

THE BEAVERS' BIG HOUSE



By J.D. Panas & Olive Whitford
Michif Translation by Norman Fleury

© 2004 J. D. Panas and Olive Whitford

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THE BEAVERS' BIG HOUSE

J.D. Panas and Olive Whitford

LII KASTORR LEU GROOS MAENZON

J.D. Panas pi Olive Whitford aen kii ooshpayhahkiik



Dawn li midseu d'aen grawn bwaw aen myeu li verriwuhk kaakiiyow kii paahkaan,
 pikoo kii payhtenn aen maamaahkwachikeht - miitshoo, miitshoo, maamaahkwuhtum,
 maamaahkwuhtum, piikwuhtum piikwuhtum - ki payhtaawaawuk deu kastorr aen
 aahkaamaymoochik enn groos maenzoon aen ooshitaachik.





“Paakihtinn,” tayhpwew Baachiss li kastorr aen shaakoowhett. “Payyekk miina aen trawmbr poor iita ka naakinamaan d’loo!”





“Baachiss, kaykaatch chiin ki kiishitaanaan kaa waashkayikayyaak?” aen kaakweychimikoot sa soeur, Betsii. Betsii parrii ki aayow chi maatawett.

“Betsii, kaykaatch iita d’loo ka naakinamaahk ki pooyoonaan, maaka sa praan chi shaakaamootaataayahk kiiyaapitt daan nutr lawg,” iitwew Baachiss. “lii kastorr kiiyaanaan sa praan aen shookatooshkayyaak pi sa praan aen payhooyaak, akooz namoo wiikaat ka kishkaytenn, maashkoot gootihk aawiiyaak ka paykiiookew.”





“La, la koonpaanyiin” Betsii iitwew, “ki miishchetinaan daan nutr famii aansaamb ka aayayaak - lii taant, lii zoonk, lii koozin, lii kookoom, pi lii mooshoom! Taanshi aasii chi mishaak nutr maenzooninann?”





Avaan Baachiss chi piikishkwett, Maariss l'ariyaenl ka pay pakoopett daan la bell l'oo klavr ooschi daan li pchi maray, iita aen kii poonimichishoot aen kii miichit lii fy di maray, lii braansh pi lii pehit flurr. D'loo pimichiwaan daan sii groos kor nn ooschi pi sa graan fass loon. "Taanshi mii zaamii. Taanaykii kashookatooshkayyek ooma ka shii kishitayk anoosh?"

"Iitaa d'loo ka nakinamaahk ni kiishitanaan meena sa praan chi kiishtayaahk nutr lawg,"
Baachiss iitwew.

"Naawutch miishow pi naawutch miiyoo asshinn!" Bettsii iitwew taapishkoot aen kishchiitaymoot.

"Kwaayesh chiin ki paytaatin? Ki shaakamootataan chiin ta maenzoon?" Maariss ka kwiichimew si koom aen waanishik aen shinakooshitt. "Aashay chinn mishow?"





Baachiss d'loo daan soon vizaazh pwelleu kaashiinum pi itwew polliimaa, "Aen kishchiitaytaakooshiyenn, moon namii, kaa lizhennwiyaan lii vyeu gii wiitaamakwuk lii kastorr sa praan lii groos maenzoon chi ooshtachik, akooz awiyyuk ka paykiwikaahk gootihk."

"Wii si boon parrii chi ayaak, maaka a pootikwew kakiyow daan lii graan bwaa ooshchi chi payhaachik," itwew Maariss l'ariyaenl, sa tett naniikweypinum aen kaa aen taapweytuk aekooshii ka kookiit aan disoor d'loo.





Nimoo kii naakiiwuk, Baachiss pi Bettsii aashchikoo kii atooshkeywuk, kii wii pooyoowuk leu oovraag la joornii pooniipayiki. Taapiitow kii atooshkaywuk lii pchit braansh pii lii groos braansh, pi la boo aen maamaakoonahkik, daan li murr iita ka naakiinamaan d'loo. Bartholemew l'oor nwayr, aen kwaashk-wehpichikaet daan la coolii, peshikaat piimootew itaa Baachiss ehkwa Bettsii aen atooshkechik. Daan l'oo frett kii piimootew pi lii kastorr kitotew. "Taanshi mii amii. Tanehki ka ishi shookatooshkeyek ka ishi kishitek anoosh?"

"Sa praand chi poonikipahamaak ooma d'loo ka kakweh nahinaamaak," iitwew Baachiss, aen pimaatakaat chi wapamaat Bartholemewa.

"Ooma d'loo ka kipahamek wayow d'hpaapathen," iitwew Bartholemew. "Wiipatch atikweh ka ashteshininnowow!"

"Ah, noo, sa praan chi kiishtayaak nutr lawg," iitwew Baachiss.





“Ki itehten chiin oosham ooma la maenzoon aen mishaah poor deu kastorr?”
 Bartholemew kitootishoo pi kishshwashiw mehkwaat aen kaakweh tehpiitaat enn trwitt.

“Nimooyaa ka kishkehtaamihk,” iitwew Baachiss, “faadbaen la coonpayiin kaa ayaanaan gootihk.”

“Wah waw!” pootachikew Bartholemew, “kaakiyow ki itehten chi taakooshikihk daan li
 bwaa ooschi chiin!”





Kehtaweh lii deu baarbeu Scat ehkwa Kat, lii joomoo ka mooshiishtakihk li bwaa aen tihtipiichik pi la kulty aen matawehchik araa li marais. Aen taapichik shehkaapichiniwak, "Chwer ooma la maenzoon di kastorr kaa shi mishaak!" Lii phchi pishoo kaanwapamehwaak Bettsii li jeunn kastorr aen peh maatakaayit. "Hey Bettsii, peh maataweh avik niyanaan!" tayhpwewaak Scat pi Kat.





“Ah wii, gaa miiyehtenn chi mahtawehyaan pi chi kwaashkwehpahooyaan avik kiiyawow, mii zaamii, maakaa gii ashootahamwow moon frayr chi wiichihaahk avik nutr maenzoon. Gii wiitaamaak chi shookatooshkehyaan pi parrii taapitow chi ayaayaan, acoos taadbaen la coonpayiin gaa ayaanaan gootihk.”

“Maashkoot kaa maatawaan aprehi!” Scat pit Kat itwehwaak, ka ishi ashehkiwehchik daan li bwaa.

“Wii apootihkwew,” itwew Bettsii.





Ehkwa ka poonkiishitachik aen kipahahkik d'loo Betsii pi Baachiss parii kii ayawak chi maatistaachik lew lawg.

"Chwer itapih Baachiss," Betsii wahpamew, "Flora li rinaar awa."

"Mii zaamii, mii zaamii," Pehtakoopayiw Flora miikwatch d'loo aen minikweht daan li pchi marais. "Ah baen ki kakehpatishinawow aen ishi shookaatooshkayyek ooma ka ishi kishitehk anoosh."
Flora pahpiw meikwatch aen kaashihaak d'loo daan sa baarb loon si kom la sway.

"Ki kisheytenn chiin, Flora," iitwew Baachiss, "kaa li jeunn wiyaan lii vieux gii kishi naamakwuk sa praan aen kastorr sa maenzoon chi mishaak poor sa famii."

"S'aad layr ooshaam mishtahiin la plaas aen ayayenni!" iitwew taapishkoo aen mooshchowehmiiwett.

"Kaykaach chiin kaakiyow toot lii zaanimoo daan li graan bwaa chiin ki iiteytenn chi paytootehchik!" Baachiss kiitwaam iitwew, "Maashkoot la coonpayiin ga ayaanaan gootihk."





Flora kiimootch kaanawaapamew Baachissaa, kwehshikiw pi shipiwehtehw taapishkoo aen maacheymi-
wett, sa groos kue aen shipaawehpi naak daan l'air.





Aen kishishoot pi aen ayeskooositt, Baachiss sa kue paakamahum daan l'oo.
 "Bettsii si li taan chi nakiiyaak achiyow."

"Enn bonn idii ki taayaan!" Bettsii ka shakoowett, pi dissu leu maenzoon ka kwashkwahtichik, chi aashtehshikihk, pi chi mii chi chik l'ikors d'arb, leu maangii iwow. Aen miiyaapichikik lue oovraag pi li marais, Bettsii mooshitow li vaan. Soon pwel chimatehpayin, soon nii maatinaam, sa tett oopinumm, miiyaatum l'air aen miiyaakwaniiyik. "Moon frayr, naawutch ki shpitishinn pi naawutch ki nipwaakaan aashpishchi niyaa, kaykwy ooma kaa shookimaakuhk?"

Baachiss soon ginii paatinum pi l'ayr miyaatum. Nimooya miyutum animaa kaa miiyaatuhk, maachi miiyatum. "J'i paans la bookaan kooshkweytum! Lii vyeu gii wiitamaakwuk li feu chi pishkaapaatamun! Si daanjeuril!"





“Baachiss, ashtumm, kaapan ’ dwaashchikanaan!” Bettsii iitwew, pi daan li bwaa kehshikow pihmatawuk iteh la bookaan kaa ayaamakuk.

Kaa takooshikik itaa li feuu ka aayamakuk, Baachiss iitwew, “Aawiyaak a deuu paath li groo feuu aen kii payyakootashkatahki!”

“Taanshi ehkwaa chi tootamaak?” Bettsii iitwew. “Enn pchitt flamesh kaakiyow kaa kiishnatikashkitew kaakiyow ooma lii graan bwaa kaa paashtek!”





"Sa praan aasaamb chi aatooshkeyaak! Gaa aakithtashoonaan zhuska traw, kaa nipaatanan li feuu avik nutr kueul" iitwew Baachiss. "Parrii, henn ... devu..." Maaka avaant chi aakihtashoot aa traw, aen vaant pootaatumm enn brayze daan li groo feuu ooshchi. Shaymaak shookaypayinn, shaashkishaam li graan fwaen shesh.

"Oo, nool" Bettsii taypwew. "Chweyr aanimaa la pchitt flamesh kaa ishi mishaak, wii put aen groo feuu ka aayaamakunn!"

Li vaan kii maachi shoohkaan pi naawaat yootin, lii flaamm kaahkiyow meshchishum li fwayn pi lii aarbr, kaahkiyow daan soon shmaen kwaaskwehum! "Li feuu ooshaam mishow, ki maachi waanitaanaan!" tayhpwew Baachiss. "Jaamaen ka kaashkitanaan chi nahkinamaak, sa praan ka wihtamwayaakoohk lii zootr!"





Daan li marais ka takooshihkihk, Baachiss kwashkwatiw disseu leu maenzoon, pi kishchi pakamahum avik sa keuu, chi wiitamawaat kaahkiyow li zaanimoo daan li graan bwaw chi peytoteyit sheymaak!

“Taanshi aen ishpayikk?” iitwehwaak lii zaanimoo kaa takooshihkihk.

“Naatootamook kahkiyow!” Baachiss shaymaak wihtamoowew. “Aana kaa sheykiikooyaaak ka takoopayiw!”

“Aa waana?” Lii zaanimoo shekishiwaak.

“Li feuu!” sheymaak kishchi pahkaan!

“Kii taapashiiyaak!” payhtahkoopayiw Flora li rinaar.

“Kii kashooyaaak!” Kiimootch iitwew Maamaa li Pishoo.

“Kii aamachiweyaak li traambi!” Kishi paytaakooshew Bartholemew l’oor nwayr.





"Aansaamb chi kii atooshkeyaak!" maatoo Bettsii li kastorr.

Kishchi maachinaakwunn li feuu, taapishkoot aen kishchi kishwaashitt, lii zaanimoo shaykishiwaak!

**"Kaaya oosham shaykishik!" tayhpwew Baachiss. "Nawutch miiyaashin aansaamb aen atooshkayk!
Maariss tii kor nn apachihik enn plass chi ooshtaayenn iita li feuu chi naakinamaak!"**





“Shaymaak, Baachiss.” Maariss l’ariyaenl maachi paanayikew surr la terr pi ensoor lii braanch, aen kwaapahuk lii groo morsoo di terr avik si groo kor nn.

“Bettsii pi niya ga kishkatahaynaan lii aarbr aykaa li feuu chi mayshchishuhk lii boot di zaarbr. Bartholemew, kiiya nawaatch ki shookishinn, ishkwashtaa l’oot borrh iita Maariss ka naakinaak li feuu. Toot aan saamb atooskayk pi kaakaashkitaayayhk nootinamook li feuu!”





Li groo feuu kishi paytakwunn shookaykootew pi kaakiiyow nipahtow daan soon shmaen.

Kishi iikwushkwunn avik la bookunn, pi toot pakitatamoowinn nipatow daan li bwaa.

Lii amoo mooshkishtawuk lii groo feuu aan l'ayr ooshchi pi lii pwasoon kwaashkwaypinamwaak d'loo, pi shiikoowaak aansoor ooschi. Kaakiiyow kaakway wiichihiwew, maaka nimooya li feuu ki naakinaamwuk.





Kaytaweh Maama Pishoo sii pehi pooshiish kaa waanihaht. Aaspinay daan li graan feuu kaa
 shookaypahtaat sii jumoo aen naatoonwaat.
 Li feuu pashishwew lii zaanimoo pi la bookaan wiishaakachaapawew!





“Baachiss!” Bartholemew kischi tayhpwew, “lii brayz mishewey itay pahkihtiniwaa!
Kaykwy chi tootamaak?”

“Nipahtaa lii zikorss aan feuu avik tii groo pyii kaw shoohkaki!” wiitamoowew Baachiss.





Maamaa li Pishoo kii pay shaykiwew avikk sii jumoo aen shaykishiiyitt. Scat pi Kat, kii kashoowuk didaan leu maenzoon, li feuu aen kooshtaakik.

Baachiss taypwatew lii Pishoo, "Saa praan aansaamb chi atooshkayak!"

Lii shaa pashoowaak ka kii miikooshichik la forss, shaymaak mooshkeeshTamuk ka kishitaykii lii brayz, ka pooshkootaykii daan li graan feuu ooshchii! Ka shaykitahkooshitt li groo diimoon kischii paytahkooshiw, aashchikoo kakwew nootinew lii zaanimoo li feuu ka nootinnahkik.





“Zhaykishinn!” maato Bettsii.
 “Ooshamm mishow ooma li feuu poor kiiyanaan!”





Lii zaanimoos ki waapahtamun, aen shaykishichik daan leu zyeu, nipoohiikaytamukk!
 Li groo feuu kishchi shashkitew, la bookaan pi la saand aen pootatuk.





Taanshi chi naakitaamaak ooma li feuu, kaatawey Baachiss ka naakatwaytuk. "Pimitshaahook!"
tayhpwew pi kaashkamoopatuwuk iita ka kii naakinakihk d'loo.





Aen aapanapitt, Betsii waapahtum aen aatimikoochik li feuu toot lii sigoon! "Kiishpin aen plaan ki tayaan
Baachiss, la paattaaan chi waaniitaak!"





Aen kishchi shaykiishichik lii zaanimoo mamooayaawuk.

“Sa praan chi piikoonamaak ooma ka kii naakinamaak d’loo!” tayhpwew Baachiss. “Aykwaanimaa piikoo la chaans kitaayanaan chi paashpiitahyuk nutr graan bwaa.” Kii kishkaytumwuk kaykwy chi waanitahchik.





Bartholemew l'oor nwayr shookii tayhpwew payshkish aakinum li murr aan boo. Maariss l'ariyaenl paytakooshew aashaytew pi mooshkiishtum iita ka kii kipaahahkihk d'loo. Lii zootr zaanimoo lii pehii pi lii groo wiishtawow wiichiiwaywuk. Kakwaataakitawuk, aakinikaywuk, chaakaahaamwuk nootinaamuk, moonahikaywuk, chiichiipitamuk li graan murr ka kii kipahaakihk d'loo.

"Oosham kinwayshiish ki nootistanaan!" Bettsii kischii tayhpwew. "Maapoo maaashchipaayinn!"

"Aakitaashooyaanii jusskaa trwaw kaakiyow maashchiik aansawmb!" tayhpwew Baachiss.
"Ooma anoosh maashkoot jaamaen!"

Lii zaanimoo kaakiyow kii ayiishoowuk iita lii kastorr ka kii kipaahakik d'loo.

"Parii, henn... deuu... trwaw... "Haam!"

Avikk toot leuu forss pii leuu cooragg li zaanimoo kii atooshkaywuk si koom aen chimm sur la groos foondaasyoon. Li murr kii paytaakwunn, aen maashchipayikk! Pii too d'aen koo, kaytaaweh piikoo taapishkoo la terr aen maashchipayikk, tapishkoo li tonnerr, kishchi shookaypayinn shookaywew d'loo, kii mooshkahun li graan bwaal





Li groo moonstr lii groos bookaan ka pootaatuk!

“Naapaakayaak!” iitwew ʒaachiss. Niimaawooyak paakaatamoo!





Nimaakaykway Betsii waapaatum, sii zyeu kaashiihum. "Ki paytehnn chii aanimaa, Baachiss?"

"Nimooya, maakaykway ni paytehnn!"

"Aykooshi ka itaytamaan!" paykaatch itway, "Nimaakaykway ki paytehnn!"
Baachiss paykaat pii kishkwew, "Ki kaaskitanaan!" Pi kii naakamoo, "Aashtawew li feuu!"
Li zaanimoo kii niimiwuk, aen chiikaytaakik.





Kaa aashtaypayik la bookaan lii zaanimoo ki waahpatamwuk aen kii waanitaachik leu viktwayr.

“Niimakaykway li graan bwaal!” ootstootum Baachiss.

Lii zaanimoo aapanaapiwuk, lii aarbr, lii sool, li fwaen, kaakiiyow ka shaakikihk kii mayshitaashkitew.

Nimoo wii taapwaytum kaykway ka waapahtuk, Flora li rinaar maatoo, “Nutr maenzoon – taanday chi wiikiyaak?”

Wiishta Bettsii la penn kii aayow aen kwaanaapahtuk aen kaashkitechwaayik kaakiiyaakaykway. “Li feuu kaahkiiyow kii ootinum!”





Baachissapaatkii aashtawew disseusa soeursoon n'ipooliyihk chi kaakwewiichihaat. "Taapwew, Bettsii achiyow piikoo ni moo ka ayaanaan nutr graan bwaw, maaka chi naakatweytamunn chi shaakikihk miina." Paahpinaakooshew paakaanitay aen iitaapitt.





Kaakiiyow lii zaanimoo ooshtikaaniwow naanikwaypinamuk aen tapwaytahkihk, kiishkaytamuk lii aarbr, lii sool, li fwaen, kaakiiyow ka shaakiikiin meena pi li graan bwaa nawaatch kaa shookikinn aaspiishchi niishtum.

Bettsii aenkipoonimaatoot. "Taanaykii ka paahpiiyenn iitwew!"

Baachiss iitwaahumw la maenzoon kaya ka kii mayshchitayik - la Graan Maenzoon di Kastorr!
 "Ni paahpiinn aayish kii kishkishinaan taapitow parii chi aayayaahk."





Baachiss kii wiikhoomew kaakiiyow lii zaanimoo daan li graan bwaa ooschi chi pay wiikiiyitt daan la graan maenzoon. Kaakwaychimew, "Kaykway aen kishkaytamek anoosh ooshchi ka kee ishpayihk?"

Henn parr henn lii zanimoo kii piikishkwaywuk:

"Pooyoo toon oovraage avant chi maatawayenn!" iitwaychik lii jumoo Scat pi Kat lii pishoo.

"Naawaatch miyaashinn aansaamb chi atooshkayk!" Ka shookipiikishkwett Bartholemew l'oor nwayr.

"Taapitow lii feuu di Kaan chi aastawayhamihk!" Maariss l'ariyaenl kischii iitwew.

"Sa praan taapitow parrii chi ayaak!" paytaakooshew Flora li rinaar.

Baachiss miyaytum iikoohk lii lessoon aen kii kiishkaytahkik sii zamii, kaamaem enn zhoornii di penn.





“Niishta gii naakaatwayitenn kaykway!” iitwew Bettsii.

“Kaykwawy?” Baachiss kakwaychimew.

“Ji paans yaenk aassii graan nutr maenzoon kii ooshitahnaan!”



Kaakiiyow lii zaanimoo toot aansaamb kii naakamoowaak, “Jaamaen ka kishkaytenn taanishpii la coonpaayiin chiin aayayenn!”

Aykwaanimaa la nuitt maarsii kii iitwaywuk, aayish kii kishkaytamuk lii kastorr aen kii shooki aatooshkayitt aykooshchi enn plaas ka aayachik chi wiikichik maykwatsh lii graan bwaw chi shaakikhk. Kii moochikaanitaawuk piimachishiwiinn pi kii aataayookaywuk toot la nuitt.

Aekooshii.





Joanne Panas – Author and Illustrator

Métis author and illustrator Joanne Panas is from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Her first children's book, *The Beavers' Big House* is a collaborative project she and her mother, Olive Whitford, have been working on for numerous years. Joanne is also an accomplished illustrator. She draws a regular cartoon for the Prince Albert *Rural Roots* newspaper entitled *The Farmers*, and recently illustrated Ken Carriere's *The Bulrush Helps the Pond*, which won a 2002 Saskatchewan Book Award in the *First Peoples' Publishing* category. Drawing has been a life-long passion for Joanne: "I can't remember a time when I did not draw. With loving encouragement from my Mom I never stopped illustrating". Joanne operates and instructs her own non-profit Tae Kwon-Do club, The Flying Dragon Academy of Tae Kwon-Do Inc. She and her husband Dennis also volunteer for the SaskTel Pioneers in and around Prince Albert.



Olive Whitford – Author

Olive Whitford, a Métis Elder, comes from a long line of gifted storytellers who influenced her to record her family history and experiences and to write for children and adults. Recently, Olive began submitting stories of her childhood experiences and her memories of her grandfather to *Rural Roots*, a Prince Albert newspaper. As a result, she has received much positive feedback from the community, encouraging Olive to continue her writing. Olive lives on a farm, near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, with her son Keith Magee.

Norman Fleury – Michif Translator



Originally from St. Lazare, Manitoba, Norman Fleury is a gifted oral storyteller. Fluent in the Michif language, Norman has worked extremely hard in its promotion and preservation, including the production of language resources and an introductory Michif dictionary. Norman has been active with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) since 1967 and is currently the MMF's Director of the Michif Language Program. Married with two children, Norman farms southwest of Virden, Manitoba in the small community of Woodnorth.

Joanne Panas' and Olive Whitford's first book,

The Beavers' Big House, is a full-colour illustrated children's book that tells the story of a forest fire and how two beavers – Baptiste and Betsy – rally the other forest animals to fight it. The book teaches children valuable lessons such as the need for cooperation and preparedness. *The Beavers' Big House* includes a Michif translation by Norman Fleury and a Compact Disc narration component in English and Michif.



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