saw Mahahaa. *Had Siku met a creature like this before?* Aulaja thought.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

“ $\epsilon_b \Delta^a \omega_A^c < \sigma^b$?” $\Delta \dot{C}^a \zeta_C \Delta \Lambda_{ab} C^b < \Delta^b$. “ $\omega_D^b \zeta \neq d$?”

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Aulaja had no idea how long she had slept, but when she woke she heard the sound of something moving outside her iglu. She froze. Whatever it was, it was coming into the iglu.

Aulaja held her breath. She was afraid; she could not fight Mahahaa on her own.

A man in a parka crawled into the iglu. It was her father. As soon as she saw him, she ran and hugged him. She tried to explain what had happened to her and Siku, but only sobs came out.

“What is wrong, daughter?” her father asked again and again. “And where is Siku?”

When Aulaja calmed down, she explained what had happened. Her father listened silently. When she finished explaining, he lifted her torn parka and looked at the scratches that covered her stomach.

Kudloo took a deep breath and told Aulaja that she was lucky to be alive. "I knew Siku was a good dog and that she would protect you. That is why I left her with you," he explained.

“Do you remember when Siku was a pup and we lost her on the ice?” Kudloo asked.

“Yes,” Aulaja answered. Even though Aulaja had been very young when it happened, she remembered how close to death the little pup was when they found her.

[illegible][illegible]

“Well,” her father began, “when we found her she had scratches all over her, and for a few months after her experience alone on the ice, Siku always growled at people when they laughed. I always wondered why that was. Maybe she had met Mahahaa on the ice when she was lost and that is why she was so beaten up and without a tail. How else could she have known what to do with such a creature?”

Aulaja stared at her father and once again began to cry at the thought of her favourite dog dying to save her. Aulaja knew that she would never have another friend like Siku.

ድረጅዎ ሁሉን ልግግርና ልሳራ ማረጋገጥና ማረጋገጥ
ሆኖታል። ለዓመቱ ለሁሉም ልግግርና ልሳራ ማረጋገጥና
ማረጋገጥ።

ᐱᐅᑦᑕ ሜሮፍፕሮፕቴ፣ ልዑካርጅፍ፡፡ ነጋጋጅ ስፍኑ፡፡
ወወደ ሜሮፍ፡፡ ለዘጠጠሩ ልጅ ማሪያ፡፡
ልዑካ፡፡ ለጅግ ለጅግ ልጅ ማሪያ፡፡
ለዘጠጠሩ ገደ፡ ለጅግ ለጅግ ማሪያ፡፡

In the morning, Kudloo went to the drinking hole and filled it in with large pieces of ice and blocks of snow. Then Kudloo and Aulaja packed their belongings onto the *qamutiik* and with their dogs, they left that place.

But before they left they built an *inuksuk* with many thin rocks to represent Mahahaa's long fingers. This was to warn others not to stop and fish at this lake, for Mahahaa was trapped beneath the ice.

