



# Kwosen ElhtáIngexw

Illustrations by Rose Pond | Story shared by Linda Elliott | Told by Violet Williams





**Níh kws tu7 yáyes q'épeng e tse xwíngexw e tse kwémlexw-s tse seqán, níh s7ílhen tsá7e. Hó7 le7 yá7 q'péteng tsá7e kwémlexw-s tse seqán i7 sch'án le7 u7 yá7, q'éleng e tse kw'ín skwáchel kw-s-q'épt-s tse kwémlexw sílhen-s.** The people still used to go gathering fern roots, it's our food. If they went gathering fern roots, then they would camp for many days while gathering roots for food.



**Nets'áxw kwechá kws sq'elíng7-s tse eqw'átel q'álengi i7 tse scháche-s tl'áw7 q'ángi7. Nóts'e q'ángi7 tse qw'éqw'xwem i7 ho7i tse chá7se7 yós ól7 shxwáne7-s tse swow7les. I7 néts'e7 snát i7 ítet tsu7 neníłhiye su7 kw'enít-s tse shxwáw7ekw' snát e tse kwósen-s.** Once the girls and their friend were camping together. One of the girls was shy, and the two sisters were always talking about young men. One night they were going to sleep, it was a clear calm night, and they could see the stars.



**Su7 qwál-s tse lótl' q'ángi7, "Nílh yéq' ól7 telá7e kwósen ne-stóles tse éyoles q'éleng-s. Su7 qwál-s tse há7ech, "Nílh yéq' ól7 ne-stóles tse nekwím tse q'éleng-s."** The oldest girl said, "I wish that star over there with the bright eyes would be my husband." The younger girl said, "I wish that one with the red eyes would be my husband."



**I7 hó7i7 tse qw'éqw'xwem q'ángi7 áxeng7, "éy7 kwen-s ítet hále" i7 éwe kws lelánen-s tse qwóqwel q'álen-gi7. I7 xwiqáchtel tse q'álengi7 i7 u7 néqw ól7.** Finally the quiet girl said, "You better go to sleep" and the talkative girls didn't listen. The girls were still teasing each other when they fell asleep.

Níh su7 kwáchel-s i7 xwí tse qw'éqw'xwem q'ángi7 i7 éwene e tse shxwóqw'e-s i7 se q'ángi7 schá7che-s  
tl'éxw kwo. The next morning the quiet girl woke up and her sister and her friend were gone, they disappeared.





**Su7 xwí-s tse q'álengi7 i7 txwe nách' tse shxw lá7e-s. íyes téngexw i7 u7 nách' tl'á. I7 kwlh kwíl tse chá7se7 swáw7les. Su7 chtát-s tse q'álengi7 "Nékwé óche sán?" I7 u7 tu7 xwen7áng kwe qelqelósen e-s tsu7 nenílheye q'álengi7 i7 skw'á kws néqw-s tl'á. Su7 xwtálqen-s tse suwíqé "Ihníngelh kwe en-stóles." Su7 xénen-s tse q'álengi7 "éwe éwe Ihte-s."**  
The girls woke up in a different place. It was a beautiful happy place. Two men appeared, and the girls asked, "who are you?" and it was like they were dreaming, and they couldn't go back to sleep. The men answered, "We are your husbands." So the girls said, "No not us."

**Smelí7i selesíheng tse suwíqe su7 qwál7-s tse éyoles tse qélen-s lhníngelh kwe en-stóles. Nekwimóles tse nóts'e i7 éyoles tse nóts'e.** The husbands were standing there, and the one with the bright eyes said to the girls, "We are your husbands one with the bright eyes and one with the red eyes."

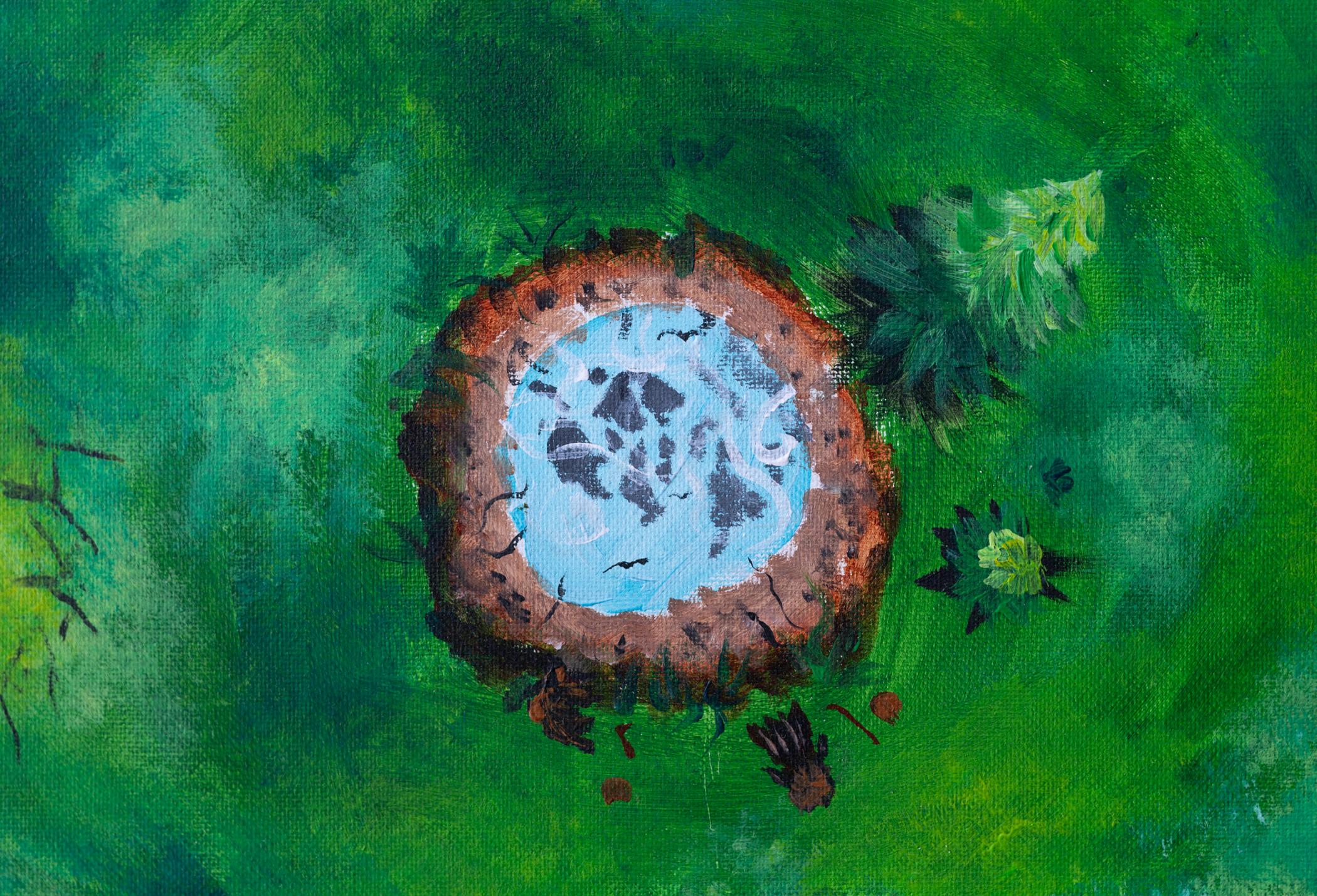




**Éwene schláset-s tse q'álengi7 u7 níh le7 u7 stl'í7-s tse álhti sláset-s.**  
There was nothing these girls could do about what they wanted.



**Su7 txw lá7e ól7 tsu neníhiye q'álengi7 mékw' skwáchel u7 elexótes tse qwlhó7el. I7 áxeng tse kwósen swáw7les, "Éwe-s su7 q'épt tse slhéng7new7el7 qwlhó7el" su7 xwenekwán-s tse q'álengi7. "Xwen7íng yéxw óche?" Su7 hó7i7 ená7 séy7eqwnes tse slhéng7new7el7 qwlhó7el i7 u7 séy7qwál-s ól7.** So the girls were just there everyday gathering camas. Her star husband said, "Don't gather the bulbs that fall apart." So the girls were wondering "I wonder why?" When they finished they kept on digging the broken camas bulbs.



**Tu7 i7 séy7qwáls i7 kwlh téS tse s7sélhqw téngexw su7 kw'énet-s i7 u7 skwíwel tse shxw chelá7es álang lá7e túle.** They kept on digging and they reached a hole in the ground and they could see home way far in the distance.



**Su7 qwál7s tse nóts'e q'ángi7 "Ewá7-e-s nílh tse á7leng-lhte?" "Xenekwán-sen nílh." Su7 xéneng-s nílh. Su7 kwá7et-s tse q'álengi7 tse qwlhó7el su7 q'pet-s tse sléwi7 xwílem. I7 ócheng tse chéq xwílem scháy7. Su7 txwe só7ey tse sléwi7 xwílem su7 séy7eqwt txwe cheqsót tse slhéqweng téngexw. Su7 yá7-s chtéq'set tsu neníhiye yá7. Yá7 t'ókw' tse swéy7elh á7leng-s.** So one young lady asked, "isn't that our home?" "I think so" she answered. The young girls put down the camas, and they tied a cedar rope. It was a big slow job. When they finished, they dug the hole bigger and they squeezed themselves through the hole in the earth. They woke up from their dream and went home.



**Chse lá7e kwechá e tsá7e i7 éwe-s xwen7áng7 shxwxwéne-s tl'á7 tsá7e. Nets'áxw i7 hákw' tse q'álengi7 i7 u7 nílh tse áleng-s u7 stl'í7-s. I7 éwes xwíning qelát yéq ól7 tse kwósen stóles tse q'álengi7.** They never ever made that wish again and they remembered they just wanted their home. They never ever wished for star husbands again.