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Arctic Song

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Creation Stories

from the Arctic



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ᑕᑭᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏᑏ

By Germaine
Arnattaujuq
and Neil
Christopher

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Arctic Song

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Creation Stories from the Arctic

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Creation Stories from the Arctic

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Written by Germaine Arnattaujuq
and Neil Christopher

ᐃᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐃᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
Illustrated by Germaine Arnattaujuq

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“ᐱᑕᑕᑦ ᑦᑎᑕᑦᑎᑦ ᐱᑕᑕᑦ ᐱᑕᑕᑦ ᐱᑕᑕᑦ ᐱᑕᑕᑦ
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“One of the first signs that a culture is dying is when
people forget their creation stories.”

— ᑦᑎᑦ ᑦᑎᑦ, ᑦᑎᑦ ᑦᑎᑦ ᑦᑎᑦ
— Susan Sammons, Nunavut Arctic College

ᐃᑐᕋᐁᐁᐁ

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$\Delta_{\sigma^a} \sigma^b \Delta_{\rho^c} \rho^d$

Foreword

A hunter had pursued the polar bear for many days. As he got close to the animal, he released his dogs. The polar bear was cunning, and it ran into the night sky in an attempt to escape. But the dogs were not easily fooled, and they continued the chase.

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 ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ. ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ.

On and on they ran, until their forms began to shimmer. Their bodies dressed the darkness with glittering lights.

ᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ, ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ
 ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ, ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ ᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖᄖ.

So now when we look to the night sky, it connects us to the earliest days, and to those who came before.



ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ: ᐱᑦᑲᓐᓂᑦ

ᐃᐅᐃᑦᐅᓂᑦᐅᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ

ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ

SurainiiE: The Crimes That Shaped the Northern Skies

ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ — ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ
ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ
ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ
ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ
ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐳᐱᓐᓂᑦ

Look to the sky—what do you see? According to Inuit oral history, the fiery Sun and the glowing Moon are reminders of broken taboos. Even the sound of Thunder and the flash of Lightning tell a story of traditional crimes. The ancient stories tell of a world of powerful magic, and how the actions and misdeeds of early Inuit changed the world forever.



ለጠፋፍጥሩ ገጥሞች ርቅጥ The Origin of the Sun and Moon

ገጥሞች ርቅጥ ካሉት ጥንታዊ ጥናቶች፣ የራብሮፍ፣ የቦሎታ
 ርቅጥ ለጥንታዊ ግሪኮች ነበረ። ለጠፋፍጥሩ ገጥሞች ርቅጥ ጠቅላይ ግሪኮች
 ከጥንት ጀምሮ ለጥንታዊ ግሪኮች ጥንታዊ ጥናቶች ነበሩ።

The Sun and Moon are powerful celestial objects in our world, but
 this was not always the case. The origin of the Sun and Moon is a sad
 story that tells of a young woman who was frequently visited by a
 stranger in the dark.

There was once a family of great giants far to the north that kept to themselves. One day the family encountered a wandering giant. This strange giant was hungry and asked for food. The father denied his request, and a deadly fight broke out. This battle ended with the entire giant family slain, except a baby giant who was orphaned.

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This orphan was left to die on the land, but he rose up to become *Sila*, the Sky. Now, when this orphan is angry, his tantrums cause great storms and blizzards.





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The Man of the Moon

ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᑉᑖᑖᖅᑕᐋᖅᑦᑦ, ᑕᖅᑭᑦ ᐱᑦᐋᖅᑖᑖᑖᑦ ᓄᑖᓄᖅᑕᑖᑖ ᑖᖅᑭᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᑉᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ. ᐃᑖᑖᖅ ᐱᑉᑕᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᑕᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ, ᐋᖅᑭ ᑕᖅᑭᖃᑦᑖᑦᑕᖅ ᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᐃᑕᐋᖅᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᐋᖅᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᐃᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ. ᑕᖅᑭᖅ ᑉᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᑉᑖᑖᖅᑕᐋᖅᑦᑦ ᐃᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ ᐃᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ.

According to Inuit oral history, the Moon's origin is a story filled with sadness and shame. Perhaps in an attempt to be redeemed from his past mistakes, the Man of the Moon became the protector of orphans and of mistreated women. The Moon appears in many traditional stories and provides supernatural help to those in need.



Գրւելիս կ'ընկեր զայնքան. իրարից ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով.
Գեղարարները իրարից զարկելով.

They suddenly rose into the sky. The child with the firestones struck them together. The sparks became Lightning.

Վաճակալ յայնչի կ'ընկեր իրարից զարկելով, ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով
ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով.

The other child struck the dry caribou skin, and the world shook with the sound of Thunder.

Իրարից գրւելիս ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով
ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով. Ընկեր ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով,
ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով, ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով,
ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով ձեռքերով!

The two excited children ran about in the sky playing with the new items they had found. When they saw the people who had abandoned them, they rushed towards them, causing Lightning and Thunder, and all in the camp died of fright!

Իրարից կ'ընկեր զայնքան ձեռքերով իրարից զարկելով ձեռքերով.

This was the first time Lightning and Thunder appeared in our world.

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ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ

Nirjuweit Papattijingit:

Those That Created the Animals

ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ
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ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ
ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ
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ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓂᓴᓴᓂᓪ

The animals that Inuit depend on for their survival were not always present. The stories in this section will take the reader on a journey of oral history to show them how the sea mammals, caribou, and narwhal came to be. Each creation story not only tells how these creatures came into the world, they also impart important lessons for how to live untroubled and respectfully.

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ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ
ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ.

The earth spirit travelled over a hill and then stopped. He heard a thunderous sound underground. The earth spirit took out his knife and cut a hole into the earth and waited. Suddenly, a caribou jumped out of the hole and was quickly captured. Then the earth spirit closed the hole and carried the animal back to camp.

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ᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆᄆᄆ,
ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ
ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ, ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆᄆᄆ,
ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ.

The jealous hunter ran down to the depression in the ground and took out his knife. He cut deep into the earth and waited excitedly. Suddenly, a large bull caribou jumped out of the hole. The size of this caribou startled the hunter, causing him to step back and hesitate. Then, two more caribou jumped out of the hole.

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ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ.

Three caribou were too much for the frightened hunter, who ran away in fear. Now, with the hole open, caribou started streaming onto the land above until there were thousands and thousands of caribou moving across the tundra.

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ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ. ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ.

It is said that all the caribou we see today are descended from those animals that came from the land below. Perhaps one day they will choose to return to their ancestral home.



ርዕይኑ ጠቃሚ ግላዊት ጥንቁቅና
 The Blind Boy and the Loon

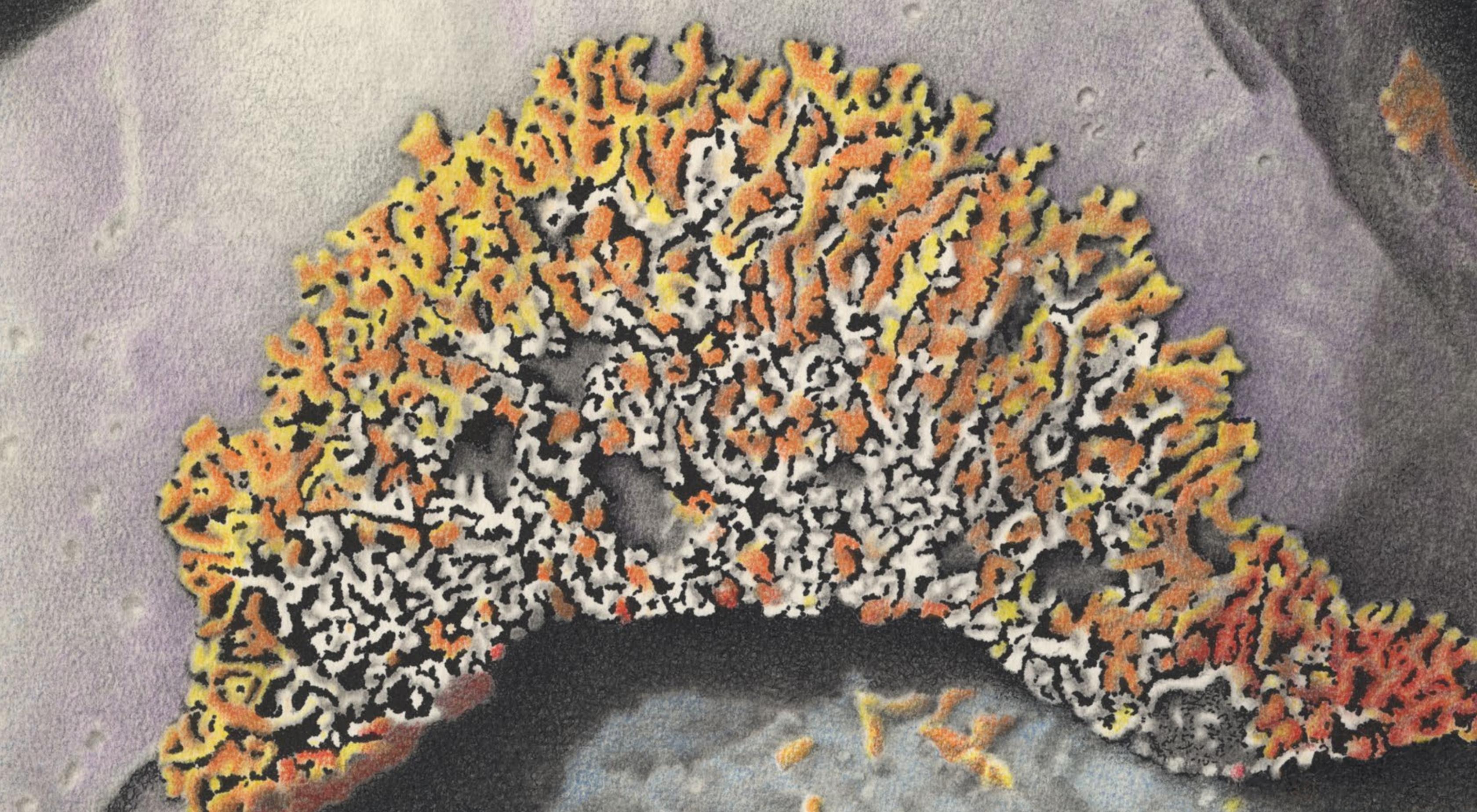
ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡

Sometimes it is acts of cruelty and revenge that shape our world. This is true of the story of a blind boy who was rejected and mistreated by his mother. It was his sister's kindness and the power of a loon that helped him survive and regain his sight.

ርዕይኑ ጠቃሚ ግላዊት ጥንቁቅና ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡ ስለዚህ ሁሉም ጊዜ ልዩ ልዩ ጉዳይ ነው ፡፡

Once the boy's vision had returned, he took revenge on his mother, casting her into the sea. As she was drowning, she transformed into the first narwhal.

Διότι οπότε
Epilogue



ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ Glossary of Inuktitut Words

The pronunciation guides in this book are intended to support non-Inuktitut speakers in their reading of Inuktitut words.

These pronunciations are not exact representations of how the words are pronounced by Inuktitut speakers. For more resources on how to pronounce Inuktitut words, visit inhabitmedia.com/inuitnipingit.com.

<i>Word</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Definition</i>
nirjutit	neer-joo-TEET	those that created
papattijingit	pah-pah-TEE-yee-ngeet	the animals
pinngurniq	pee-NGOOR-neek	in the beginning
qulliq	KOO-leek	seal oil lamp
Sila	SEE-lah	sky
surainiit	soo-RAH-ee-neet	the crimes that shaped the Northern skies
Tuniit	too-NEET	an extinct race that populated the Arctic before Inuit
ulluq	oo-LOOK	day
unnuk	oo-NOOK	night

