

# FOREVER OUR HOME



ILLUSTRATED BY  
**TONYA SIMPSON**      **CARLA JOSEPH**

# Where the morning sun glows and the tiger lily grows... this, my baby, is our home.

Under glowing morning sun and silvery winter moon, from speckled frogs croaking in spring to summer fields painted with fireweed, this meditative lullaby introduces little ones to the plants and animals of the Prairies and the Plains.

Featuring stunning artwork by celebrated artist Carla Joseph, *Forever Our Home* is a beautiful and gentle song about our spiritual connection to the land.

**TONYA SIMPSON** is of Scottish and Cree ancestry. She is a member of Pasqua First Nation and was born and raised in central Alberta. Tonya completed the MA program in anthropology at the University of Alberta and now works as a research assistant while raising her children at Pigeon Lake in Westeros, Alberta. *Forever Our Home* is her first picture book and was originally written as a lullaby for her son.

**CARLA JOSEPH** is a Cree artist originally from Prince George, British Columbia. In 2016 Carla was the Artist in Residence for the Prince George Community Arts Council, and she has done design work for several organizations, including the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia, Northern Health and the First Nations Health Authority. Carla loves the way she makes people feel with her art. It inspires her to continue with her gift, and she loves to challenge herself by taking on many different types of projects, many of which can be seen around her community. She is also the illustrator of *Be a Good Ancestor*. Carla lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

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Changes may be made to the text before publication, so **all quotations for review must be checked against the final bound book.**

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# Forever Our Home

**Author:** Tonya Simpson  
**Illustrator:** Carla Joseph

**May 16, 2023**

This gentle picture-book lullaby is a celebration of the plants and animals of the Prairies and the Plains and a meditation on the sacred, ancestral connections between Indigenous children and their Traditional Territories.

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## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Adapted from a lullaby the author wrote for her newborn son, this book is a love song to her child and all Indigenous children.
- Lyrical language conveys a powerful message of reconciliation and reclamation.
- Author Tonya Simpson is Scottish and Cree and a member of Pasqua First Nation. She was born and raised in central Alberta. Illustrator Carla Joseph is Cree and originally from Prince George, British Columbia.
- Also available as a dual-language edition in Plains Cree and English (*Forever Our Home / kâkikê kikinaw*).

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



KATHERINE MAYNE CORREIA

**TONYA SIMPSON** is of Scottish and Cree ancestry. She is a member of Pasqua First Nation and was born and raised in central Alberta. Tonya completed the MA program in anthropology at the University of Alberta and now works as a research assistant while raising her children at Pigeon Lake in Westeros, Alberta. *Forever Our Home* is her first picture book and was originally written as a lullaby for her son.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



**CARLA JOSEPH** is a Cree artist originally from Prince George, British Columbia. In 2016 Carla was the Artist in Residence for the Prince George Community Arts Council, and she has done design work for several organizations, including the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia, Northern Health and the First Nations Health Authority. Carla loves the way she makes people feel with her art. It inspires her to continue with her gift, and she loves to challenge herself by taking on many different types of projects, many of which can be seen around her community. She is also the illustrator of *Be a Good Ancestor*. Carla lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

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- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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# FOREVER OUR HOME

TONYA SIMPSON

ILLUSTRATED BY  
CARLA JOSEPH

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

Where the morning sun glows  
and the tiger lily grows



where the young bucks still roam,  
this, my baby, is your home.



My sweet, beautiful child,  
home is where the hawks hunt




and the foxes run wild.  
This, my love, is where you are from.



Where fireweed paints the fields come summer  
and eagles rule the sky





this is where your spirit can feel  
your ancestors as they pass by.

High on a hill, horses stand tall.  
Tamaracks yellow in the brisk of fall.





Coyotes sing an ancient winter tune.  
Snow blankets the land neath a silver moon.

The morning is so happy that you are here.  
Its colors are a gift to you, my dear.



Home is where the chickadees sing  
and speckled frogs croak in spring.



Where bees buzz in the poplar fuzz,  
this, little one, is sacred ground.



So, my little baby, you will grow  
in the meadow the old owl knows



amongst sage, sweetgrass and red willow.  
Because this, my baby, is our home.  
Forever our home.



*For my son, Todd. Home is wherever you are. —T.S.*

*Be kind to one another and always love yourself. —C.J.*

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**Summary:** This gentle picture-book lullaby is a celebration of the plants and animals of the Prairies and the Plains and a meditation on the sacred, ancestral connections between Indigenous children and their Traditional Territories.

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