

THE LIVING BOY AND THE GIRL WITH NO BONES
(A TALE OF THE KARUK TRIBE)

written by

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based on the Karuk Creation Stories:

A Trip to Indian Heaven; Moon's Wives; and Eel-with-a-Swollen-Belly

and on William Shakespeare's:

Romeo and Juliet; A Midsummer Night's Dream; and The Tempest

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Cast of Characters

COYOTE/NARRATOR: a mischief-maker; a storyteller; LOVES fire

GIRL: a young woman, madly in love with Boy

BOY: a young man, madly in love with Girl

KING MOON: King of the Living Land

QUEEN RATTLESNAKE: Queen of the Boneless Land, scorned wife of King

SON: son of Boy and Girl

EEL WOMEN 1, 2, & 3: protectors of the River, servants of the Queen

SKUNK: a skunk

ENSEMBLE: the people who make things happen

Setting

Outside, around a fire-pit in Karuk Country, a Creation Story is told in the present day. When we see the events of the Creation Story, we are back in old Karuk times around the Salmon River.

Costumes

Rehearsal blacks for all characters. The super-natural characters, Ikkareeyavs (Spirit People) wear colorful masks to distinguish them from the human characters. The character SKUNK wears a tail.

Props, Staging, Lighting

The play takes place in a round. The audience should encircle the actors. When actors are *Off Stage* they simply step outside the audience. If creating a round is not feasible, the cast should still utilize the audience's space.

Lighting and set design are not necessary but can certainly be used. The play can be done inside or outside.

Canoe: ENSEMBLE pretending to be a canoe.

Fire-Pit: a hula-hoop with red fabric around it

River: a long piece of blue fabric

Staff: used to symbolize a paddle

Bow: can be a real bow or a plastic, toy bow

Red Fabric: additional red fabric used by ENSEMBLE as fire

Knife: used by BOY

Basket: used by GIRL

Bottle: which holds the liquid Angelica Root potion

Magical Stone: a stone

Karuk Words

Non-Karuk performers are welcome, and can use words from their own language in place of the Karuk words. If the meter can be maintained, that would be ideal but is not necessary.

A full list of Karuk word meanings can be furnished to production upon request.

The Karuk words in the play are pronounced phonetically. The meaning of the most prominent words are:

Keechikyav (Sweetheart)

iimnivah (love)

iinvah (fire)

Pinheefich (Coyote)

"i" = an "e" sound as in "keep"

"ee" = an "a" sound as in "cape"

"a" = an "aw" sound as in "saw"

"v" = a "w" sound as in "water"

"r" = a "d" sound as in "dark"

All other letters are pronounced as in English.

Songs and Dances

As with the language, non-Karuk performers are welcome to use songs and dances from their own cultures; create their own songs, chants, and dances as an ensemble; use popular songs that they like; or cut out the dances and songs altogether.

ACT I: LIGHTS UP. CAST DANCE AND SING, PERFORMING THIVTAAP.

ENSEMBLE place the Fire-Pit CENTER. The song ends on a STOMP with NARRATOR/COYOTE standing in the Fire-Pit. QUEEN, KING, BOY, and GIRL sit around the Fire-Pit as everyone else Exits.

NARRATOR

Ayukîi, Karuk-Yúruk-Sáruk-Máruk!

Uknîi.

Two Sweethearts: both alike in dignity;
 In fair Samnâanak, where we lay our scene:
 In ancient times the Karuk came to be,
 Taught by King Moon and his Rattlesnake Queen.
 From forth the fatal loins of Woman, fair
 This Indian girl springs a point of strife
 Between the Snake and Moon, for each declare:
 They—like a daughter—love her more than life.
 The world after death the Karuk await:
 This Girl's odyssey may bring her good or ill,
 Raising dread questions of her next death's fate,
 Inciting her beloved Sweetheart's will.
 From me you'll hear a tale of loss and love;
 And two paths of Yumaréempaah above.

ENSEMBLE SWIRLS, REMOVING THE FIRE PIT.

GIRL

O, he doth make my imyah burn íimnih;

BOY

It seems she sets an íinva inside me;

GIRL

Like a rich jewel in Raven Spirit's ear!

BOY

Beauty too rich for use, for Earth too dear!

To each other

GIRL

The measure done, I'll take in marriage your hand,
 And promise here, my life with thee to stand.

BOY

Did my heart love till now? I swear to thee
 I shall ne'er forsake thy gleaming beauty.

Enter QUEEN, followed by her train of EEL WOMEN. She walks between BOY and GIRL, invisible to them. She claps. GIRL drops dead in BOY's arms.

BOY (CONT'D)

My sweet keechíkyav. O my love! My wife!
 What, dead?
 From this world flown away. Eyes, look your last!
 Arms, take your last embrace! And, lips, O you
 The doors of breath, seal with a sacred kiss
 A dateless bargain to engrossing death!
 Iimníhvah, I'll be brief. O happy dagger!
 This is thy sheath, here rust and let me die!

BOY takes a few steps from GIRL, drops to his knees, and raises his knife to stab himself. QUEEN claps again and GIRL jumps up. BOY turns and sees her, dropping the knife in shock. As BOY speaks the following: GIRL stares blankly, entranced, as QUEEN and her EEL WOMEN surround her and wave their hands slowly, singing Flower Dance Song, conjuring her Spirit. GIRL sways along with them.

BOY (CONT'D)

But, soft! What light through yonder branches breaks?
 It is my lady, O, it is my love!
 She speaks, yet she says nothing: what of that?
 Her eye discourses; shall I answer it?

GIRL raises her hands and stares at the stars; conjuring intensifies.

BOY (CONT'D)

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:
 Two of the fairest stars on Yumarêempah
 Having some business, do entreat her eyes.

QUEEN

Come dead daughter, let's away
 Hence in Boneless Land we'll stay!

QUEEN leads GIRL O.S.

BOY

She runs! I'll follow her wher'er she turns!

As BOY begins to run after GIRL, the EEL WOMEN dance in circles around him, chanting. BOY spins, confused. Suddenly, the EEL WOMEN stop him and send him off running in the wrong direction. As BOY Exits, EEL WOMEN swirl around the stage, and Exit, following their QUEEN.

WE ARE NOW IN "BONELESS LAND". EEL WOMEN SING O.S.

Enter QUEEN and GIRL, followed by EEL WOMEN. GIRL is still entranced.

QUEEN joins EELS in singing and dancing around her, then signals them to stop. EEL WOMEN place the mask on GIRL's face. QUEEN claps and EEL WOMEN run O.S. GIRL begins looking around, confused. She looks at QUEEN.

GIRL

O the heavens! Dear mother, I am dead.
Is this the World for Good?

QUEEN

Yes: Boneless Land.
The very moment bids thee ope thine ear;
Obey and be attentive. Canst thou remember
A time before we came unto this place?
I do not think thou canst, for then thou wast
In curs'd Living Land.

GIRL

Certainly, Queen, I can.

QUEEN

By what? By any other house or person?
Of any thing the image tell me that
Hath kept with thy remembrance.

GIRL

'Tis far off
And rather like a dream than an assurance
That my remembrance warrants. Had I not
A tender Sweetheart once that tended me?

QUEEN

Thou hadst many dreams, my child. How is it
That this lives in thy mind? What seest thou else
In the dark backward and abysm of time?
If thou remember'st aught ere thou camest here,
How thou camest here thou mayst.

GIRL

But that I do not.

QUEEN

Nor should you, my daughter, nor should you.
Thy life before shall be naught but a dream.
A Princess thou art here in Boneless Land.
Come away, my Life, thy Kingdom awaits.

GIRL

Briefly, good Queen, I wish to set and sing.

QUEEN

Thou art a piece of virtue, bright as Spring.

Exit QUEEN.

GIRL

O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!
 Did ever spider spin so fair a web?
 Beautiful tyrant! Fiend Ikkareeyav!
 Dove-feathered raven! Wolvish-ravening fawn!
 Despised substance of divinest show!
 Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st,
 Merciless mother, honorable villain!
 O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell,
 When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend
 In moral paradise of such sweet flesh?
 She's bound my soul! O, that deceit should dwell
 In such a gorgeous forest! There's no trust,
 No faith, no honesty in Spirits: all lies.
 Ah, where's my Sweetheart? Give me my avansa!
 These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.
 Farewell, my Love, our story shant be told.

GIRL Exits.

ENSEMBLE SWIRLS. THEY SET THE RIVER, CENTER.

Enter NARRATOR.

NARRATOR

Now new desire doth from her death-bed spring,
 But these young Sweethearts know not what awaits;
 Their sweet love—thwarted by Rattlesnake's sting—
 Sprouts deadly thorns, the binder of their fates.
 Now Rattlesnake Queen hath achieved her plan:
 To steal this Karuk Girl from great Moon King;
 Her fair child to be in the Boneless Land,
 Barred by River that blocks all living.
 The Boy, alive, may not achieve access
 To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;
 The Girl, as much in love, her means much less
 To meet her young-beloved any where:
 But passion lends them power, time means, to meet,
 Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

ENSEMBLE SWIRLS AND NARRATOR EXITS.

*Enter BOY, alone. He is out of breathe from running.
 He stops by the River.*

BOY

I am out of breathe in this mad chase!
 The more my prayer, the lesser is my grace.
 Happy is my Sweetheart wheresoe'er she lies;
 For her sweet soul no doubt has flown the skies.
 Keechikyav, keeper of my innocence!
 Love takes its meaning in Love's conference.

BOY (CONT'D)

I mean, that my heart unto yours is knit
So that but one heart we have made of it;
Two bosoms interchained with an oath;
So then two bosoms and a single troth.
In my bed-room all others I'll deny;
For lying so, my Sweetheart, I do not lie.

Enter GIRL. She drinks from the River.

BOY (CONT'D)

It is my keechikyav!

GIRL

Ay me!

BOY

She speaks!

GIRL

O, ávansa, ávansa! Wherfore art thou, ávansa?

BOY

(Aside)

Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

(To her)

Call me but love, and I'll be newly born!

GIRL

What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night
So stumblest on my council?

BOY

It is I!

GIRL

How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?
The mountain walls are high and hard to climb,
And the place hell, considering who thou art,
If any Boneless Beings find thee here.

BOY

With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls;
For stony limits cannot hold love out.

GIRL

If they do see thee, they will torment thee.

BOY

I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight.

GIRL

By whose direction found'st thou out this place?

BOY

By love, who first did prompt me to inquire;
 He lent me counsel and I lent him eyes.
 I am no sea-hawk; yet, wert thou as far
 As that vast shore wash'd with the farthest sea,
 I would adventure for such ishpukah.

GIRL

Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face,
 Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek.

BOY

Sweetheart, by yonder blessed Moon I swear
 That tips with silver all these pine-tree tops—

GIRL

O, swear not by the Moon, the inconstant Moon,
 That monthly changes in his circled orb,
 Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

BOY

What shall I swear by?

GIRL

Do not swear at all;
 Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,
 Which is the god of my idolatry,
 And I'll believe thee.

BOY

If my heart's dear love—

GIRL

Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,
 I have no joy of this talking tonight.
 It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden.
 Good night, good night! As sweet repose and rest
 Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

BOY

O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

GIRL

What satisfaction cans't thou have tonight?

BOY

The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

GIRL

I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:
 And yet I would it were to give again.

BOY

Wouldst thou withdraw it? For what purpose, love?

GIRL

But to be frank, and give it thee again.
 And yet I wish but for the thing I have:
 My bounty is boundless as the sea,
 My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
 The more I have, for both are infinite.
 I hear some noise behind; dear love, adieu!
 Anon, good Queen! My keechikyav, be true.
 Stay but a little, I will come again.

She Exits

BOY

O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard,
 Being in night, all this is but a dream,
 Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

Re-Enter GIRL

GIRL

Three words, my Sweetheart, and good night indeed.
 If still thy bent of love be honorable,
 Thy purpose marriage, come hither tomorrow,
 And standing here, iinvah, I'll wait for thee.

QUEEN RATTLESNAKE (O.S. RIGHT)

Daughter!

GIRL

I come, my Queen—but if thou mean'st not well,
 I do beseech thee—

QUEEN RATTLESNAKE (O.S. RIGHT)

Daughter!

GIRL

By and by, I come:—
 To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief:
 Tomorrow will I stand.

BOY

So thrive my soul—

GIRL

A thousand times goodnight!

She Exits

BOY

A thousand times the worse to want thy light.

He begins to walk away. Re-Enter GIRL.

GIRL
My love!

BOY
My life?

GIRL
At what hour tomorrow
Shall I stand for thee?

BOY
At height of night-shade.

GIRL
I will not fail: 'tis twenty years till then.
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

BOY
Let me stand here till thou remember it.

GIRL
I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,
Remembering how I love thy company.

BOY
And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,
Forgetting any other home but this.

GIRL
'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:
And yet no further than a wanton's bird:
Who lets it hop a little from her hand,
Like a poor prisoner in his twisted bonds,
And with a silk thread plucks it back again,
So loving-jealous of his liberty.

BOY
I would I were thy bird.

GIRL
Sweet, so would I:
Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing.
Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

She Exits

BOY
Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast!
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!
Hence will I to a ghostly, hidden cave,
To pray the Spirits pull her from the grave.

He Exits. Enter COYOTE and EELS, opposite each other.

COYOTE

How now, Eels; wither wander you?

EEL 1

Over fall, over oyster.

EEL 2

Thorough sea, thorough streamlet.

EEL 3

Over áas, over anchor.

EEL 1

Thorough flood, thorough freshet.
We do swim through everywhere.

EEL 3

Swifter than King Moon's sphere.

EEL 2

We serve Rattlesnake Queen;
To make this dammed up River, clean.

EEL 3

Farewell thou lob of Spirits; do be gone:

EEL 1,2 & 3

Our Queen and her Spirits come here anon.

COYOTE

The King doth keep his revels here tonight:
Take heed the Queen come not within his sight;
For great King Moon is passing fell and wrath,
Because that she as her dear daughter hath
A lovely girl, stolen from an Indian Boy;
She never had so sweet or full a joy;
And jealous King Moon would have the dear child
Back in his train, to trace the forests wild;
But she perforce withholds the loved girl:
Drapes her with dentalia and precious pearl.
And now they never meet in grove or green,
By mountain clear, or spangled starlight sheen,
But they do square, that their servants for fear
Creep into acorn nuts and hide them there.

EEL 2

Either we mistake your shape and making, ii
Or you are shrewd and knavish Coyote
Call'd Cunning Pinheefich: are not you he?

EEL 3

That frights the maidens of the villagery;
Skim silk, and sometimes labor in the quern
And aathva make the breathless irhoova churn;

EEL 1

And sometime make the drink to bear no charm;
Mislead night-wanderers, laughing at the harm?

EEL 2

You danced and brought pain through fire's imchak.

EEL 3

You speak wisdom and Karuks have good luck.

EEL 1,2,3

Are not you he?

COYOTE

Thou speak'st aright;
I am that merry wanderer of the night.
I jest to the Moon King and make him smile
When I a fat and browse-fed deer beguile,
Calling in likeness of a dilly doe:
And sometime lurk I near a hunter's bow,
In very likeness of a flying squirrel,
And when he shoots, against his hand I whirl,
And flies the elk into the forest vale.
The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,
Sometime for pine-wood stool mistaketh me;
Then slip I from her bum, down topples she,
And "ha'ii" cries and falls into a cough;
And then the Spirits hold their hips and loff,
And waxen in their mirth and neeze and swear
A merrier Ir was never wasted there.
But, room, Eels! King Moon comes anon.

EEL 1, 2, & 3

And, here, our mistress.

EEL 2

Would that he were gone!

*Enter KING MOON, joining COYOTE; and QUEEN
RATTLESNAKE, joining EEL WOMEN.*

KING

Ill met by moonlight, thou proud Rattlesnake.

QUEEN

What, envious Moon King! Spirits, skip hence:
I have forsworn his bed and company.

KING

Tarry, rash wanton: am not I thy lord?

QUEEN

Then I must be thy lady: but I know
When thou hast stolen away from Spirit Realm,

QUEEN (CONT'D)

And in the shape of Karuk sat all day,
 Playing on pipes of corn and versing love
 To amorous Grizzly Bear. Why art thou here,
 Come from the farthest steppe of Kat'im'iin?
 But that, forsooth, the bouncing Frog Woman,
 Your croaking Mistress, on this River lives.
 To both you would be wedded, yet you dare
 Bid me unto thy bed for pleasure's store.

KING

Why should fair Rattlesnake cross her Moon King?
 I do but beg a little Karuk Girl,
 To be my daughter.

QUEEN

Set your heart at rest:
 The Living Land buys not the child of me.
 Her mother was a votaress of my order:
 And, in the spiced Indian air, by night,
 Full often hath she gossip'd by my side,
 And sat with me on Salmon River's sands,
 Marking the embarked traders on the flood.
 She'd swim-her womb then rich with my young child-
 To fetch me trifles, and return again,
 As from a voyage, rich with Dentalia.
 But she, being mortal, of that Girl did die;
 And for her sake do I rear up her Girl,
 And for her sake I will not part with her.

KING

How long in Boneless Land intend you stay?

QUEEN

Till after thy dread double wedding day.
 If you will patiently dance in our round
 And see our starlight revels, go with us;
 If not, shun me, and I will spare your haunts.

KING

Give me that Girl, and I will go with thee.

QUEEN

Not for thy Living Kingdom. Spirits, away!
 We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

Exit QUEEN and EEL WOMEN.

KING MOON AND COYOTE STAND ALONE.

KING

Well, go thy way: thou shalt not from this grove,
Till I torment thee for this injury.
My Coyote, come hither!

COYOTE

Here I am.

KING

My sweet Indian daughter is in love
With a disdainful youth: in prayer he cries,
That the next living being he espies
May be his Sweetheart: thou shalt find the man
And with thy cunning make him to embark
Across the cursed River to his Love,
To ferry back to Living Land my Dove.
This spellbound stone shall suffer him to pass,
Lest the Snakeskin Queen catch him in the grass.
Look you he bring her ere first sunlight show.

COYOTE

Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.
I'll put a girdle round the whole forest
Itaharaan.

Exit COYOTE

KING

Having got this plan,
I'll watch afar while Rattlenake's asleep;
This stone shall drop a darkness on her eyes.
The next thing then she waking looks upon,
Be it cougar, bear, or wolf, or bull,
On croaking cricket, or busy skunk,
She shall peruse it with a blinded view:
And ere this charm is taken from her sight,
As it can last full well into the morn,
I'll make this Boy bring my daughter to me.
When he is hence, he'll be invisible,
But she woken: her tongue will find him out.

Exit King Moon

ENSEMBLE SWIRL.

Enter GIRL. She stands at River Bank.

GIRL

Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,
That runaway's eyes may wink, and my Love
Leap to these banks, untalk'd of and unseen.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Come, night; come, Sweetheart; come, thou day in night;
 For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night
 Brighter than new snow on a Raven's back.
 Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night,
 Give me my Sweetheart; and, when he shall die,
 Take him and cut him out in little stars,
 And he will make the face of Heaven so fine
 That all the world will be in love with night
 [Aside]

And pay no worship to the garish Moon.
 O, I have bought the pvaaram of a love,
 But not possess'd it, and, though I am sold,
 Not yet enjoy'd: so tedious is this day
 As is the night before the Irahiv
 To an impatient child that hath new robes
 And may not wear them. O, here comes my Queen,
 And she doth bid me come perform a rite;
 I pray it may not tarry till the night.

Exit GIRL. ENSEMBLE chant and stomp. LIGHTS OUT.

ACT II

*ENTER BOY. He looks for GIRL on the opposite bank,
 then falls asleep. Enter COYOTE.*

COYOTE

Through the forest have I gone.
 But of the Karuk found I none,
 In whose hands I might approve
 This granite's grit in spurring love.
 Night and silence.—Who is here?
 Vaas of Karuk he doth wear:
 This is he, my master said,
 Beloved of the Karuk maid;
 And there the maiden, sleeping sound,
 On Rattlesnake's rev'rend ground.
 Pretty soul! She durst not lie
 Near that lack-love, that kill-courtesy.
 Snake, upon thy eyes I throw
 All the power this charm doth owe.

(To BOY)

When thou wakest, let love forbid
 Sleep his seat on thy eyelid:
 So awake! To her be gone!
 That I may dance with fire anon!

BOY awakes

BOY

How now, mad Spirit!
 What night-rule now about this haunted grove?

COYOTE

I am a Spirit of no common rate;
 I am Coyote who doth tend thy state;
 A Girl do love thee: therefore, go with me;
 I'll give you this stone to attend on thee,
 And you shall fetch your Love from Rattlesnake,
 Unto to the Living Land her soul, to take;
 This rock will purge thy mortal grossness so
 That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.

BOY

What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand?

COYOTE

I bring thee tidings of the great Moon King.

BOY

Thou tempt me to hasten unto my doom;
 Where banishment waits should I not 'scape death.
 In exile I'll no more on my Love look,
 There's no worse death: I'll not risk banishment.

COYOTE

Thy noble shape is but a form of wax,
 Digressing from the valor of a man;
 Thy dear love sworn but hollow piksháayva,
 Killing that love which thou hast vow'd to cherish;
 What, rouse thee, man! Thy Sweetheart is alive,
 For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead;
 Come, get thee to thy love, as was decreed,
 Ascend her chamber, thence and carry her!

BOY

How well my spirit is revived by this!

*ENSEMBLE become the Canoe, bringing a staff with them
 which BOY uses as a paddle.*

COYOTE

You'll ferry there and on this bank I'll stand:
 The Rattle Queen will know your canoe comes;
 A fierce and mighty storm lieth ahead,
 Ishpat thy paah shall in the River sink;
 But once ashore, thou wilt advance unseen;
 And I'll provide new passage here again.
 Either be back before the white Moon sets,
 Or by the break of day from here I'll hence.
 Look you your Sweetheart know not of her death:
 For now in Karuk Heaven rests her soul,
 But dread knowledge shall come with woeful curse;
 Though, with Angelica Root and a spell,
 I will make her thoughts both joyous and well.

BOY

But that a joy past joy calls out on me,
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee: Súva nik.

BOY gets into Canoe and ENSEMBLE whisk him O.S.

COYOTE

Hãã, what fools these mortals be!
And this youth thus tricked by me,
Pleading of a lover's fee,
Shall, like Rabbit in trap await,
The churlish doom of chosen fate.
And those things best please me
That befall preposterously.

Exit COYOTE

ENSEMBLE SWIRL, CLEARING THE RIVER. WE ARE IN BONELESS LAND.

Enter QUEEN and GIRL

GIRL

If by your art, my dearest mother, you have
Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them.
The sky, it seems, would pour down stinking pitch,
But that the flood, mounting to the welkin's cheek,
Dashes the fire out. O, I have suffered
For me thought my Sweetheart cried from the vessel,
Now dash'd to pieces. O, the cry did knock
Against my very heart. I fear, he's perish'd.
Had I been any god of power, I would
Have sunk the sav within the earth or ere
It should the good paah so have swallow'd and the blessed
soul within her.

QUEEN

Be collected: No more amazement:
Tell your piteous heart there's no harm done.

GIRL

O, woe the day!

QUEEN

No harm.
I have done nothing but in care of thee,
Of thee, my dear one, thee, my daughter, iii.
Lie there, my art. Wipe thou thine eyes; have comfort.
The direful spectacle of the wreck, which touch'd
The very virtue of compassion in thee,
Was a dream thou hads't while I, in mine art,
Danced as ikyávaan and removed thy bones.
Dost thou hear?

GIRL

Your words, Queen, would cure deafness!

QUEEN

Thou dost thy soul kâarim to love that Boy.
Behold, to any creature who is living,
Which he is, you shall be yithukánva.
You can't keep him.

GIRL

Certainly, Queen, I can.

QUEEN

By what? By meeting at the river bank?
Thy good soul down the good path, sought its way.
His may never come hither.

GIRL

'Tis not true!

QUEEN

Daughter, have done: some grief shows much of love;
But much of grief shows still some want of wit.

GIRL

Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

QUEEN

So shall you feel the loss, but not the áah
Which you weep for.

GIRL

Feeling so the loss,
I cannot choose but ever weep my Love.
Good mother, rend not my heart in pieces:
Think'st thou not we'll hold each other again?

QUEEN

Thy sweetest passion bids me ope my mouth.
Sit now, I'll tell a joyful tale, girl.

GIRL

And joy comes well in such a needy time:
What is't, I beseech your ladyship?

QUEEN

Uknii.
Evening Star loved his Sweetheart.
Xára xas they would not part.
Then they quarreled tá matêe.
Evening Star went far away.
The Woman thought, "Oh, my Love!
He has left for skies above!"
Then she sang a song táarak;

QUEEN (CONT'D)

So he'd back to Samnâanak:
 "Xasík ípak keechíkyav,
 Xasík nu'iin vura yav.
 Xas ôok ithivthanéenheesh
 nupinívruuhtunveesh."
 When he heard The Woman sing,
 Evening Star ceased his roving.
 "Oh, my heart is lost," he thought,
 "I'm all alone with púfaat."
 He returned to find his heart.
 She brought him back by her art.
 Then they rolled here together.
 Thus She said, "When humans come,
 A Woman may too become
 Abandoned by her lover:
 Haak her Man to Ends of Earth roam,
 She'll sing my Song and bring him home."
 Then Evening Star transformed axmay
 Into a great star in the sky.
 Kupánakanakana
 Thou art inclined to sleep; 'tis a good dulness,
 And give it way: I know thou canst not choose.
 (GIRL sleeps)
 That curs'd Boy hath wash'd ashore in disguise.
 I shall hunt him, though he evade mine eyes!

QUEEN exits singing the Woman's Song. Enter BOY.

BOY

This music crept by me upon the waters,
 Allaying both their fury and my passion
 With its sweet air: thence I have followed it,
 Or it hath drawn me rather. But 'tis gone.
 Hist! Sweetheart, hist!

She awakes, unseen by him.

BOY (CONT'D)

O, for a chiipákpaak's voice
 To lure this gentle robin back again!
 Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud.

GIRL

It is my soul that calls upon my name:
 How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
 Like softest music to attending ears!

He sees her and lays the stone down.

BOY

My love!

GIRL

My life!

They embrace. They hear something O.S. They grab the stone together. ENTER QUEEN. She looks around, but can't see them. She flicks her tongue to smell and suddenly turns to face them.

QUEEN

I smell you!

BOY

Ikvíripship! [start to run!]

QUEEN

Nupáreesh! [I will bite you!]

They run O.S. clasping the stone, chased by QUEEN who hisses

Enter SKUNK

SKUNK

Ayukii! Skunk nithvuuyitih.
 Uknii.
 Long ago I was a man.
 But from me all people ran.
 I'd let out a little pif,
 And they'd cry with just one sniff.
 Then one day they painted me,
 With these stripes that you now see.
 That way, they'd catch me coming,
 And could take off a'running.
 Through the forest I would wend,
 Hoping I would find a friend.
 It sure doesn't pay to stink!
 Well, that's what I used to think.
 One day, while roamin' along,
 I saw ground squirrels in a throng.
 They were digging up some roots;
 Tayiith, my favorite shoots.
 I came to them a'dancin'.
 They stopped to watch my prancin'.
 But I didn't show my back,
 All they saw was fur of black.
 Then I raised my tail high,
 And their eyes began to cry.
 They fell down stiffer than wood.
 I ate all the roots I could.
 Now I love the smell of me.

Enter BOY and GIRL running ahead of QUEEN.

GIRL

Cheemyach!!

They grab SKUNK, lift his tail, and spray QUEEN in the face. She falls down, unconscious. BOY and GIRL hand the Magic Stone to SKUNK.

BOY AND GIRL (CONT'D)

Yootva!

They run O.S.

SKUNK

I just pif and live for free!

SKUNK runs O.S. ENSEMBLE enter, running around the stage, they help QUEEN up and she exits.

ENSEMBLE RESET THE RIVER, AND BECOME THE CANOE

COYOTE is waiting at the River bank. Enter BOY and GIRL running toward the River.

GIRL

Cheemyaach! [Hurry!]

BOY

Tanu'ipak! [We're coming back!]

COYOTE

Xay kuturaayva. [You must come!]

They get in canoe and cross to the Living Land where COYOTE stands. BOY and GIRL get out and embrace. Exit ENSEMBLE.

BOY

Keechikyav, huut kich iim? [Sweetheart, how are you?]

GIRL

Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death;
I am content, so thou wilt have it so.

COYOTE snaps his fingers and she stands in a trance, eyes closed. He pulls out a bottle of liquid-Angelica Root.

COYOTE

I'll apply
To your eye,
Sweet and gentle, remedy.
(Drops liquid on her eyes)
And this spell renew thy bone,

COYOTE (CONT'D)

That hath been formerly un-grown,
But your death shall be unkown.
The man shall have his Love again, and all
Shall be well.

*COYOTE removes her mask, snaps, and Exits. GIRL awakes
and excitedly addresses audience.*

GIRL

O, he doth make my imyah burn iimnih!

BOY

(hesitant)

It seems she sets an iinva inside me.

GIRL

Like a rich jewel in Raven Spirit's ear;

BOY

Beauty too rich for use, for Earth too dear.

GIRL

So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

BOY

As my fair sweetheart o'er her fellows shows.

GIRL

The measure done, I'll take in marriage your hand,
And promise here, my life with thee to stand.

BOY

(Excited)

Did my heart love till now? I swear to thee
I shall ne'er forsake thy gleaming beauty.

They run O.S. as KING MOON and COYOTE Enter.

COYOTE

Thy daughter with that mortal is in love.

KING

This falls out better than I could devise.

QUEEN Enters

QUEEN

Thou detestable maw, thou Moon of death,
Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce my poisoned jaws to open,
And, in despite, I'll cram them with thou, fool!

KING

I do defy thy conjurations,
And apprehend thee for a keemish here.

QUEEN

Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, King!

KING screams in fear and runs O.S., chased by QUEEN.

COYOTE

(Excited)

O Spirits, they fight! I will go and watch!

COYOTE Exits

ENSEMBLE SWIRLS, CLEARING THE RIVER. THEY SING BRUSH DANCE.
THEN SET FIRE PIT.

*Enter NARRATOR with BOY, GIRL, and SON who sit around
the Fire Pit.*

NARRATOR

So the Sweetheart's love doth shine:
To these Lovers life is born
Iimnih, their son, they adorn;
Either is the other's mine.
Hearts remote, yet not asunder;
Distance, and no space was seen
'Twixt this Sweetheart and his queen:
But in them it were a wonder.
Whereupon we make a threne
To this Sweetheart and his Love,
Co-Supremes like stars above,
As chorus to their tragic scene.

ENSEMBLE SWIRLS. THEY REMOVE FIRE PIT.

*All Exit except SON, who is fitting his bow. Enter
COYOTE.*

COYOTE

Up and down, up and down,
I will lead him up and down:
I am fear'd in field and town:
Coyote, lead him up and down.
(He spots him)

He comes anon.

*COYOTE waves his hands in front of his face, making
himself invisible to SON who he circles. SON hears
something and looks around, not seeing COYOTE.*

SON

Where art thou, proud Ikxareeyav?
Speak thou now.

COYOTE runs.

COYOTE

Here, avansaxiich, waiting. Where are thou?

SON runs towards COYOTE's voice.

SON

I will be with thee straight.

COYOTE grabs SON's bow and fires an invisible arrow at his backside. SON reacts as if something just hit him in the butt.

COYOTE

Follow me, then, to plainer ground.

COYOTE runs O.S.

SON

O Spirit! Speak again:
Thou runaway, great Spirit, art thou fled?
Speak! In some bush? Where dost thou hide thy head?

COYOTE Enters.

COYOTE

Follow my voice: we'll try thy manhood here.

COYOTE runs O.S. SON follows. SON Re-Enters.

SON

He goes before me and still dares me on:
When I come where he calls, then he is gone.
The Spirit is much lighter-heel'd than I:
I follow'd fast, but faster he did fly;
That fallen am I in dark uneven way,
And here will rest me.

(Lies down.)

Come,
Thou gentle day!

(Sleeps)

Re-Enter COYOTE. He startles SON awake.

COYOTE

Ho, ho, ho! My boy, why comest thou not?

SON

Thou runns't before me, shifting every place,
 And deign not stand, nor look me in the face.
 Where art thou now?

COYOTE

Come hither: I am here!

SON

Nay, then, thou mock'st me. Thou skip like a deer.
 Please go thy way. Faintness constraineth me
 To measure out my length on this cold bed.
 By day's approach hope I be visited.

(Lies back again)

*COYOTE waves his hand across his face, he is now
 visible. He grabs SON's hands.*

COYOTE

Come hither, boy. I see that thou art poor:

(Holds up a bottle)

Hold, here is Angelica: let me give
 A dram of potion; such soon-spreading gear
 As will disperse itself through all the veins
 That the life-weary taker may full live.

SON

My poor state and my will consents.

SON drinks potion; revived.

COYOTE

Take up this liquid any day you will,
 And drink it off; and you shall have the strength
 Of twenty men, which you could dispatch straight.

SON

Thou art as wise as thou art magical.
 I pray thee, gentle Spirit, speak again:
 Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy note.

COYOTE

Uknii.
 Once a Girl did love a Boy,
 But fell prey to her Queen's ploy:
 To hie her to Boneless Land,
 As her daughter there to stand.
 Loved Boy with Moon King's stone,
 Brought back blessed Girl alone;
 And this Girl, returned to life,
 Did become her Sweetheart's wife:
 Your mother, this woman be,
 But remembers not her death,

COYOTE (CONT'D)

So, I give this story breath:
For I am Wise Coyote.

SON

O spite! O hell! I see you are all bent
To set against me for your merriment:
If you were kinder and knew courtesy,
You would not do me thus much injury.
Can you not hate me, as I see you do,
But you must tell false tales to mock me too?
If you were man, as man you are in show,
You would not use an avansaxiich so;
As a toy of mischief! Coyote lies
To conjure tears up in a poor boy's eyes
With his derision! None of noble sort
Would so offend an araar, and extort
A poor soul's patience, all to make his sport.

COYOTE

What's the matter?

SON

No matter: get thee gone!

SON Exits, running.

COYOTE

Now the mountain lion roars,
Coyote behowls the Moon;
Whilst heavy fisherman snores,
Evening Star is waking soon.
Now the wasted brands do glow,
While the screech-owl, screeching loud,
Puts the wretch that lies in woe
In remembrance of a shroud.
All my mischief is túran,
I shall dance with Fire anon!

Exit COYOTE.

ENSEMBLE SWIRL AND SET FIRE-PIT

GIRL is mending a basket. SON Enters, running.

GIRL

My son, come forth; come forth, thou fearful boy.

SON

Help me, nani'taat, help me! Do thy best
To douse this burning iinvah in my breast!
Ay me, for pity! What a dream was here!
Nani'taat, look how I do quake with fear:

SON (CONT'D)

Methought Coyote ate my heart like prey;
He said that you had died and gone away.

She suddenly stands in a trance. He tries to get through to her.

SON (CONT'D)

Nani'taat! What, withdrawn? Nani'taat! Talk!
What, out of hearing? Gone? No sound, no word?
Alack, where are you? Speak, an if you hear;
Speak of all loves! I swoon almost with fear!

GIRL

(Blankly)

Alright, I'll be leaving now. Suva nik.

She grabs her basket, throws it into the fire and stares; as she does this, BOY Enters, running.

BOY

Xay faat!!!! [Stop what you're doing!]

He grabs SON.

BOY (CONT'D)

Atafaat ti'eethi pamitaat? [Did you tell your mom she died?]

SON

Haa. [Yes]

BOY

Kaarim tapas! [That is the worst you could have done!]

He throws SON aside. As he steps toward GIRL, she jumps into the fire.

BOY (CONT'D)

Puuharah!!! [NO!]

ENSEMBLE Enter followed by COYOTE. ENSEMBLE carry a long red piece of material and form a circle around GIRL. They move around like flames as COYOTE dances around them laughing. She is burning but is not in pain. She raises her basket and speaks a final piece of wisdom.

GIRL

Yaas'ara. Xaat faatva kumayikiha. Kishvuuf upaatvutiheesh,
Vaa anavheesh, paxunutich upmahoontoonatihaak! [Humans, use
Angelica Root. It is our most powerful Medicine!]

Enter KING and QUEEN who cry out in horror. They are unseen by BOY and SON. COYOTE and ENSEMBLE whisk GIRL O.S.

KING

O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter burns!

QUEEN

O me! This sight of death is past a woe.

KING

O my Queen Rattlesnake, give me thy hand:
This is our daughter's jointure, for no more
Can I demand.

QUEEN

Nor can I give thee more:
For I can see not where her soul shall go;
To Indian Heaven she went before,
There her fair figure may once again dwell:
Pray foul Spirits not lead her soul to hell.

KING

And so we helpless watch our daughter fly;
Poor sacrifice of our rash enmity!

KING and QUEEN Exit. BOY stands and moves to Fire-Pit and stares. ENSEMBLE Re-Enter. They CHANT softly, moving slowly to encircle BOY.

BOY

Beauty, truth, and rarity,
Grace in all simplicity,
Here enclosed in cinders lie.
Death is now my Sweetheart's nest;
And her lover's loyal breast
Shall forever with her rest,
Leaving no posterity:

SON tries to grab him but is pushed away.

BOY (CONT'D)

Is this not infirmity,
To end life so wantonly?
My path may not lead to good,
Though her path, undoubted, should;
O, to see beyond this wood!
To the Heavens I will dare
Though I'm neither true nor fair;
My keechikyav, meet me there!

Singing grows louder. He is about to jump. He SCREAMS and all FREEZE on a STOMP. After a few moments, all sit around the Fire-Pit as NARRATOR Enters.

NARRATOR

Kupanakanakana [That is all]
Cheemyach ik Ishyaaht [Prayer for the Spring Salmon]
Imshirihraavish!
Nayaavheesh ik!
Cheemyach ik Ataychukinach
I'uunupraveesh!
Nayaavheesh ik!
Nanivasi vura veekinayaach!

ALL CAST ENTER. THEY SING AND PERFORM WHITE DEERSKIN DANCE.

BLACKOUT