K'adoants'idnee

told by
Doria Lolnitz
Koyukuk, Alaska

illustrated by
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1973
Central Koyukon Athapaskan

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nohbaaya</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Fox)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yił Koh Dinaa</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Giant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noał dlaagha</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chinook Salmon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These *K'adoants'idnee* were originally recorded during the winter of 1962 - 1963 in Koyukuk. Doria would come over to our cabin one night to tell us the story in Indian and then return the next night to give us the English translation.

Doria's children would also keep after her to tell them the same story. And so the stories are passed on during those long winter nights---from one generation to the next. We are happy that they can now be written down for everyone's education and enjoyment. These stories represent parts of longer stories which would take a long winter to tell plus the help of several good storytellers.

Kusga - David Henry
© 1973
Once upon a time there lived an old woman. She lived by herself in an underground house along the edge of the lake.

She went down to pack water in her little birch bark pail. She had a little water hole by the beach. She started to pack water.
Eeta ghalhee yoona-oo
honeel-aan. Hoyił
yooneets'in' ts'oa-ostlı.
K'eełogha toanoałiyoa.
Ts'oh tsaayneek doadaal-oan.

Ts'oh yootlı'in tl'ootna
ts'aanoa-eediyoa. Yoakoa
noaḥonla-aan goa ghalhoalee.

Hoyił doatlee hondin
neeghahoal. Atlée toakoon
dinaa yoagaal bagoałtłaaga'
minoadee tłaagee.

She looked way upriver. Someone
was coming downriver. She hurried up
the bank. She put on the teapot.

She went back out to the top of the
bank. She looked again for the one who
was walking.

Suddenly he was walking down there
in front. Right there was a poor man in his
raggedy rabbit skin parka.
The old woman asked him.
"Where are you going?"

"I'm just walking around."

"I warmed up tea back there but..."

He didn't even care to walk up the bank. The man didn't want any.

"Go with me." he told her.
"Oahoa', nee.

Noanga toanoaliyoi ts'oh
doo-oołaaga ditaabaaza'
dik'ibitseedakoaga atłyil
yootlin dinoahooloah goa
dinaa yoagaal ts'in'.

"Hoadee?" yiłnee.

"Goa sinin tl'eeyaga
doaleehoay," yiłnee.

"Oahoa', ""nee.

"Yes." she said.
She gathered up everything, her
cooking pot her fish knife, her needle
bag, and she hurried down by the man.
"You're ready?" she asked him.
"Get on my back," he told her.
"Yes" she said.
Ts'oh yinin tl'eeyaga doalyoa. Eet ghalhee k'odaa yiyiñ noa-eet'uk k'adiyoah.

Dahoonoa goa tsooggaal ditl'aaghdakoan ts'aaneetoan. Eet ghal k'odaa yagoaltaaga naghtalkoan'. Ts'oh ghalhee ditlik ts'in' noayghalkoan'. K'odaa eet ghalhee tsaghal k'ideenaaltleets k'ideenaaltleets.

"K'odaa noanhoay,"
yiłnee. "Noagh hoghoa-eenaalstsoan."

So she got on his back. It seemed like he flew with her.

The old woman took out her needle and started sewing his rabbit skin parka. She sewed the whole thing. Then it was getting dark.

"Get down now," he told her. "I'm tired now."

Eet ghalhee k'odaa yoał yił taałts'i'y. Ts'oh taałtin hots'a hodeeghoał k'oał ts'ahaadin. Eet ghalhee k'odaa alintin.

Is k'odaa, hoy ghon' nisguts.

She got down and he walked away from her. She started to look all around. She found out that he just dropped her on the flats. There was not even a stick so she didn't know what to do.

A snow storm came up. And she was freezing and there was no way to build a fire. And so she froze.

That's all, I've bitten off part of the winter.
Once upon a time, there was a man and his wife. They had two children. The boy and the girl stayed home in the daytime. Their mother went to the rabbit snares. At the same time their father is also out hunting. They would come back late at night.
Before going out they leave word with their children, "Don't go out," they tell them. Then they left.

Later the older brother said to his younger sister, "Let's walk out to the bank," he told her. But she said, "don't." Even so she went out to the bank with him.
Tl'oatna daahalhaan, "Baalgaas yeets'oo-oas," yiłnee.

"Aanaa'," yiłnee eehoo.

"Nitooghaa," yiłnee.


While they were standing on the bank he said to her, "Let's get into the boat."

"Don't," she told him but .......

"Hurry," he told her.

They went down the bank. They untied the boat. They pushed out.
They started to float downriver. The tried to paddle to shore but... It was floating downriver with them and getting dark. It's floating close to the beach with them.

Somebody was standing on the bank. "Land," he told them.

They came up the bank. He brought them back to the underground house. Then the giant fed them.
Late in the evening they got sleepy. "Go to bed," he told the two kids. They were scared but they did go to bed. They went to sleep.

The giant got up from the ground. He sneaked back to them. He swallowed the older brother first. He also swallowed the younger sister. After that he went to sleep.
They came back late at night. The kids were gone! They went out to the bank. The boat is gone! They look all over but...

They got into the canoe together. They were paddling away from shore. They paddle all day. It was getting dark.
They were sneaking close to the beach. The boat was there on the beach. They sneaked in as they landed. They sneaked up the bank.

Right back there they saw a light in an underground house. They started to sneak back there. Her husband snuck to the top of the smoke hole.
Yooyaga honeel-aan.
Hoyiṭ doayah hondin yił koh
dinaa k'iidin'ghooh. Daga
daadibit.

Noank'inool-een. Eeda
ghalhee da-oat da-ālnee,
"Tłaa goa sinoadibaa leedoaa,"
iyilnee.

Dahoonoa yidoak'inool-een.
Tłaak'aadee-oan yił goa yił
koh dinaa ghoaneek'inool-een.
Ts'oh yak'ul naatłtsut.

He was looking down inside. There
was the giant snoring. He was all stretched
out on his back.

He sneaked down easy. He said
to his wife, "You wait for me."

Then he started to sneak inside.
He sneaked in to the giant with the knife.
He cut his neck.
He called to his wife. She went in to him. Together they cut his stomach. They found out that the giant had swallowed their children. They took them out and they were laughing.
Then they all went outside. They burned down the underground house. They got into the boat. They walked pulling the boat with a rope. They went up to their house.

"Don't go away from here anymore," they told their children. "Who was the first to say, let's go down to the river?"
The older brother blamed it on his younger sister. "You were the one to say that I went into the boat," he told her.

"Don't ever do that again."

"Yes," they told them.

That's all. I have chewed off part of the winter.
Once upon a time, there lived an old woman. Her teen-age granddaughter also lived with her. The grandmother checked her snares every day. Her granddaughter hauled wood by her neck. After that she stayed in the house.
As she was making sinew a young man with a big head came in. She gave him tea and dried fish. After that they talked. It was getting dark. "Pretty soon grandma will come back," she told him.

She started to cook for her grandmother. She heard her grandmother coming back. She hid the young man back in the corner under some things.
The grandmother came in. "What were you doing all day. Why didn't you cook right away?" she asked her.

"I work too much," she told her. After they ate she sat down over there. She was making sinew and laughing every so often.
It was getting late in the evening. They went to bed and grandma heard her laughing all night from over there. She heard her.

They got up in the morning. She made tea for her grandmother. After that she went to her snares. The poor teen-age girl pulled wood by her neck right away.
Hadoanoa-ee-diyoa. Goa keel yił naahataałyo'.
Yinoak'oaloan' dzaan
holoagha hahanaay ts'ohoyaan'.
Dahoonoa k'eełogh
k'inaaghałneeydlaa.

Dahoonoa bitsoogaal
noa-ee-diyoa. Goa keel
yooyaga neenoaneetłaan.
Dahoonoa ditsoogaal oahoa
k'eełogh k'inoataatlneek.
"Doant'aan dahoonoa ee
k'eełogh tsaaay
noanleel koghaa?" dikoay
ałnee.

She came in. She started to talk with the boy. She fed him and they just talked all day long. While that there wasn't anything cooking.

Soon her grandmother came back. She hid the boy again under some thing. Then she started to cook for her grandmother right away. "What were you doing so that you didn't warm up tea right away?" she asked her granddaughter.
After they ate, she sat over there and was sewing. She laughed every so often. They went to bed and she heard her laugh all night over there.

The next morning they got up and ate. After that the young teen-age girl started back for wood. Her grandmother stayed home.
She started to look over there in the girl's belongings. She found a man's head inside. She grabbed it. She poked his eye with her needle. She threw it out the door. She thought it is because of this one that she never works.
After that the teen-age girl came in. She came in lively and happily. She sat down over there where she slept. She was laughing while she was looking over there in her sack. Then she looked sad.
"Tsaay noandizis,"
bitsoogaal yiłnee eehoo.
Naa-aan tłeetaalyoa notlin
tl' oatna ts'aaghahoal.
Doayago tin hałdi' lakoan
hoolaan. Toabaan nogo
deyyoa. Goa too kink'aa
neeneeyoa. Eet hok'a hoyaan'
lakoan hoolaan.

Goa eet toahoa
k'idinoaditik. Eenda koon
hoanoatoayagheełtaan. K'odaa
aada hoonaal-oan ts'i toahoa
k'idinoaditik. Eet hoyaan'
hoiył dineey.

"Have some tea," her grandmother
told her but ....... She went out and
started to walk down the bank. There was
blood down there on the trail. She went
down to the beach. She went to the water
hole. The blood trail ended there.

She threw herself down hard into the
water hole. She just floated back up. She
threw herself as hard as she can into the
water hole again. And that's all she knew.
Finally she came to herself. She was lying on the grass. She got up from the ground. She started to go on a trail up that way.

She saw a big town. She heard lots of noise. She stared to go there. There was a little underground house on the up-river side. She walked there and walked in.
A little lady lived in the house. "What are you doing around here? Grand-child," she said to her.

"I'm walking around," she said.

She gave her tea, dried fish and ice cream. She started to stay overnight with her. It was getting dark.
A hoyił keel yoaz

"Oahoa'," nee.


"Oahoa'," nee.

Then a little boy came in. "Grandmother," he said to her. "They ask for you to go back to watch the fun tonight," he told her.

"Yes," she said.

It was getting late. The old woman dressed up. "Granddaughter, walk with me me," she told her. "Then we'll watch the fun," she told her grandchild.

"Yes," she said.
Then they walked out. They walked over to the dance hall. When they went in they cheered. They sat down by the door. The people were dancing.

Right up there were three boys playing music. The teen-age girl started to glance up at them. A man with a big, long nose and an eye which somebody poked out was playing a drum.


Is that the one for whom I threw myself in the water, she was thinking. Then she felt ashamed. She put her head down. Then they started home. They went inside.

The next morning they got up. "Walk around outdoors with your friends," she told her. So she went out.
They were playing with a ball on the ice. She went down there. "You play too," they were telling her but... She doesn't move. A boy grabbed her and said, "What's with this one?" He threw her down hard. That's the way he killed her.

That's all.