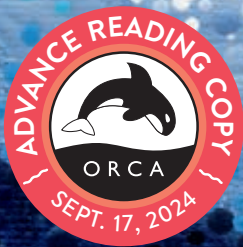


This Land is a Lullaby cistomâwasowin ôma askiy

Tonya Simpson

illustrated by Delréé Dumont

translated into Cree by
Dorothy Thunder



*In Plains Cree
and
English*



This Land Is a Lullaby / cistomâwasowin ôma askiy

Author: Tonya Simpson
 Illustrator: Delrée Dumont
 Translator: Dorothy Thunder

September 17, 2024

In this gentle picture-book lullaby written in both Plains Cree and English, the sounds of the land soothe an Indigenous child to sleep on a stormy summer night on the Plains.

FORMAT	Hardcover	PDF	EPUB
8.75 × 10.75"	9781459838475	9781459838482	9781459838499
32 pages	\$21.95		

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Written as a lullaby for the author's daughter, this book is an exploration of the spiritual relationship between children, ancestors and the land.
- Lyrical language evokes the sights and sounds of a summer storm on a prairie evening and conveys a powerful message of reconciliation and reclamation, as ancestors dance and sing a sacred song to a child, who drifts into a peaceful sleep.
- Author and Indigenous anthropologist Tonya Simpson is Scottish and Cree and a member of Pasqua First Nation. This is her second book, following *Forever Our Home*.
- Artist Delrée Dumont, from Onion Lake Cree Nation, evokes the movement of the land through stunning pointillism illustrations.
- Also available in an English-only edition.



PHOTO CREDIT: KATHERINE MAYNE CORREIA

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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. Her first picture book, *Forever Our Home*, introduces readers to the animals and plants of the Prairies and the Plains. Tonya lives with her family at Pigeon Lake in Westrose, Alberta.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELRÉE DUMONT

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

DELRÉE DUMONT (Wapiski Kihew Esquao / White Eagle Woman) is a proud member of Onion Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan. She paints in the pointillism style, depicting the natural world blended with her teachings and experiences as an Indigenous woman. She also creates smudge fans, dreamcatchers and pine-needle baskets, and she is a traditional powwow dancer. Delrée lives and works at her home studio near Revelstoke, British Columbia.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

DOROTHY THUNDER is a Plains Cree (nêhiyawiskwêw) from Little Pine First Nation, Saskatchewan and full-time Cree instructor in Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta.

REVIEWS/ENDORSEMENTS

★ “This solemn and serene volume should be considered a first purchase. Essential for most collections.”
—*School Library Journal*, starred review for *Forever Our Home*

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

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- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley and Edelweiss
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca’s newsletter program, including targeted emails to educators, librarians and booksellers in Canada and the United States

BISACS

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Tonya Simpson

illustrated by Delréé Dumont

translated into Cree by Dorothy Thunder



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS



This land is a lullaby your heart already knows.
You carry the song from a lifetime ago.
It flows in your blood and echoes in your soul.
Listen, my baby, to the sweet song of your home.



cistomâwasowin ôma askiy.
âsay kikî-pêhtên.
êwako kê-kikiskaman.
nitohta nikamowin kîkikh ohci, nipêpîm.



Grasses swirl and whirl. Rising winds rejoice.
Geese take flight with jubilant voice.



maskosiya waskawîpayinwa kâ-yôtik.
niskak pimihâwak êkwa pêhtâkosiwak.



Down by the water, speckled frogs sing.
Drift into a dream on a blue heron's wing.



ayîkidak nikamowak sisonê nipîhk.
môhkahosiw na-nitohtam.



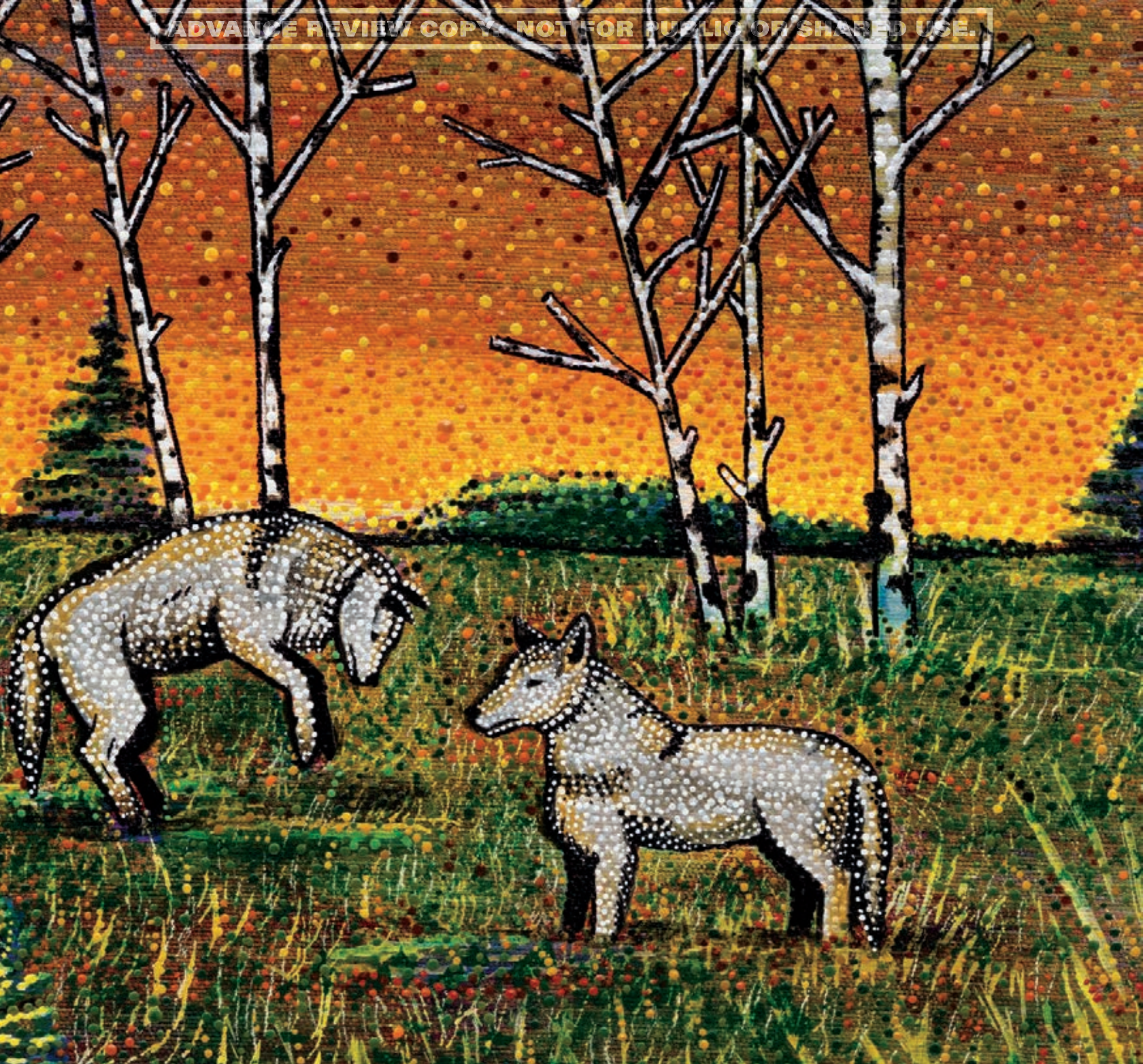
Fireflies light the Plains in glowing colors,
flitting to the hum of a dragonfly summer.



kwêkwêkocîsak nîmihitowak
mêkwâc kâ-pêhtâkosicik cowêhikanâpisîsak.



Just as the last of the day starts to fade...
hoots of owls and coyote howls! A twilight serenade.



kâ-otâkosiniyik,
ôhowak kâh-kitowak êkwa mêscacâkanisak wiyôyowak.



Wild horses race mighty clouds soaring by.
Rolling thunder drums across the flickering sky.



pikwatastimwak pimi-kociskâwêwak.
piyêsiwak kâh-kitowak kîsikohk.



Raindrops fall like notes of a soothing song.
The midnight melody flows on and on.



kâ-pahkipêstâk matwêhtâkwan
kapê-tipisk.



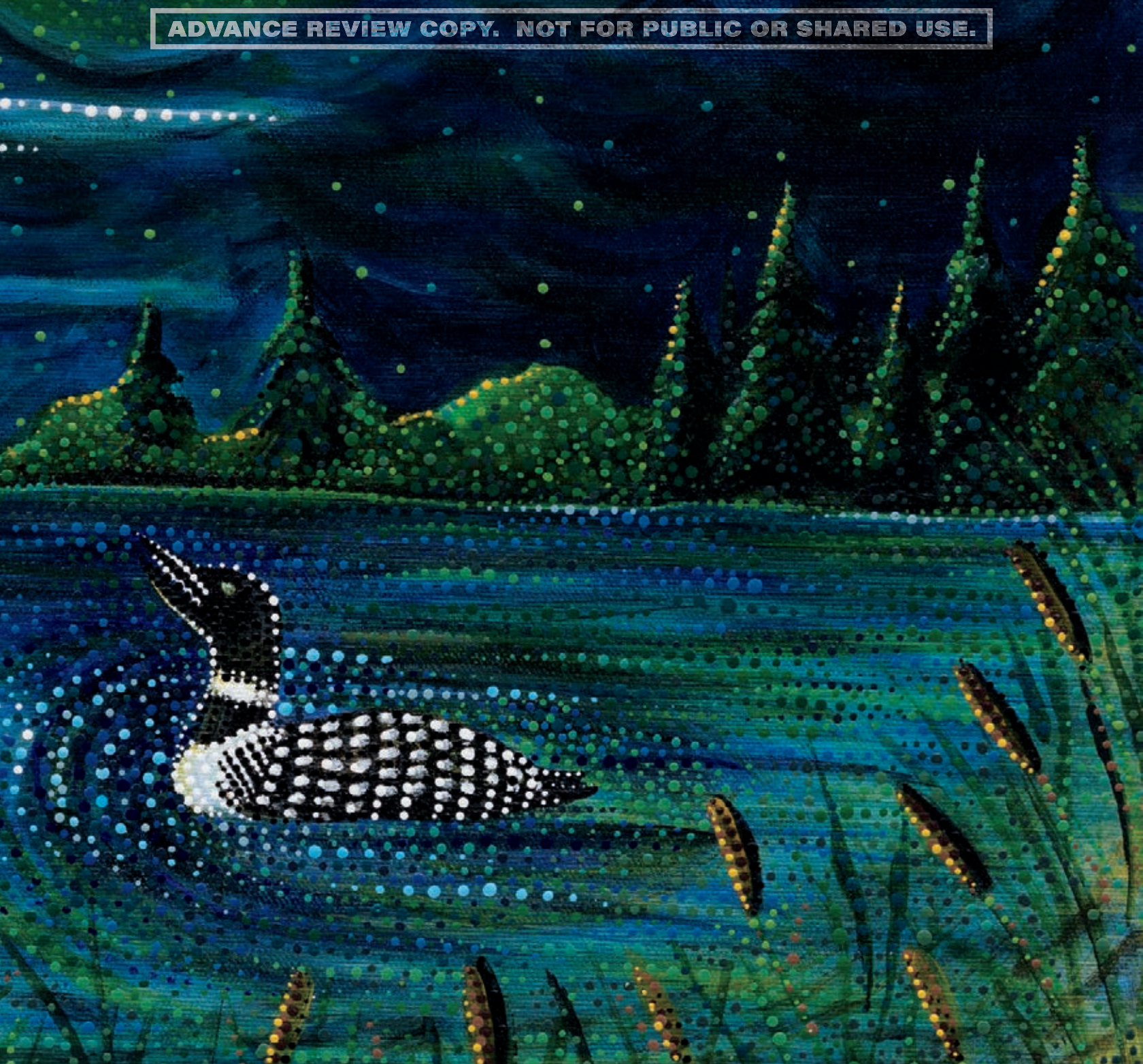
Spirits dance in the indigo night,
cloaked in painted shawls, beaded in starlight.



cîpayak nîmihitowak
tipiskâwi-kîsikohk.



Now all is quiet, but for the loon
trading holy secrets with Grandmother Moon.



mâkwa kitotêw tipiskâwi-pîsimwa.
kâmwâtan êkwa.



And if you're ever so still, you may hear
the song your ancestors sing just for you, my dear.



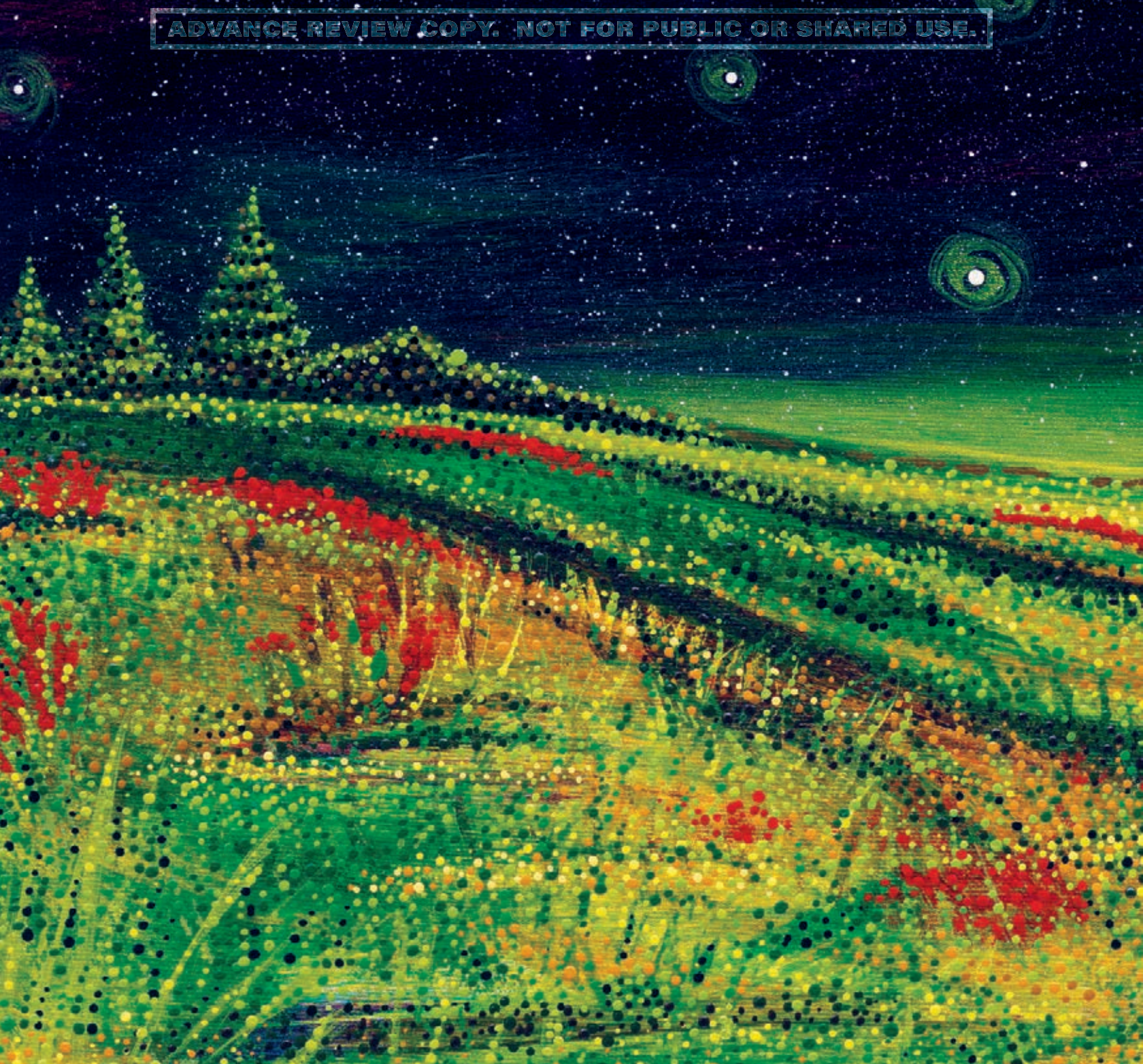
kâmwâtapî êkwa nitohta
onikamowiniwâw kitâniskô-wâhkômâkanak.



As you slip into dreamy slumber,
know, my baby, that you are a sacred wonder.



kâ-ati-nipêpayiyan,
kiskêyihta ê-sâkihitân.



This land is a lullaby your heart already knows.
You carry the song from a lifetime ago.
It flows in your blood and echoes in your soul.
Sleep, my baby, to the sweet song of your home.



cistomâwasowin ôma askiy.
âsay kikî-pêhtên.
êwako kê-kikiskaman.
nitohta nikamowin kîkikhk ohci, nipêpîm.

For Evelyn Francis, who was born with a song in her heart.

—T.S.

Everything I do is to honour my mother, Rema Florence Dumont.

Always loved, never forgotten.

—D.D.



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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 is an anthropologist and works at the University of Alberta. She is the mother of two children and resides in Westrose, near Pigeon Lake, Alberta.

nêhiyâwîw êkwa Scotiwîw **TONYA SIMPSON**, paskwâwiyînâhk ohtaskânêsiw. kî-masinahikêw mîna kâkîkê kîkinaw. mêkwâc ê-wâh-ohpîkihât ocawâsimisa mîmîw sâkahikanîhk, Westrose, Alberta.

DELREÉ DUMONT (Wapiski Kihew Esquao / White Eagle Woman) is a proud member of Onion Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan. She paints in the pointillism style, depicting the natural world blended with her teachings and experiences as an Indigenous woman. She also creates smudge fans, dreamcatchers and pine-needle baskets, and she is a traditional powwow dancer. Delrée lives and works at her home studio near Revelstoke, British Columbia.

DELRÉE DUMONT (wâpisîki-kîhêw iskwêw) wîhcêkaskosîwi-sâkahikanîhk ohtaskânêsiw. otâpasinahikêw awa, pwâtisimow êkwa. Delrée ê-wâh-ohpîkihât Revelstoke, British Columbia cîki.

DOROTHY THUNDER is a Plains Cree (nêhiyawiskwêw) from Little Pine First Nation, Saskatchewan and full-time Cree instructor in Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta.

DOROTHY THUNDER paskwâwinîmowin nêhiyawiskwêw Little Pine First Nation, Saskatchewan. kiskinohamâkew nêhiyawêwin anita University of Alberta.



It flows in your blood and echoes in your soul... Listen, my baby, to the sweet song of your home.

As daylight fades to dusk and slips into darkness, this gentle lullaby celebrates the sounds of the Prairies and the Plains on a stormy summer's night. From the hum of dragonflies to the drumming of thunder, with grasses swirling and the northern lights glimmering, *This Land is a Lullaby* shares a sacred song and dance—a gift from the ancestors that soothes children to sleep and reminds them of their deeply rooted connections to the land.

Featuring striking pointillism artwork, this lush lullaby of the land honors the spiritual connection between Indigenous children, ancestors and their Traditional Territories.

This a bilingual English and Plains Cree picture book.

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. Her first picture book, *Forever Our Home*, introduces readers to the animals and plants of the Prairies and the Plains. Tonya lives with her family at Pigeon Lake in Westeros, Alberta.

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