

Bears

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1977

FT Àpc=öte nekè muwínìyik ìhík, yèt olöqìw ìhík... Siqõnì nekèt.

[Then another time there were these bears, out there toward... It was spring at that time.]

SG Ahà.

[Yes.]

FT Ú, tàn=al nekèt tucéyu *March. Well*, spaqáhte=te mèt. Nit=al spaqáhte.

[Oh, it was some time in March. Well, the snow was still deep. The snow was about this deep.]

SG Yá, yá.

[Oh, yes.]

FT Ntotõli=huppulsihkèpon, nilùn yá, Williámsis. Mecimí=te ntoliwíyoq “Nít.” Sesõlahki=te mete=kakálüwet wàht pihcetù. Ítom, “Ckuwì!” Ítom, “Ckuwì, yèy, muwinalökíttis wóttá!” Ntiyáhpon, “Muwìn?” Nwesüwe=kakalúman. On nít yèy, nmacáhan sakù. Nít nkisèls=öte. *Snowshoes*=ökahk nposkuwánnuk.

[We were cutting hoop=pole wood, William (Sockabasin) and I. He always called me “Buddy.” All of a sudden I heard him hollering from a distance. He said, “Come here!” He said, “Come here—there’s a damn bear here!” I said, “A bear?” I hollered back to him. And then, you know, I set out accordingly. I made my way out there. We were wearing snowshoes, you see.]

SG Yá.

[Oh.]

FT Nemáht peciyà, on=õtahk...

[When I got there, there was...]

SG Àkōmok.

[Snowshoes.]

FT A—ákōmok, ahà. On nìt yèy, nìt peciyà, nìt=tahk, nìt=al tutálōkot wáloq. Nìt=al=öte.

Tètt=tahk olōqálōkot olōqìw. Sehpal tètt olōqìw elōqalōqàhk. Cèl yùt olōqìw *stick*.

Cèss=öte=hp tètt elōqalōkàhk naka yùt 'toláqopin opòs. Ntiyáhton yèy, ntiyáhton *William*,

“Mehtalōkittiyenīya wakàt.” On nìt elóssit. Nìt=te wóli=te nute=lóssit. On nsaméhlan

wihtōnok, yùt=te qonasqìw. Kinalōkittiyéna, sakhamihkápìt. *Oh boy!* Níta, on ntolitahásin,

“Wòt=ökahk skàt mehtōliqenèw!” Níta. On=öte níta. Ítom, “Ú, nsiktoliqehtáha=hc yèy

ntomhìkon ewehkì.” Nìt=te eli=tókōmat yùt wōniyákōnok. On yèy... On wòt *stick*

pemáqōpìt, on pokosson *axe handle* tòmk=öte. *See*.

[Huh? Snowshoes, yes. So then, when I got there, there was a hole, about this big a hole.

About like this. The hole went in this way. It was as if the hole went in this way. And over

here was a stick. It was just like the hole went in this way, and this tree was sitting here. I

told William, you know, “This damn thing is dead.” And there she lay. Right there she lay

sticking right out. So I touched her on the nose, right here on the tip. Holy smokes, she

reared up and looked around. Oh boy! Well, then I thought, “This damned thing isn’t dead

after all!” Well! Well, then! He said, “I’ll kill the damn thing with my axe.” Then he hit her

on the head. And then... This tree lying there, the axe handle landed on that first. *See.*]

SG Ksiktoliqehtáha?

[Did you kill it?]

FT Ahà—*no*, táma, yèy... Utömeyákun=õtahk *blow*, tahálu. Yá. Téhpu *stunned*ömúwyal cípötu=al *second*. *Stunned*ömúwyal téhpu, kámötuk=öte sakhamihkésit.

Kinalökittisalökittiyéna. Mèc=al *six feet* qonenskósu.

[Yes—no, no, uh... The blow just bothered her, like. Yeah. He just stunned her for maybe a second. He just stunned her, then she suddenly reared up. Holy smokes. She was some six feet tall.]

SG Téhpu unatöminehtáhal?

[He just made him crazy?]

FT Ahà. On nmacīyalökittiyephúwan tèt olöqiw. Yüt olömússok olöqiw íywok nísüwok.

Péskuhs téhpu wàht 'talökittiyessuwà yüt olöqiw. Nòt=ölu *Airedale* kötáma. *Oh, golly*.

Nìt=ehta weci=macetqíhit. Qìn nospi=wölam nìt=al 'qonötóqqin tókki yèt áwtik. Cèss=öte

téhpu nìt elamìt. Níta. On 'tolömi=koti=tqátüwan ópösik. Ú, nìt=ehta nìt yá, opòs nìt=al

'tutáqsìn. Nìt wàht petátüwe. Ú, on nìt=al 'taspópin, on 'pomalökittiyetqíhin nòt *Airedale*.

Yüt=te 'tatalökittiyéphal nomöcinìw. On uckuwi=pöneqalökittiyhan, nòt muwìn, On=yaka nilùn nomiyukunèn.

[Yes. And then I ran like hell over in this direction. There were two dogs over this way.

One of them just took off like hell from out there and headed this way. But not that

Airedale. *Oh, golly*. He just jumped up and headed out (in pursuit). I swear he jumped as

far as it is to that road. It was just like he was sailing through the air. Well. Then she (the

bear) tried to get away up a tree. *Oh*, that tree was about this big around. She climbed well

up there. *Oh*, then she was up about this high, and the *Airedale* took a hell of a leap. He

grabbed her right on the damn side. And she came tumbling the hell down, that bear. And then she saw us.]

SG Yá.

[Oh.]

FT Yá. Weckuhqekapūwéssit. Yúhtol=ehta 'sískul tahálu=te=hp *two flashlights* wèn eyìts, apèq spotèw=òte. Nìt=al 'tutalòkotunéwin. Eltàqsit kakálūwet ánsa éhpit. *Ah, boys!* Ntah... Ntahsun... Ntahsósūwon ahtōli=ewepéssik. Nekèt=te nìl nuckuwalòkittiyháhpon. Níta. On petkawōtinèn yúta, on naciptunèn peskuwátīyil nísōnul, *shotguns*. Níta. On nìt=ōlu wàht petkawōtīyek ápca, nkisi=peskhikanèn nìt yèy... Ma=te=na nsehkèhpon wecūwaw. Nkisi=tqatūwèpon ópōsik.

[Yeah. She turned and stood facing us. These eyes of hers shone as if someone had two flashlights, even though it was daylight. She opened her mouth wide like this. She cried out, hollering like a woman. Ah, boys! My hat kept going up and down (from running). Then I made it the hell back here. Well. We arrived here, and we went to get two guns, shotguns. Well. But then when we got back out there again, and we took our shots there, you know... We didn't stand close. We climbed up a tree.]

SG Ú, kpoltelūwáwa?

[Oh, did you miss her?]

FT Ahà. Toqí=te yèy, *two barrels*, yèy, toqí=te. Nkisi=peskhikanèn, on sōlahkiw wèn mete... metetútok lamìw. Ítom yá, *William*, "Nìt nihkankulin=ehta." On npisahseníkan, *match* ewehkì. Túci=tahk=òte pisiptinewì, kinalòkíttis ntutalòkittiyéphoq péskuhs muwinesísok. Nìt=al 'qoneyínīya. Yùt ntoli=kisi=montehsíma yúta.

[Yes. With both, you know, two barrels, with both. We took our shots, and then suddenly we heard something moving around inside (the hole). “You go on ahead of me,” said William. And then I shined a light in, with a match. Just as soon as I put my hand in, what the hell, one of these damn bear cubs grabbed me. They were about this long. I just knocked it off right here.]

SG Yá.

[Oh.]

FT Psí=te nokkaliqehtelŭwánnuk=kenoq. Yá, *three* kéhsŭwok. Tahálu=hp nít=te lahqáqĩhik, sehpal nít olōqiw.

[But we shot all of the damn things. Yeah, there were three of them. They were laid out like that, just like over that way.]

SG Yá.

[Oh.]

FT On kci=muwìn ihitsopòn, on=op npahkikalōkittiyáلكun.

[And if the big bear had been there, she would have grabbed me.]

SG Ú, kisi=macehpawōláwa?

[Oh, you guys had scared her away?]

FT Ahà, kìs maceliqephúwe.

[Yes, she had already run the hell away.]

SG Ú, níta.

[Oh, well then.]

FT *Well, anyway.* On npeciphanèn nikk muwinesísok. Yèy, nìt àpc *next day* ntolkawötinèn. Nìt muwin wàht=te npetalökittyephoqalkunnüss yèt ìhík 'cimaciw nìt ìhík, *Gordon Island* on ìhík wahsiw.

[Well, anyway. Then we brought those cubs here. The next day we walked back there again. The bear had followed us the whole damn way from out there to Gordon Island and beyond.]

SG Ahà.

[Yes.]

FT Nìt nìt nahtokayiw. Wàht=te npetaphukùn milawìw=öte ìhík pqómik. *That night.*

[That was on the shore. She followed our tracks out to the middle of the ice. That night.]

SG Yá?

[Yeah?]

FT Yá.

[Yeah.]

SG Tàn nìkt ktolehlánīya muwinesísok?

[What did you do with those cubs?]

FT Ú, nkisi=psehlánnuk naka nsipelektahanèn ìhík...

[Oh, we skinned them and stretched out the skins there...]

SG Ú...

[Oh...]

FT *Yeah, yeah.* Psí=te nokkaliqehtelūwánnuk.

[Yeah, yeah. We shot all of the damn things.]