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Kaban Eskimo-warranka

Lizzie Olbar

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KABAN

ESKIMO-WARRANKA



Kuku-Yalanji

KABAN ESKIMO-WARRANKA

by Lizzie Olbar

Artist: Eddie Bloomfield

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KUKU-YALANJI

Summer Institute of Linguistics

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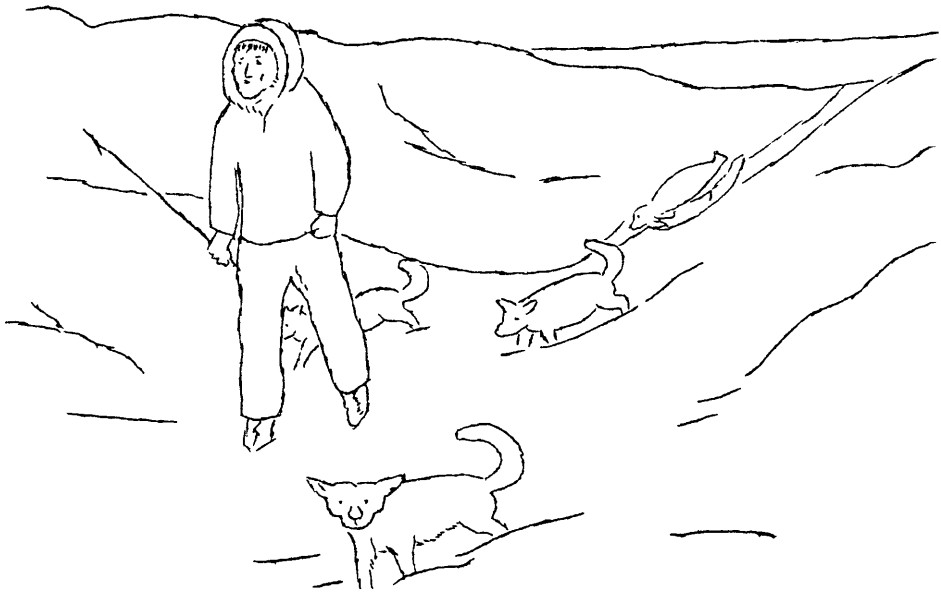
PREFACE

Kaban Eskimo-warranka (Stories about the Eskimos) is a series of two stories written by Lizzie Olbar at a Creative Writers' Workshop held at Lake Tinaroo, Queensland in February, 1978, under the direction of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

The art work was prepared by Eddie Bloomfield.

This book has been written for the reading enjoyment of the people of Cooktown, Bloomfield River and Mossman where there are approximately 500 speakers of Kuku-Yalanji.

Kaban Bamanka was prepared with an English translation so Aborigines of other communities as well as Europeans can enjoy the stories. Members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics prepared the translation in conjunction with the author.



YINYA BUBU SNOWMUNJI ICEMUNJI

Lizzie Olbar

Yanyu kuku ngayu bakkal nyiku, yinya
bama Eskimo-warranka. Jana bubungu kiway-
kiwaymba bundanlari. Jana mala minya bajaku,
walay bajaku yala bama nganandamunbu bubungu
yaluy. Yamba jaranga bubu walu-yindu
nganandamunku. Yinya bubu kiway-kiway bajaku.
Snowbuku kanbin ice bada-bada yukuku.

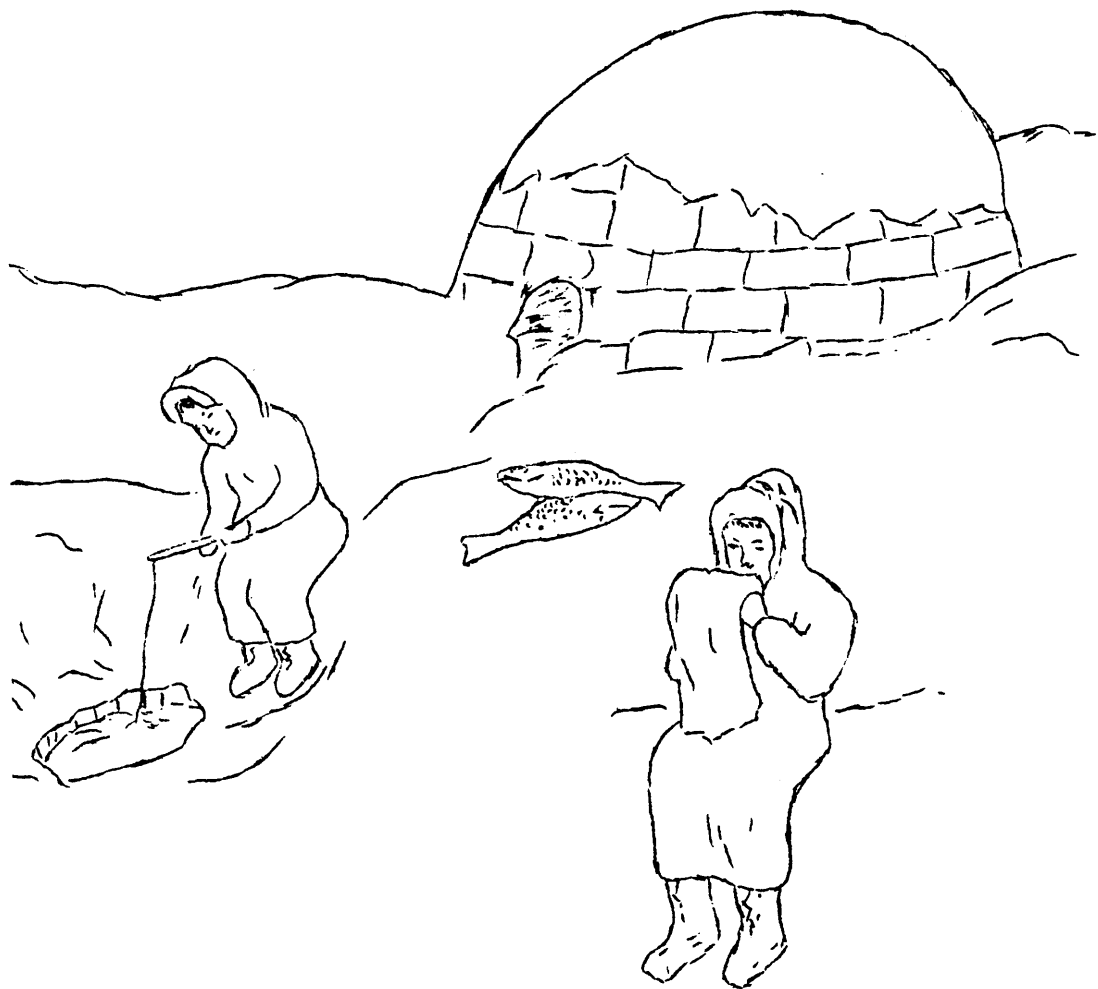
THE LAND OF ICE AND SNOW

Lizzie Olbar

I'll tell this story about the
Eskimos. They live in a cold country.
They are very good hunters and fishermen
like the people in our country here.
But their country is different from
ours. That country is very cold. Big
piles of snow cover the ice underneath.

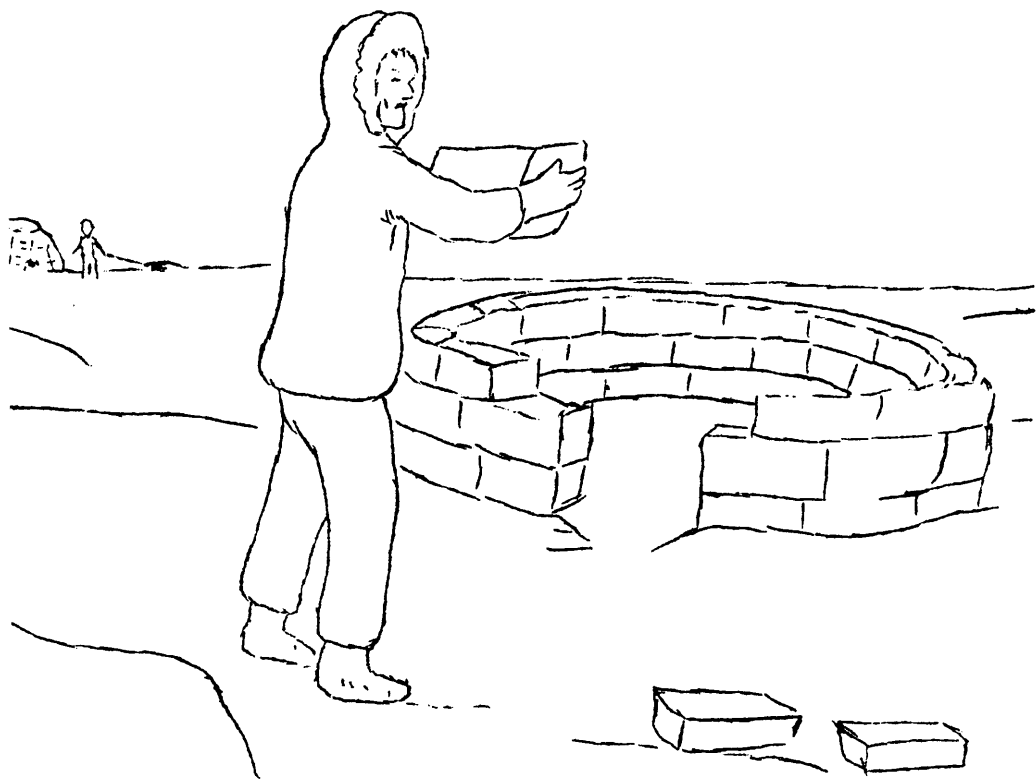
Janandamunbu bubungu juku, kararr yamba kari yala nganandamunbu bubungu. Juku, kararr walu-yindu walu-yindu. Jana kambi wubul didal bangkarr wumbul-bunganka. Jana kuyuku icemunbu janku bakal. Badur walu-yindu, badur janaku balkan. Jana burri trout manil-manil yala bayil, yamba jananga trout jaba-jaba bayilanka. Jana junjuy yala spoon balkal ice, snow bakanka, yamba jana bajibaymun sealmun janaku dingkar-dingkarangka balkal. Jana jalbu-jalbungku caribou, seal yulban muru-bungal, kambi balkal, dambal balkal. Yinya yulban sealamulu dandi bajaku. Jana majanya, kima-bunganya.

In their country the trees and grass are not like in ours where we have different kinds of trees and grass. They put on lots of clothes to keep themselves warm. They make a hole in the ice to go fishing and use a different kind of hook and line, one they've made. They catch fish called trout, which are like the fresh water perch only bigger. They make something like a spoon to dig in the ice and snow. The men make it from the bones of a seal. The women sew the skins of caribou and seal together to make clothes and boots. The seal skin is very hard; they chew it to make it soft.



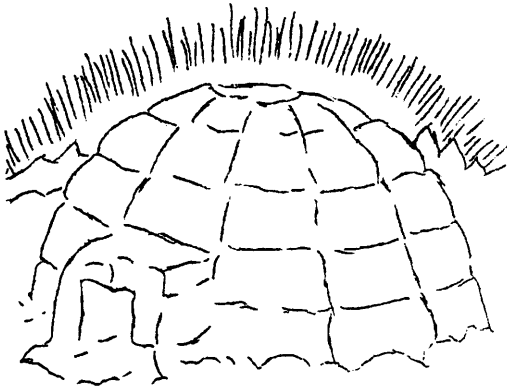
Jana Eskimongku bayan karrkay balkal
yala buban ngana ngadi-ngadiku balkanya
kararrmun. Yamba jana snowmun balkanya
bayan. Yinyamun seal, kaki kari cariboumu,
yulban yilbanya, wuyar. Jana Eskimos jilba
dunganya kayanji, buban yala ngana. Jana
karra sealmun yulbanmun balkanya; yinyamundu
jana seal kajanya, kulbanya kudamundu karrabu.
Minya seal wandulji damanya, jana wambanya
jawun-karranga. Jana minya kayalku nukanya.

The Eskimos build a little house
like the little ones we built long ago
from the bush. But they build it from
snow. Then if there are no caribou
skins they throw the seal skins on
top. The Eskimos go hunting with dogs
a little like us. They make rope
from seal skin; with that rope they
tie the seal to drag it behind with
the rope. They spear fat seals, then
share out the meat with their relatives.
They eat uncooked meat.



Yinya bubu ngulkurr. Yamba ngayu wawu
kari yinyay bundanka. Nguba wungariji yalada
yamba snow and ice jirray bajaku buyun
ngananka. Yalakubada.

That country is good. But I
wouldn't want to live there. Maybe
the sun is good for us but lots of
snow and ice are bad for us. That's
all.



ESKIMO WARRU

Lizzie Olbar

Eskimo jalbu waraljimal kangkalji.
Kaki nyulu jalbu yirrngajikuda waral, ngamu
jalbumu bunday nyungunji. Yinyamun dunyu
dungay kukuji jawunyundu. Jalbu-jalbu kaday,
bunday, yinya waralji kujinka. Yamba yinyaymba
waraljimu dunyu kari bayanba bunday, nyulu
warngku nyubun kaki kari warngku jambul wunay,
kariku kaday bayanba. Yinya nganjan wawu
jirray bajaku dingkaranka kangkalka, nyulu

AN ESKIMO BOY

Lizzie Olbar

An Eskimo woman becomes pregnant.
Her mother stays with her for when the
labour pains start. Then the husband
goes with the news to the relatives.
The women come and stay, waiting
for the baby to be born. But the
pregnant woman's husband doesn't stay
in the house. For one or two nights
he doesn't come back but stays away.
That father wants a son very much.

wu yungal. Wujurr yindu kaday, kamingka
bu-bulal karrkay-bulal jawunyundu yungal,
danka, yinyamundu kujinka, balu ngawa
lkajika.

Karrkay balkajida nganjan kadayda.
lu bayanba walal wawungu yinduymbu. Yinya
lu ngawa jalbu. Nyulu nyajil, karrkay
ngkar, nyulu wawu minimal. Bunjay muruku
lal bayanba. Nyulu kaday balnjimun, jawun-
ra nyajil. Nyunguwunbu bayanba murumari,
lkaway, mayi nukal ngawanka. Nganjanangka
awa manil, barungu kujil. Yinyamun kamingka

He's hoping for one. In the evening
the grandmother sends the two
girls, both very young yet, to their
friends, to stay and wait till the
baby is born.

When the child is born the father
comes back and comes into the house.
He's hoping it's a boy. He thinks the
baby might be a girl. But he looks -
and it's a boy. He is very glad and
everyone laughs. He comes from walkabout
and sees the relatives gathered in his
house. They eat and talk about the
child. The father gets the baby and
holds him on his lap. Then the grandmother



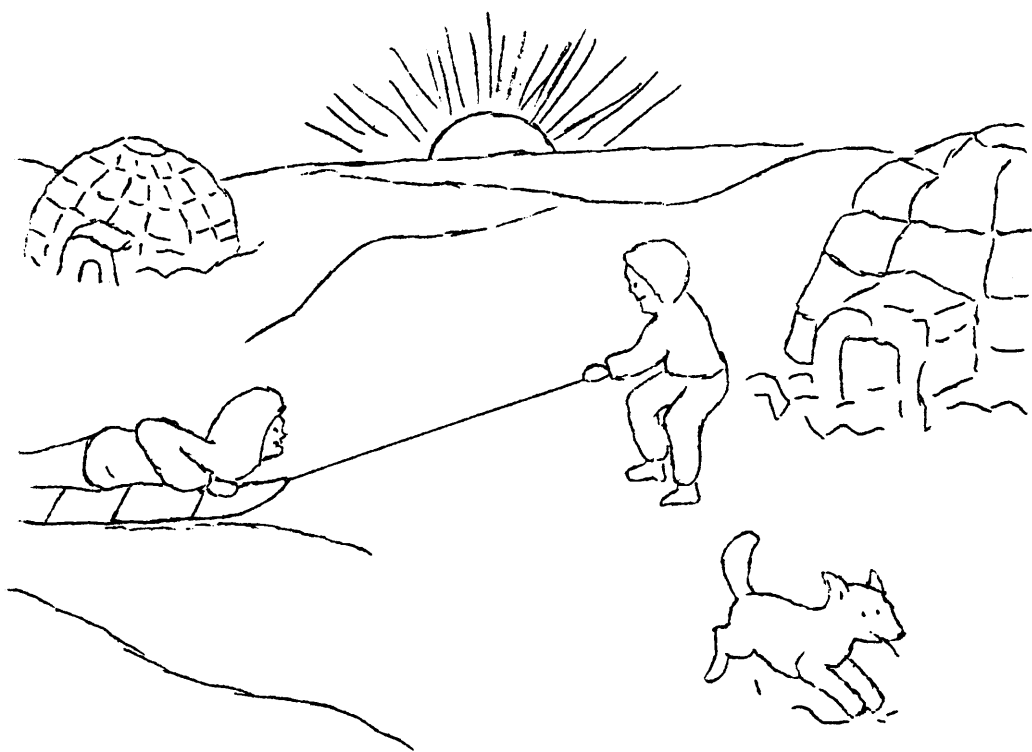
karrkayamu burri dajil. Jana wubulku wawurr-
wawurmal. Nganjan bulmbuymal ngawanka.

Ngawa yinyamun yalbaymal, nyubun year
kaday. Yinyamun ngamungku karrkayamu dambal
balkal sealmun yulbanmun cariboumun. Fur
ngalkalba yijarrin yinduymbu. Yinyamun fur
kananga. Wandu fur ngalkalba. Dambal fur
kananga, yinyamun yindu ngalkalba. Ngamungku
kurmun walu-yindu balkal karrkay yijarrinka.
Ngamungku minya nukanya, karrkayangka
ngamundumun mayi yimbimun, nyabilmun nukanya.

gives the boy a name. They are all
happy. The father is proud of his
baby.

The baby grows and becomes a year
old. Then the mother makes the child
some boots from seal and caribou skin.
She makes the fur outside for one part
and inside for the other. The fur for
the hat (hood) is outside. The fur on
the boots is inside, and outside on
another layer. The mother makes a
different kind of bag to put the child
in. When the mother eats meat, the
child eats food from his mother's
lips and tongue.





Nyubun year dungan, karrkay jambul years oldmanda. Karrkayamu ngamu nganjan jawunyunji. Bula yalarrku kangkalji, yinya karrkay jalbu, nyulu yalarrku jambul years old. Bula 5 years oldmanda, karrkay-bulal bula muruku kinkanya. Jalbu sleighmunbu dakanya, dingkarangka kulbanya, yala jaba-jabangka dingkarangka sleigh minyaji or manyarranji, kangkalji karrkayanji. Dingkarandamundu ngamungku, nganjanangka, kamingka yinya karrkay dingkar wawurr-wawurr-ban karrkayamu jalbumu. Jana jalbumu ngamu, nganjan babajin, jana balkawan. Bula kari milka-wulan.

Another year goes and the child is two years old. The child's mother and father are with friends. They also have a child, a girl; she is also two years old. When they become 5 years old the two children play together. The girl climbs on the sleigh and the boy pulls it, just like an adult man pulls a sleigh with meat or his wife and children on it. The boy's mother and father and grandmother promise that boy to the girl. They ask the girl's mother and father; they all talk it over. They don't forget.

Yinyamun dingkaramu ngamu wulan. Nyulu dingkar ngamunku badin. Wulman yalarrku manyarranka badin, jawun-karra wubulku. Jana binal nyulu wulbuman jananga jawun ngulkurr.

Yamba wawu yinyamun wulmanangka manyarr yindu manin, wunan. Nyulu karrkay yalbayman, dingkarman, warrumanda. Mala minya bajaku, nganjanangka binal-bungan. Jalbu yalarrku yalbayman, mala mayiman, mala kambiman. Yinyamun bula maral, warru wunan. Jawun-karrangka mayi nukan, wurin bulanka. Yinyamun bulanga kangkal ngawa balkajin. Nyulu

Then the boy's mother died. The boy cried for his mother. The father also cried for his wife, and so did all the relatives. They knew the old woman was their good friend.

But after that the old man got another wife. The boy grew and became a young man. The father taught him to be a good hunter. The girl also grew and became a good cook and good at making clothes. Then the young man and girl married. The relatives had a feast and danced because of them. After awhile their child was born. Then

dingkarangka manyarranji kangkalji ngawanji
jurrkijin nganjanandamun bayanmun. Nyungu
warrumu babarr dunyunji kangkaljikuda.
Wulmanangka kangkal dingkar ngalayin, kaminjarr
kissim-bungan, mara bulngan. Yinyamun nyulu
warru dunganda bubungu yinduymbu, bayan
balkanka manyarranka, kangkalka, ngawanka.

the young man with his wife and child
moved from his father's house. The
young man's sister had a husband and
child. The old man kissed his grandchild,
son and daughter-in-law and shook hands.
Then the young man went to another
place to build a house for his wife
and child.

