

THE RAVEN BOY



by Rosemarie Avrana Meyok
illustrated by Marcus Cutler

THE
RAVEN BOY

Published by Inhabit Media Inc.
www.inhabitmedia.com

Inhabit Media Inc. (Iqaluit) P.O. Box 11125, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 1H0
(Toronto) 612 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4S 2M8

Design and layout copyright © 2023 Inhabit Media Inc.
Text copyright © 2023 Rosemarie Avrana Meyok
Illustrations by Marcus Cutler copyright © 2023 Inhabit Media Inc.

Editors: Neil Christopher and Kelly Ward-Wills
Art Director: Danny Christopher

ISBN: 978-1-77227-494-3

This project was made possible in part by the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts for our publishing program.

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.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: The raven boy / by Rosemarie Avrana Meyok ; illustrated by Marcus Cutler.
Names: Meyok, Rosemarie, author. | Cutler, Marcus, 1978- illustrator.
Identifiers: Canadiana 20230491146 | ISBN 9781772274943 (hardcover)
Subjects: LCSH: Tales—Canada, Northern. | LCGFT: Picture books. | LCGFT: Fiction.
Classification: LCC PS8626.E96 R38 2023 | DDC jC813/.6—dc23

Printed in Canada

Canada  Canada Council
for the Arts  Conseil des Arts
du Canada

THE RAVEN BOY



by **Rosemarie Avrana Meyok**
illustrated by **Marcus Cutler**

INHABIT MEDIA INC.

Long ago, Inuit wandered the tundra. There were small family groups that would follow the animals in search of food, and fish at the lakes and rivers.



An old woman lived by herself and had no one to hunt for her. She would beg every hunter in the village for food. But the small bowl she used to collect food became filthy.

One night, she scraped it clean and chewed the dirty meat fat in her mouth, making a small male doll out of it.

She stuck a raven's beak on its face and placed the figurine by the wick of her stone lamp. While she was sleeping, the doll came to life and found a place to lay by her side.



When she woke, the old woman was surprised to see this little boy with a raven's beak, and she asked him where he came from.

"You made me last night," he answered.



From then on, he lived with the old woman and grew up in the village like any orphan boy, helping the old woman with daily chores.

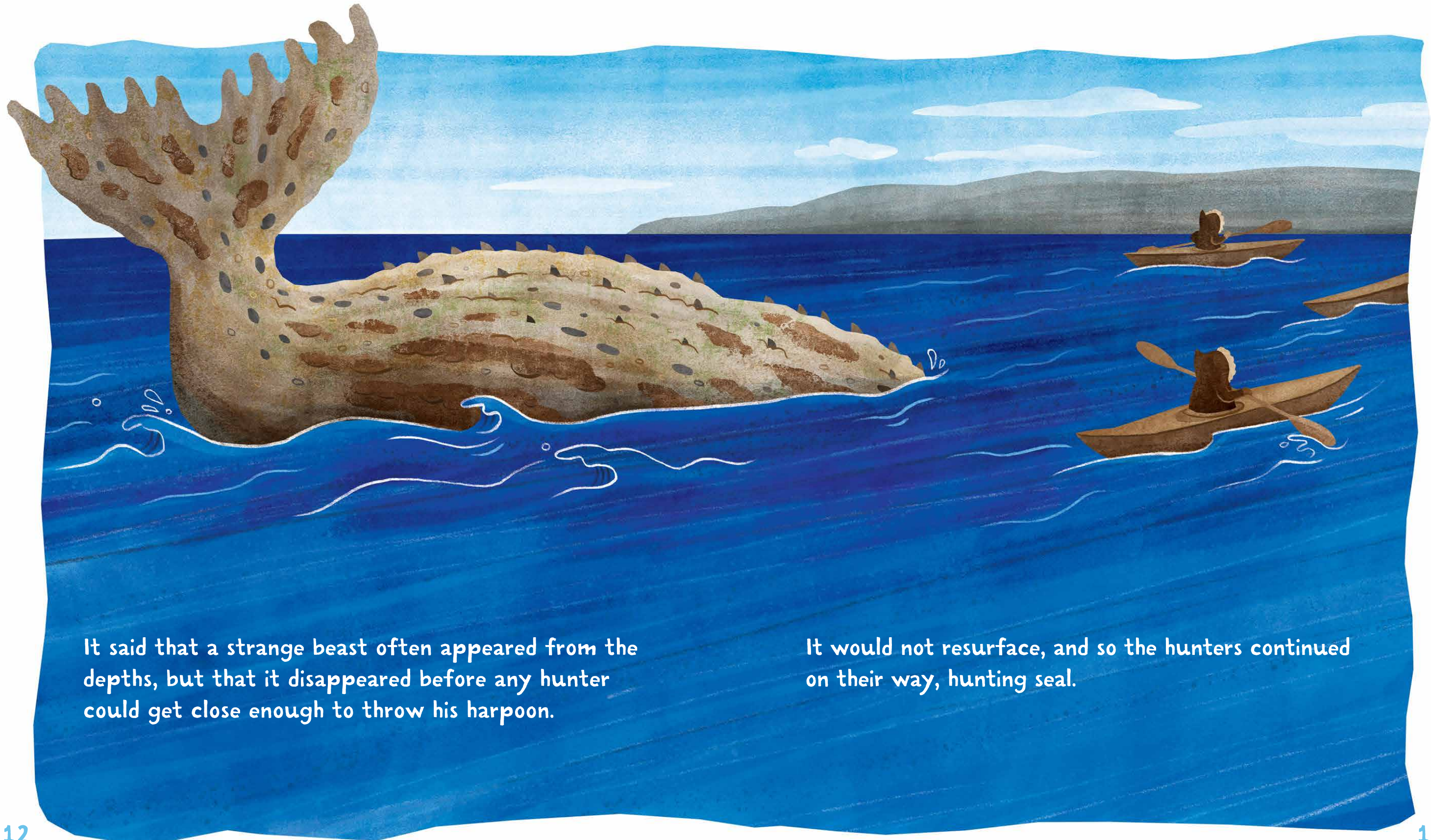
The old woman raised the boy like her son. She made him clothing by sewing scraps of skin together.





Whenever the hunters arrived home from a hunt, the boy ran to meet them. He happily busied himself, helping to unload the catch and tie up the dogs, learning from the hunters as he helped.

He loved to listen to the hunters' tales about their adventures, and became especially interested in one such story.



It said that a strange beast often appeared from the depths, but that it disappeared before any hunter could get close enough to throw his harpoon.

It would not resurface, and so the hunters continued on their way, hunting seal.

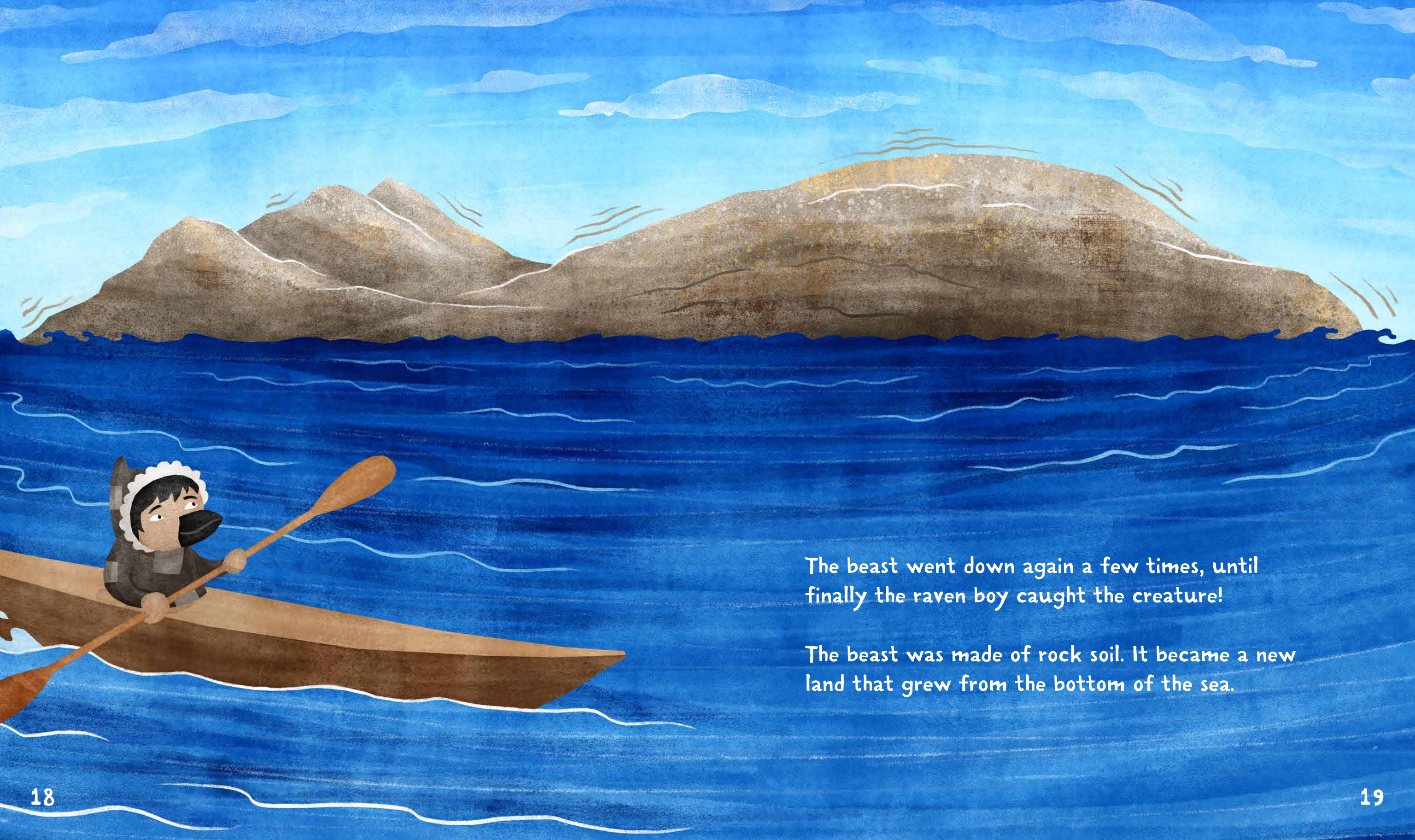
The next time the hunters left camp, the boy followed them to the spot where the beast was said to show up.

The boy let the hunters go and remained alone.





He waited a long time, and when the beast appeared, he harpooned it. He hung on tightly to the sealskin line, not wanting to let the creature escape.



The beast went down again a few times, until finally the raven boy caught the creature!

The beast was made of rock soil. It became a new land that grew from the bottom of the sea.



From then on, this was the land of the raven boy, and he set a trap on his land to catch some white owls. He wanted to get enough skins and feathers to make clothes for himself.

The boy trapped several owls, and very soon he had all the skins he needed—all but one.



On his next visit to his trap, the boy found a white owl.

As he approached, the owl pulled back his hood, revealing a human head. The owl asked the boy to leave him his feathers, adding that otherwise the boy would never get back home.

In those days, animals spoke as humans did, and they often helped each other during hard times.

But the raven boy did not want to listen to the owl.
He took the bird's feathers because he needed them to
complete his parka.

Once he had completed his clothing, he made his way
back to his village.





While he was on his way back, the boy began aging so quickly that he could not reach his home.

It is said that when he could not go any farther, he stopped not far from his land. There, he became an island with a white streak on the cliffside.



Rosemarie Avrana Meyok was born in a small Hudson Bay post named Reid Island, Northwest Territories, and now lives in Kugluktuk, Nunavut. She studied as a teacher in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and worked as an Inuinnaqtun teacher and program specialist, developing Inuktut teaching resources for the Nunavut Department of Education. She went on to study linguistics at the University of Western Ontario and the University of New Mexico. She has worked as a language researcher and translator. Rosemarie has four children (two of whom were adopted to her sister through custom adoption), twenty grandchildren, and more than ten great-grandchildren. Rosemarie loves to sew, bead, and design traditional and contemporary clothing. She spends as much time as she can out on the land with her large family.

Marcus Cutler is both a children's illustrator and an occasional climber of rocks. He lives in Windsor, Ontario, with his wife and two daughters.

INHABIT MEDIA INC.