

KIKÎ-KÎWÊ-

*Plains Cree  
and English*

NIKAMÔSTAMÂTINÂN

WE SANG  
YOU HOME



Richard  
Van Camp

*illustrations by*  
Julie Flett

*translated into Plains Cree by*  
Mary Cardinal Collins

PRAISE FOR *We Sang You Home*

BolognaRagazzi Award Special Mention  
CCBC Best Books

“A lovely picture book that will resonate with parents and show young readers the profound, positive impact they have on their parents’ lives.” —*School Library Journal*

“A sweet and loving board book ... The parents’ certainty that their baby is ‘the best of all of us’ is an affirmation every baby should hear.” —*Kirkus Reviews*



PRAISE FOR *Little You*

★ “Van Camp composes a lyrical ode to a newborn child, which is matched in its loveliness by Flett’s exquisite, collage-like images.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“A poetic and joyful celebration.” —*Kirkus Reviews*







# We Sang You Home

kikî-kîwê-  
nikamôstamâtinân



Richard Van Camp  
*illustrations by* Julie Flett

*translated into Plains Cree by*  
Mary Cardinal Collins



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



We sang you from a wish  
We sang you from a prayer

pakosêyimowin ohci  
kâ-nikamôstamâtâhk

kâkîsimowin ohci  
kâ-nikamôstamâtâhk











We sang you home  
and you sang back

kikî-kîwê-nikâmôstamâtinân  
êkwa kikî-pê-nasko-nikamon









We give you kisses  
to help you grow

kitocêmitinân  
kita-ohpikiyan







And songs to let you know  
that you are loved

êkwa mîna nikamowina  
ka-kiskêyihtaman  
ê-sâkihikawiyân ohci









As we give you roots  
you give us wings

pitanê askîhk  
kâ-ohpikihitâhk mâna mîna  
kitohpininân mwêhci piyêsîsak  
kâ-sipwêhâcik











And through you  
we are born again

mwêhci kiya ohci  
kâwi ninihtâwikinân









Our everyday miracle  
our everyday smile

anima kê-mamâhtâwi-miyikowisiyâhk  
êwako ohci tahto-kîsikâw  
kê-pâhpsiyâhk







Our forever home  
is inside of you

kâkikê nîkinân  
êwakw ânima kiya









Thank you for joining us  
Thank you for choosing us

ay-hay kê-pê-wîcêwiyâhk  
ay-hay kê-nawasôniyâhk











Thank you for becoming  
the best of all of us

ay-hay kê-pê-mâwaci-miyohtwâyan  
kiyânaw ohci



ADVANCE REVIEW COPY. NOT FOR PUBLIC OR SHARED USE.







We sang you home  
Thank you for singing back

kikî-kîwê-nikamôstamâtinân  
ay-hay kê-naskomiyâhk



ADVANCE REVIEW COPY. NOT FOR PUBLIC OR SHARED USE.







Welcome to the world  
We love you!

tawâw ôtê kitaskînaw  
kisâkihîtinân!



















**RICHARD VAN CAMP** is a proud member of the Tł̨chq Dene Nation from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. A graduate of the En'owkin International School of Writing, the University of Victoria's BFA in Creative Writing program and the MFA in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia, Richard is the author of over twenty books in just about every genre, including *Little You* and *Welcome Song for Baby*. His novel *The Lesser Blessed* is now a movie with First Generation Films.





**JULIE FLETT** is a Swampy Cree and Red River Métis artist and author. She studied fine arts at Concordia University in Montreal and Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver. She won the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature for her work on *When We Were Alone* by David Robertson, and her book *Birdsong* won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award. She is the three-time recipient of the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Award for *Owls See Clearly at Night: A Michif Alphabet*, *Dolphin SOS* and *My Heart Fills With Happiness*.



*For the children who have chosen us. You light our way. Mahsi cho!*

—R.V.C.

*awâsisak kâ-kî-nawasônikoyâhkik ohci. wâsêyâw itê kâ-pimohtêhoyâhk. ay-hay kinanâskomitinân!*

—R.V.C.

*To all of the little songbirds who inspired the artwork:*

*Abner, Amiel, Autumn, Edzazii & Sage.*

—J.F.

*kahkiyaw nikamo-piyêsîsak kâ-kî-miyo-mâmitonêyimakik ispî kâ-mêkwâ-tâpasinahikêyân:*

*Abner, Amiel, Autumn, Edzazii & Sage.*

—J.F.



Translation into Plains Cree (y-dialect) by Mary Cardinal Collins;  
edited in Standard Roman Orthography by the Cree Literacy Network

Mary Cardinal Collins *nistam kî-nêhiyawastâw ôma.*

SRO (*kwayask nêhiyawasinahikêwin*) *âpacihtâniwan.*

Text copyright © Richard Van Camp 2016, 2018, 2022

Illustrations copyright © Julie Flett 2016, 2018, 2022

Translation © Mary Cardinal Collins 2018, 2022

Published in Canada and the United States in 2022 by Orca Book Publishers.

Please visit our website to find this book in other formats and languages.

[orcabook.com](http://orcabook.com)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher.

**Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication**

Title: We sang you home = Kiki-kiwê-nikamôstamâtinân / Richard Van Camp ; illustrations by Julie Flett ; translated into Plains Cree by Mary Cardinal Collins.

Other titles: Kiki-kiwê-nikamôstamâtinân

Names: Van Camp, Richard, author. | Flett, Julie, illustrator. |

Cardinal Collins, Mary, 1946- translator. |

Container of (work): Van Camp, Richard. We sang you home. |

Container of (expression): Van Camp, Richard. We sang you home. Cree.

Description: In English and Plains Cree.

Identifiers: Canadiana 20220171483 | ISBN 9781459836365 (hardcover)

Subjects: LCGFT: Picture books.

Classification: LCC PS8593.A5376 W4123 2022 | DDC jC811/.54—dc23

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022933545

**Summary:** This dual-language book celebrates baby and welcomes them into the world. In English and Plains Cree.

Orca Book Publishers is committed to reducing the consumption of nonrenewable resources in the production of our books. We make every effort to use materials that support a sustainable future.

Orca Book Publishers gratefully acknowledges the support for its publishing programs provided by the following agencies: the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Book Publishing Tax Credit.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the National Translation Program for Book Publishing, an initiative of the *Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013–2018: Education, Immigration, Communities*, for our translation activities.

Artwork created using gouache on paper and digital collage.

Cover artwork by Julie Flett

Design by Teresa Bubela

Cree translation by Mary Cardinal Collins

Cree edit by the Cree Literacy Network under the direction of Elder Jean Okimâsis

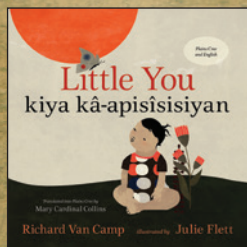


# When wishes come true pakosêyimowina kâ-ihkihki

“Sweet and loving.”  
—KIRKUS REVIEWS



Also available  
by Richard Van Camp  
and Julie Flett:



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS  
orcabook.com

\$19.95

Barcode  
to come