

Kauitaticumat
(The Boy Who Married A Caribou)

By
Natuashish Drama Club
Mushua Innu Natuashish School
Natuashish

Cast:

Elder..... Louisa Andrew
Granddaughter..... Fredricka Benuen
Dad Claudette Katsinak
Boy Yvonne Katsinak
Girl Caribou Denise Piwas
The 'Transformed' GirlCharlene Andrew

Teacher Director: Brianna Horner

This is an old Innu legend told for many years and passed down from generation to generation. This particular legend is found in the book I Dream the Animals Kaniuekutat: The Life of an Innu Hunter written by Georg Henriksen. This particular play touches on the theme of 'transformation' when a young girls asks her grandmother or uhu to tell her a story while out the country one day. She tells her granddaughter this legend.

Kauititikumat

(The Boy Who Married A Caribou)

On one corner of the stage a young girl and her Grandmother are out in their tent in the country. The little girl is playing with a toy and the grandmother is sewing a pair of moccasins.

Granddaughter: Uhu, please tell me a story.

Elder: Okay my sweet little child, come here and I will tell you a story about a beautiful transformation.

The child moves closer to her grandmother to hear the story.

Elder: This story is called *KAUITATIKMAT*. It means the boy who married a caribou.

The elder begins the story while on the rest of the stage the story comes to life for the audience to see.

Elder: A long time ago when our people lived fully off the land, a father took his son out caribou hunting but it was very difficult for the two to find any caribou.

On the stage a father and son get ready in their tents to go caribou hunting. The both put on their snow shoes and grab their bows and arrows.

Elder: They did not have guns back then so the son was taught to hunt with a bow and arrow.

The father is showing his son to how to shoot the bow and arrow by demonstrating and helping his son aim.

Elder: The son left the father in the tent and decided to go out hunting on his own in hopes he would find some caribou. He found some caribou tracks and followed them right to a herd of caribou.

On the other side of the stage the son waves goodbye to his father and heads out to go hunting. He walks across the stage looking for any signs of caribou. He bends down to look at some tracks and follows them to the girl and boy caribou.

Elder: The boy raised his bow and arrow and prepares to shoot one of the caribou.

On the stage the boy raises his bow and arrow and aims it at the caribou.

Elder: A young female caribou approaches him just as he was about to shoot.

On the other half of the stage the girl caribou walks up to the boy and speaks to him.

Elder: The caribou spoke to the boy. She said..

Girl Caribou: NO! DON'T SHOOT! I want to talk to you first. Will you marry me?

Elder: The boy was shocked and replied with...

The boy stops and puts his bow and arrow down and gives her a funny look.

Boy: How can I marry you? If I marry you I will freeze to death. You don't make fire, you live outside, and you eat snow and moss. I can't eat moss, that is disgusting.

Elder: The caribou girl let the boy speak and when he finished she replied...

Caribou girl: You won't get cold, you won't go thirsty and you won't have to eat snow. You will feel just the way you feel when you are inside a tent. It's warm and the fire is there. If you marry me you will live the same way as you live today.

Elder: The boy shook his head and said...

On the other side of the stage the boy shakes his head at the caribou.

Boy: How could I marry you, you don't use snowshoes. I won't be able to walk in the deep snow as you do. I won't be able to run as fast as you do. You are much faster than me. If I marry you and if you feel danger close by such as hunters you can take off and run fast and I will be left behind. What would happen to me if I can't run like you?

Elder: Once again the caribou let the boy finish speaking before saying...

Girl Caribou: If you marry me, you will see me as a human girl, although you see me as a caribou now. If you marry me I will dress like a human girl and I will wear snowshoes like you too. You will always see me as a girl. Turn around and don't look at me.

Elder: The boy turned around and when he turned back around standing in front of him was a beautiful girl.

The boy turns around with his back to the caribou the stage goes black. The lights turn back on and the boy turns around with a shocked look on his face.

Elder: The caribou was gone and the girl had replaced her. She was a human wearing a dress, snowshoes, and moccasins. She looked very pretty to him and he fell in love with her. She said to him...

Girl: This is what I am always going to be. You will have the same food as always and we will live in your tent and wear snowshoes.

Elder: The boy agreed with her and said..

Boy: OK, I will marry you.

Elder: The boy couldn't help it. He had become so in love with her now that she was human.

The girl was so happy and said to him..

Girl: Take off your bow and arrow leave them here and follow me.

The boy takes of his bow and arrow leaves them in the snow and takes the girls hand. The girl leads him back towards the herd.

The lights turn off on the main stage and the lights are put on the grandmother and granddaughter.

Elder: The girl lead the boy back towards the caribou herd and when they reached them he saw all of the caribou as human men and women. They all had tents and fires to keep them warm.

Elder: Now you know the Innu legend of the Boy Who Married a Caribou. You can pass that legend onto your children and grandchildren some day. It is time for bed my little one. Sleep tight and sweet dreams.

Granddaughter: Thank you uhu, that was a great story.

The elder tucks the little girl into bed and gives her a little kiss on the head goodnight.

CURTAIN