

Ours to Have, Ours to Hold

Downstage center is a simple living room set with a rocking chair and a coffee table full of books. Downstage left we see Raven's bed. Annansiak and Raven enter stage left and take their places in the living room.

Annânsiak- It was a long time ago when we lived in igloos and sod houses; a time where we lived off of berries and smoked fish. There was no such thing as seals, there was no such thing as whales. Until one catastrophic day...

Images of the legend created by the cast/crew are projected on a screen as the voice recording of the legend plays.

It was a beautiful afternoon. Blue sky, calm waters. It was a day where everyone wanted to get the fish and berries they needed for the coming winter. Sedna and her 2 brothers, Amaqjuak and Kallik, were up early and ready to go out on the land. Their parents were very old and not mobile. So they couldn't leave with their children. The siblings set out on their quest to feed their parents and the elders of the village. Little does Sedna know, there weren't enough berries to feed their whole family. Once Amaqjuak and Kallik got out of sight of the village, they pushed Sedna over board. She grasped the side of the boat, knowing this was the end. She held for dear life. Amaqjuak hauled out a very sharp knife his grandfather had made for him, and chopped Sedna's fingers off all at once. Not knowing how to swim, Sedna sank to the bottom of the ocean. Suffering to breath, she looked up to see if Kallik was trying to save her. Instead she seen her fingers. They were magically turning into seals and whales. She lost sight of it all, passing out from all the water filling in her lungs. She laid on the ocean floor, nearly dead. Until the Lord up above seen how she would have died. He reincarnated her as a Goddess. She was the Goddess of all sea animals and the most powerful land animals. If someone made her mad, she would make the hunter and his family starve until he or she apologized. That is the story of how the seals and whales came to be. It is said that she is still at the bottom of the ocean floor, living in her whale bone house. If someone makes her mad she would make the hunter not see any animals to kill until he or she apologized.

Annânsiak- That's the legend of our ancestors.

Raven- I heard this story so many times before. Why don't you bug my brother? Why are you telling me again, Annânsiak?

Annânsiak- Your brother isn't here for me to bug, he is gone hunting with your dad. They should be back next week, plus you're almost 16 now, my child. It's important you know your history. Generations ago, when you're Great Great Great Great Aunt Sedna turned 16, she suffered a terrible fate.

Raven- Times have changed, Annânsiak. We know legends aren't real. Aunt Sedna didn't die in the ocean, her fingers didn't turn into seals. She lived during a difficult time and they wrote the myth up about that.

Annânsiak- Believe if you will, but all legends have truth behind them and I fear it will get passed on to you. You were born with the scars of your ancestor and that's something we need to worry about, Ingutak.

Raven- The only thing that I'm worried about is my CDLI courses. I need to catch up on my school work and I have a math test tomorrow. You can tell me some other time. I need to go and study. I love you, Annânsiak. Goodnight.

Annânsiak- Nagligivagit, ingutaga. Goodnight.

Raven goes to her room. She falls asleep. Drum dancers enter from opposite sides of the stage and begin to play softly in the background.

Kuallapilluit enters stage left and starts to pace behind Raven.

Kuallapilluit- Human child, human child. Ours to have, ours to hold. Forget your mother, forget your brother. Ours to hold under the ice.

Repeats 2-3 times.

Drummers stop, they exit the stage. Kuallapilluit exits the stage after she finishes her quote. Raven jolts awake, looks around, calms herself down and falls back asleep.

Next morning.

Lights up downstage right. Lavender can be seen doing her morning yoga when Raven calls her.

Raven- I had the strangest dream last night.

Lavender- What was it about?

Raven- I don't know. It's really hard to explain. I remember there was a weird lady saying something to me or about me or... something.

Lavender - Maybe you were related to the weird lady? Did she look familiar?

Raven- She was wearing a black dickie and her hair was really long and flowy. Her voice was really creepy. She was chanting something right ugly.

Lavender- That sounds kind of bad. Maybe you're possessed?

Raven- I don't believe in the whole spirit world.

Lavender- So, why did you call me if you didn't want the truth?

Raven- I needed to talk to someone. I can't go to my Annânsiak. She'll tell me some strange legend again.

Lavender- Maybe your grandma is right. Legends always have some truth behind them. Plus, you should respect your elders. She'll be gone one day.

Raven- Anyway, I need to get breakfast and head to school. I'll talk later.

Lavender- Bye, bye butterfly.

Kettle whistle

Annânsiak- The kettle is ready. Can you make me some tea, please?

Raven walks off stage left and returns with a cup of tea.

Annânsiak- You know what that whistling reminds me of?

Raven- Is this another one of your strange legends?

Annânsiak- Ingutak, my legends are not strange, they're the history of our people. They're our past and our future.

Raven rolls her eyes and sighs.

Raven- Fine.

Northern Lights:

Voice over while images created by the cast/crew play on the screen.

Annânsiak- My Annânsiak told me when I was a child to never whistle at the northern lights. I was always so confused as to why I couldn't. One night I was very curious. The northern lights were dancing through the sky. I began to whistle. The spirits in the sky began to move faster and the lights became brighter. The colors were changing from green to yellow, and yellow to purple. I was in disbelief. They were so beautiful. I continued to whistle. The lights were beginning to grow and some nearer to me. I realized how dangerous they were becoming. I heard footsteps of people running. I heard cheering. I looked up and seen a walrus head. Terrified, I ran to my mom. I was crying and I apologized. She told me that if I waited long enough, the spirits would think I was one of them and kick me the walrus head. The walrus head would've knocked me out and the spirits would take my soul up with everyone else.

Raven checks the time on her phone.

Raven- Oh no. I'm going to be late for school now. I have Math first and I have an important test.

Annânsiak- This is important. You have to learn to respect your elders, Ingutak.

Raven- I do respect you Annânsiak, I'm just so caught up on my CDLI courses I'm not really paying attention to my past right now. Don't you want me to have a future?

Annânsiak- You won't have a future if you don't listen to what I'm trying to say.

Raven- I have to go to school now. I love you, Annânsiak.

Annânsiak- Nagligivagit, Ingutaga.

Raven exits stage left for school. Enters, very exhausted. Notices Annânsiak looks weak and sick.

Raven- Oh my gosh, Annânsiak. Are you okay? You look so sick!

Annânsiak- I need to tell you something, Raven.

Raven- What is it? Is it about my brother?

Annânsiak- No, no, he's fine. Do you remember when I told you the story about your Aunt Sedna?

Raven- Of course. You told me so many times.

Annânsiak- Ever since that terrible tragedy, our family has been cursed with a terrible fate and that happens to be yours, Raven. The first born female in the family is always born with the same scars as you. My older sister had them and your mother had them. When she turned 16, she mysteriously disappeared one stormy night, just like your mother did. I don't want that to happen to you, my girl.

Raven- You're not well Annânsiak, I think you need some rest. Remember, I'm not going anywhere. Let's get you to bed.

Raven helps her Annânsiak off stage left and calls Lavender.

Lights up downstage right. We see Lavender who is sitting in the lotus meditation pose.

Raven- I'm seriously worried about my Annânsiak. She's saying strange things to me. Like more weird than the legends.

Lavender- What kind of weird things?

Raven- She's basically telling me that I'm going to die and that I'm going to get taken by my Aunt Sedna.

Lavender- Oh my goodness. What if you are going to die? What if your grandma is right? I'm coming over.

Lavender ends the call. Lights out downstage right.

Raven- I'm fine... deep breaths... Not going to die... Just relax... Nothing is going to happen...

Raven dozes off.

Drum dancers enter from opposite sides of the stage and begin to play softly. This time the drumming gets more intense. Kuallapilluit enters stage left and starts to pace behind Raven saying her quote.

Kuallapilluit- Human child, human child, ours to have, ours to hold. Forget your mother, forget your brother. Ours to hold under the ice.

Repeats again a few times. Kuallapilluit blows snow at Raven. Lavender knocks, Kuallapilluit exits the stage. Lavender enters stage right. Raven is in a deep sleep.

Lavender - Raven... Raven?. Raven!

Shakes her awake

Raven- Lavender? Is that you?

Lavender- Umm.. Yes. Is your window open?

Raven- I didn't open it. Why?

Lavender- There's snow everywhere!

Raven- This might sound crazy but I did have another dream about that lady again.

Lavender- and?...

Raven- She blew snow on me?...

Lavender- That's impossible. Unless it has happened before..

Lavender gets really excited and hurriedly goes through the books on the table. She flicks through the books.

Lavender- I think your Annânsiak is right. I think we should look through the legends of the past. Here you try this one. [*Passes Raven a book*] and I will try... this one! I have a good feeling about this one!

Myself and I story - Hubert Palliser

Lavender and Raven start to read. As they read we hear Lavender read to herself through a voice over.

I was between 34 and 39 years old. Eva Palliser and I were married then. It was in the spring, my wife and I was getting wood for the summer, my parents had stayed home. We were at the wood all morning; my wife stayed in the woods to saw up the wood while I took a load of wood out to the cabin. On the way out of the woods, I stopped the skidoo, got off to check and see if there was any wood that had fallen off, and to check to see if the string was tied on right. I looked and saw the line was dragging, so I started walking to it, bent down to pick it up and when I stood up I looked and saw myself! We wore the exact same clothes. He never said a word; all he did was looked at the wood and the line that was dragging. I closed my eyes for a second and when I opened them he was gone. I had never seen ghosts ever in my life but if this was a ghost I wasn't scared. I went back to the cabin to tell my father (John Palliser) and mother.

Lavender: Oh no. Listen to this.

Raven stops reading and listens to Lavender.

When they had heard what I saw, they said to me that I was going to d...

Raven- What? He's going to what? No, no, no.

Lavender- Die.

Offstage we hear Annânsiak scream.

Lavender- What was that?!

Raven: I think it was my Annânsiak! Wait here I will go check.

Raven rushes off stage left to check on her Annânsiak.

Raven- Annânsiak are you okay? What happened?

Annânsiak- Yes, I am fine. I just saw.. a huge spider. That's all.

Raven- Oh my goodness. I didn't know you were afraid of spiders... As long as you're okay. I'm going in to study now and head to bed. I love you Annânsiak. Goodnight.

Annânsiak- I love you. Goodnight.

Raven enters stage left and returns to the living room.

Lavender- What was that all about?

Raven- She just seen a huge spider. She's acting kind of strange.

Lavender- Like what now?

Raven- She didn't say Nagligivagit tonight, she didn't call me her Ingutak. She just said I love you. Goodnight... I think I'm just overthinking it. I hope I'm just overthinking it...

Lavender- What's your bag? You're so stressed, maybe it's just your horoscope. I'll go check.

Raven- What's my bag?

Lavender- Yes. What's the mysterious annoyance that's making you so upset? I'd rather say what's your bag because it doesn't take as long to say and it's really common sense and everyone should know how to speak my langua...

Raven- Okay. I get it. I don't know what my bag is.

Lavender- Right. I was going to check your horoscope. Just a second.

Checks pockets.

Lavender- I forgot my phone. I was in such a rush that I forgot my phone on my bed. I'll tell you tomorrow at school?

Raven- Alright. Goodnight.

Lavender- Give a hug, ladybug.

Calc you later.

Blow a kiss goldfish.

Chip chop lollipop

Peace out girl scout.

Time to scoot little newt.

Parting is such a sweet sorrow, that I shall say good night till it be tomorrow.

Lavender exits stage left and Raven goes to her bedroom. She falls asleep. Her dream is projected on the screen through images created by the cast and crew.

Raven jolts awake and sits on her bed for a few seconds. She crosses the stage to the living room and discovers that her Annânsiak is also awake.

Raven- Annânsiak, what are you doing up? Are you okay?

Annânsiak - I'm fine. *Looks at her hands.* I'm old, very old, but that is fine.

Raven - Are you sure you're okay?

Annânsiak - Fine. Now why are you out of bed?

Raven - I just had a terrible dream.

Annânsiak- Oh. What kind of dream?

Raven- It was my mom.. I think it was the night she went missing. It's almost like I was her. She kept saying Kuallapilluit and I saw these horrible creatures. What does that mean?

Raven looks at the table and grabs a book that has a picture of a Kuallapilluit on the back cover.

This book! These are the creatures that I saw.

She starts to read from the book.

The Kuallapilluit is a child-snatcher. No one really knows why these creatures love to take children. Perhaps they take children because they are lonely and like the company, or maybe they like how children taste? Or is there perhaps an even darker reason for the snatching?

Annânsiak snatches the book.

Annânsiak- That was just a silly dream. Don't waste your time thinking about it. I have a better story for you. Have I ever told you the story of Old Smoker?

Raven- I think so. Isn't that the one who leads you to safety?

Annânsiak- No. You're thinking of Old Mother Bucksaw.

Raven- No... It's the other way around. I'm almost positive.

Annânsiak- Do you never listen?

Raven- Sorry Annânsiak, do you want some tea?

Annânsiak- I hate tea.

Raven- But you love tea. Are you sure you're okay?

Annânsiak- Positive. Now. Listen to your Grandmother.

Annansiak- Old Mother Bucksaw... She was a leader in her life. She loved to help people. She wasn't bad at all. Unlike Old Smoker. Listen to his name, Old Smoker. He rips your hair out and smokes it. He wears all black, his dogs are even black. He comes from Satan. Old Mother Bucksaw on the other hand, comes to help you. She leads you where you need to go. If you see an old lady without hair, follow her. She wears Light grey clothes with mukluks. Remember that.

Raven- I'm sure it's the other way around. I'm almost sure you told me Old Mother Bucksaw was the one that smokes your hair, but, I guess I should listen to you Annansiak.

Annânsiak- Ignore the past, listen to me now. It's late, go to your room and head to bed. Tomorrow is going to be a day you'll never forget.

Raven- I guess my 16th birthday is pretty special.

Annânsiak- Yes. 16th birthdays are pretty special in your... our family. Goodnight. Love you.

Raven goes to her bedroom.

Phone dings

Lavender- Oh. My. Gosh. You'll never believe this.. You need to come over ASAP.

Raven- What? Why? I'm in bed right now. Can't it wait until tomorrow?

Lavender- No. This can't wait until tomorrow. Come over. Now.

Raven- I'm tired. It's really ugly out, I just don't feel like going out and getting lost. I really don't want anything worse on my mind. This needs to wait until tomorrow.

Lavender- You won't get lost. You need to know this. Your horoscope is not good.. It's not good at all. This cannot wait until tomorrow. Come over. NOW!

Raven- Alright. Fine, I'll be over in a minute.

Raven exits the stage into the audience. She hears footsteps and looks around, but sees nothing. A mysterious figure starts to follow her.

On stage the set is being cleared to create a blank stage with a snowy platform downstage center.

Raven- Hello? Is someone there?

Continues to walk and hears footsteps behind her.

Raven- I know you're there..

Mysterious Figure- Hello Raven..

Raven- Who are you? How do you know my name?

Mysterious Figure- A special friend told me about you. She tells me everything about you.

Raven- Friend? Do you know Lavender? I'm on my way there now.

Mysterious Figure- Not anymore.. I came here to give you a message. Lavender is waiting for you.. Down on the ice.

Raven- This doesn't make any sense. Why would she be on the ice? She told me to go to her house.

Mysterious Figure- There's only one way to find out. Follow me.

Raven - Wait, I know you. My Annânsiak told me to follow you if I saw you. You're Old Mother Bucksaw?

Mysterious Figure - Your Annânsiak is wise, yes very wise. Now follow me.

The mysterious figure leads her back on stage. On the stage Raven's Annânsiak is on stage left chanting. The drum dancers enter from opposite sides of the stage and begin to play softly. Throughout the scene the drumming gets more intense.

Raven - Annânsiak? Is that you? What are you doing here? It's too cold, you're going to get sick. Let me take you home.

Annânsiak - Home? I am home.

Raven - No, Annânsiak you are on the ice. Here, take my hand so we can go home.

Annânsiak - Don't you ever listen?! I am home.

Mysterious Figure - We brought you home.

Raven - Annânsiak, please we have to go.

Old Mother Bucksaw and Annânsiak start to walk towards Raven.

Old Mother Bucksaw and Annânsiak- Ours to hold. UNDER THE ICE!