

# The Smile

BY MARIN



Fontreal™



# The Smile

A STORY ABOUT AN INUIT GIRL, HER PARENTS, HER DOG, AND HER NECKLACE

BY MARIN



Fontreal™

No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to  
MONTREAL, 17 Osbourne Street, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1B 1X6.

Text copyright ©2022 by Marin Darmonkow.  
Illustrations copyright ©2022 by Marin Darmonkow.  
All rights reserved.

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Darmonkow, Marin  
The Smile

Electronic book  
ISBN: 978 1 989661 26 0  
Audiobook  
ISBN: 978 1 989661 25 3

**Permission to publish this version of this e-book has been  
given by the Author to Free Kids Books.**

On top of the endless polar darkness,  
there was bad weather in Kingaq for months.  
The wind only went to rest from time to time,  
bringing a nasty blizzard  
that buried everything under deep snow.



Only the top of Ahnah's igloo  
was visible in the mountain of white flakes.  
The Arctic birds stopped flying.  
The land animals disappeared.  
The pond ice grew so thick  
that no one could break it in order to fish.  
The howling wind even destroyed  
the inunnguaq on the hill.







All dogs except  
Ahnah's favourite husky, Akiak, died,  
so the puppy was allowed  
to live in the igloo.

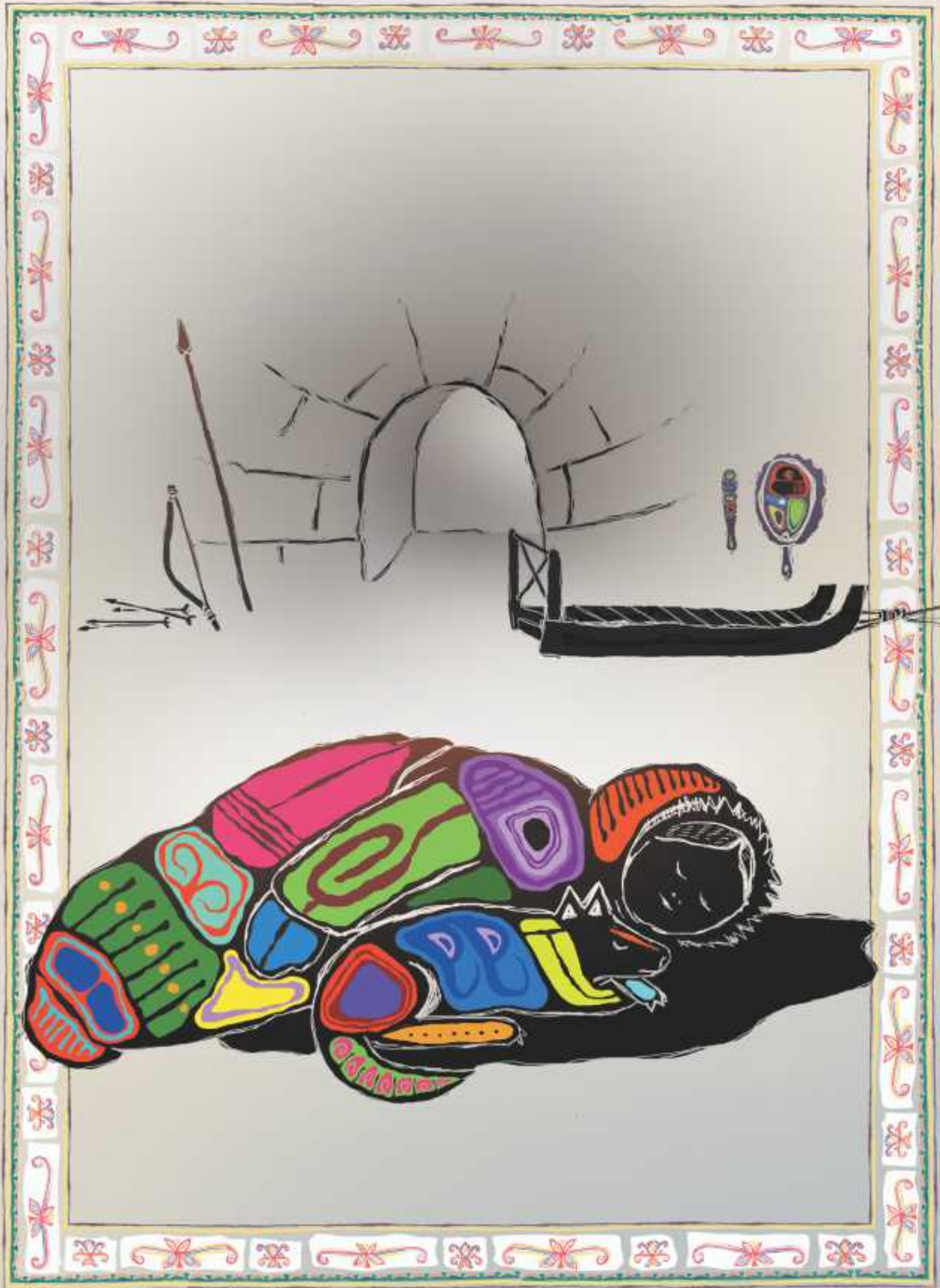


All too soon,  
Ahnah's mother was dividing  
the very last piece of fish between  
her child and the puppy.  
There was no more food.



Finally, the wind hid away for a while,  
so Ahnah's parents put on their snowshoes  
and went to forage in a faraway place  
    where dwarf willow clumps  
    slumbered beneath the snow.  
They told Ahnah they would be back soon.





The first time she went to sleep after her parents left,  
Ahnah had a dream about the inunnguaq.

*The sky was cloudless and quiet.*

*The full moon shone through a blueish veil.*

*Ahnah and Akiak melted the snow on the hill with their breath.*

*They blew the heavy boulders on top of each other  
and rebuilt the inunnguaq.*

*The happy human-shaped sculpture  
smiled as wide as a sleigh.*



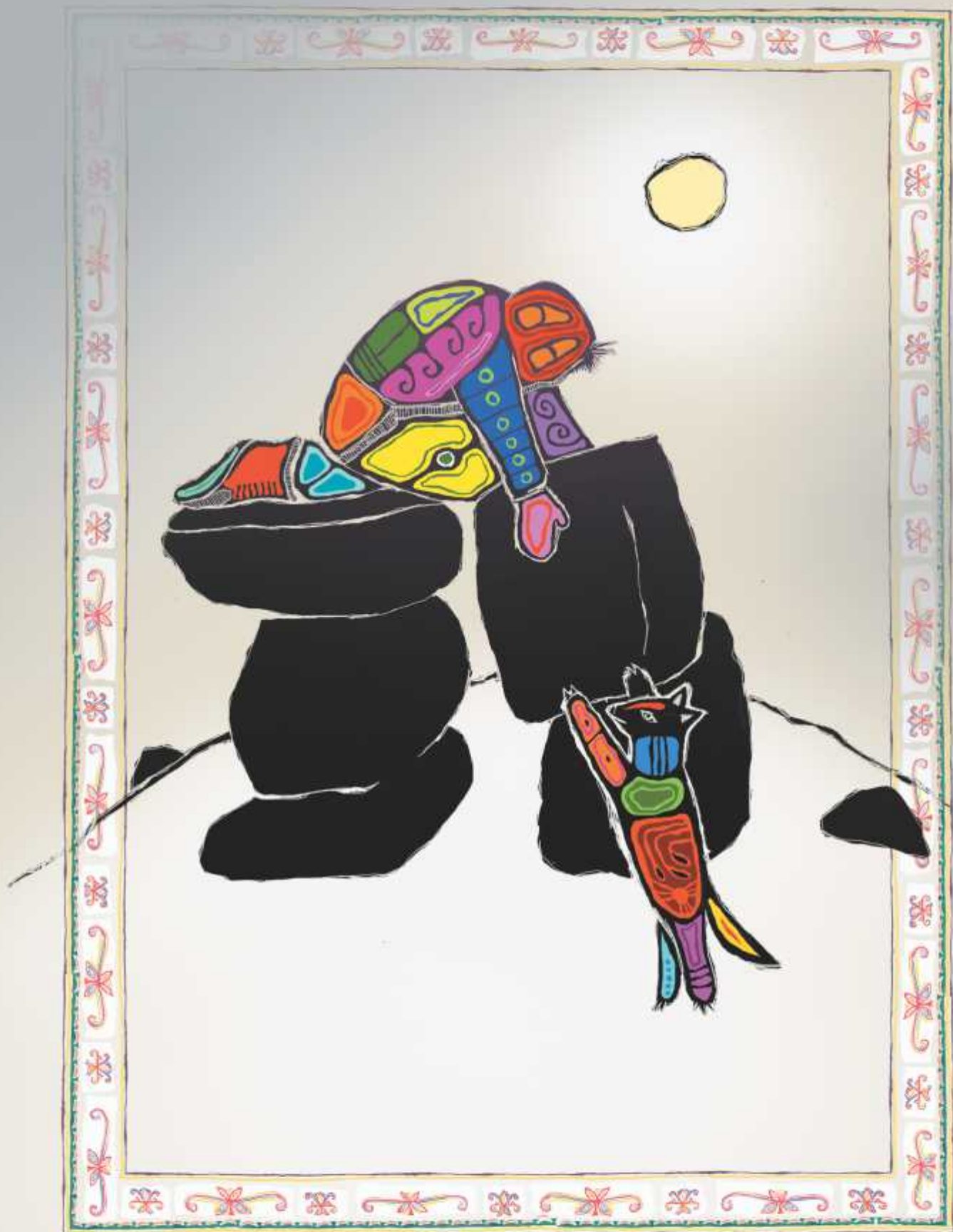


When she awoke,  
Ahnah shared her dream with Akiak.  
It was an idea worth following.  
They started digging a tunnel  
toward the top of the hill.  
Ahnah and Akiak shoveled the snow with kayak paddles.  
They dug with wooden utensils.  
They scooped with bone tools.  
They clawed with bare hands and paws.  
The dog and the girl worked tirelessly  
despite their hunger and thirst.



Many, many hours later,  
they reached the top of the hill.  
Ahnah and Akiak dug out the heavy boulders  
and rebuilt the cairn.  
Ahnah put her favourite necklace  
on the inunnguaq's neck.



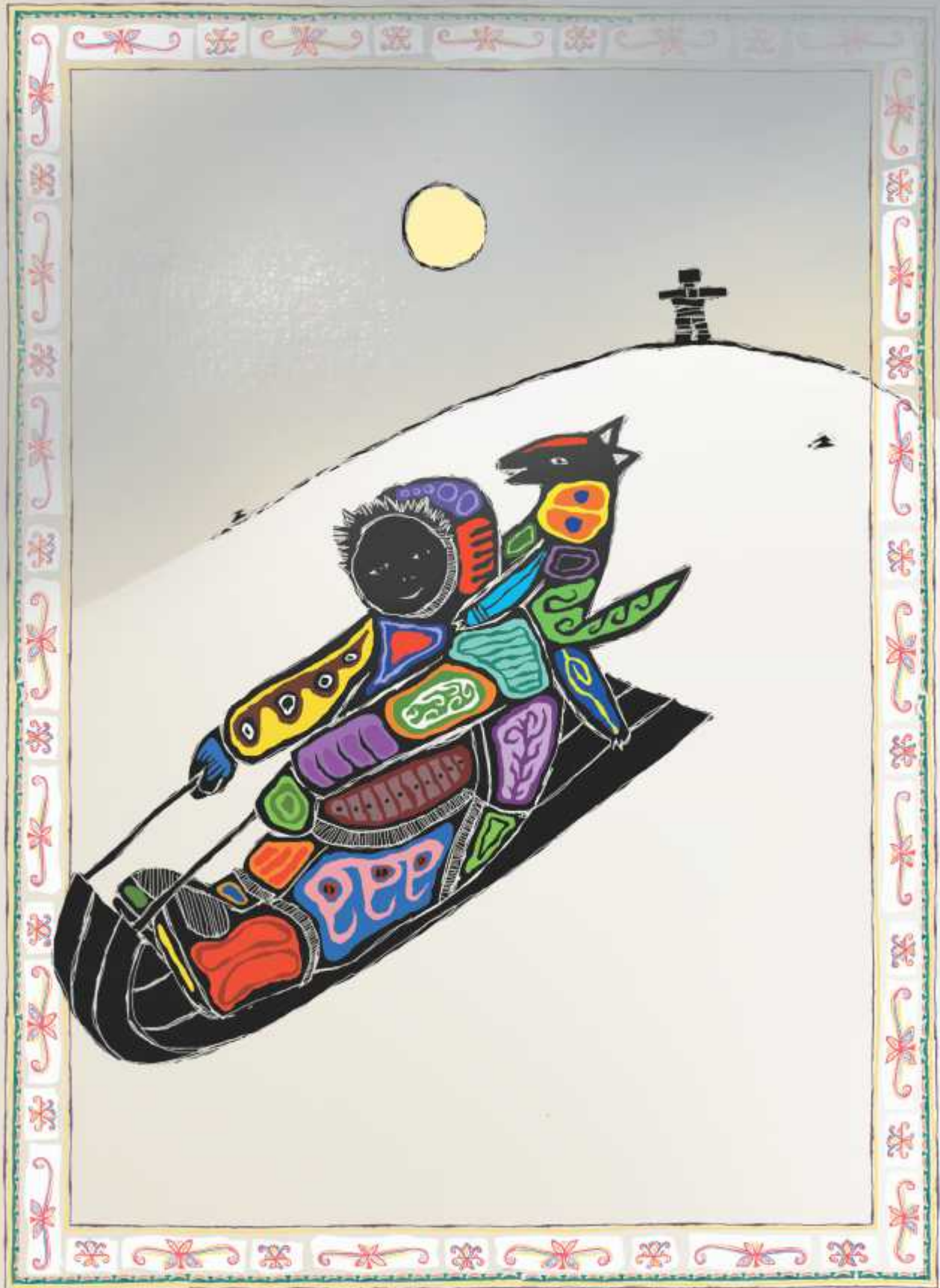


The girl and the dog flattened the snow on the hill  
and made the landmark visible from miles away.

They stopped to admire  
their work for just a moment.

Then they went back to the snow house.  
Both of them were tired and fell asleep as soon  
as they closed their eyes.







While they slept, the inunnguaq flew  
through the darkness to the igloo.  
It silently filled the family sleigh  
with meat and fish,  
then returned to stand as a landmark  
at the top of the hill, its smile wide.





Ahnah awoke to the sound  
of her parents returning.  
They had not gathered any food,  
but they were delighted to be back home  
and to see the family sleigh  
full of edibles.



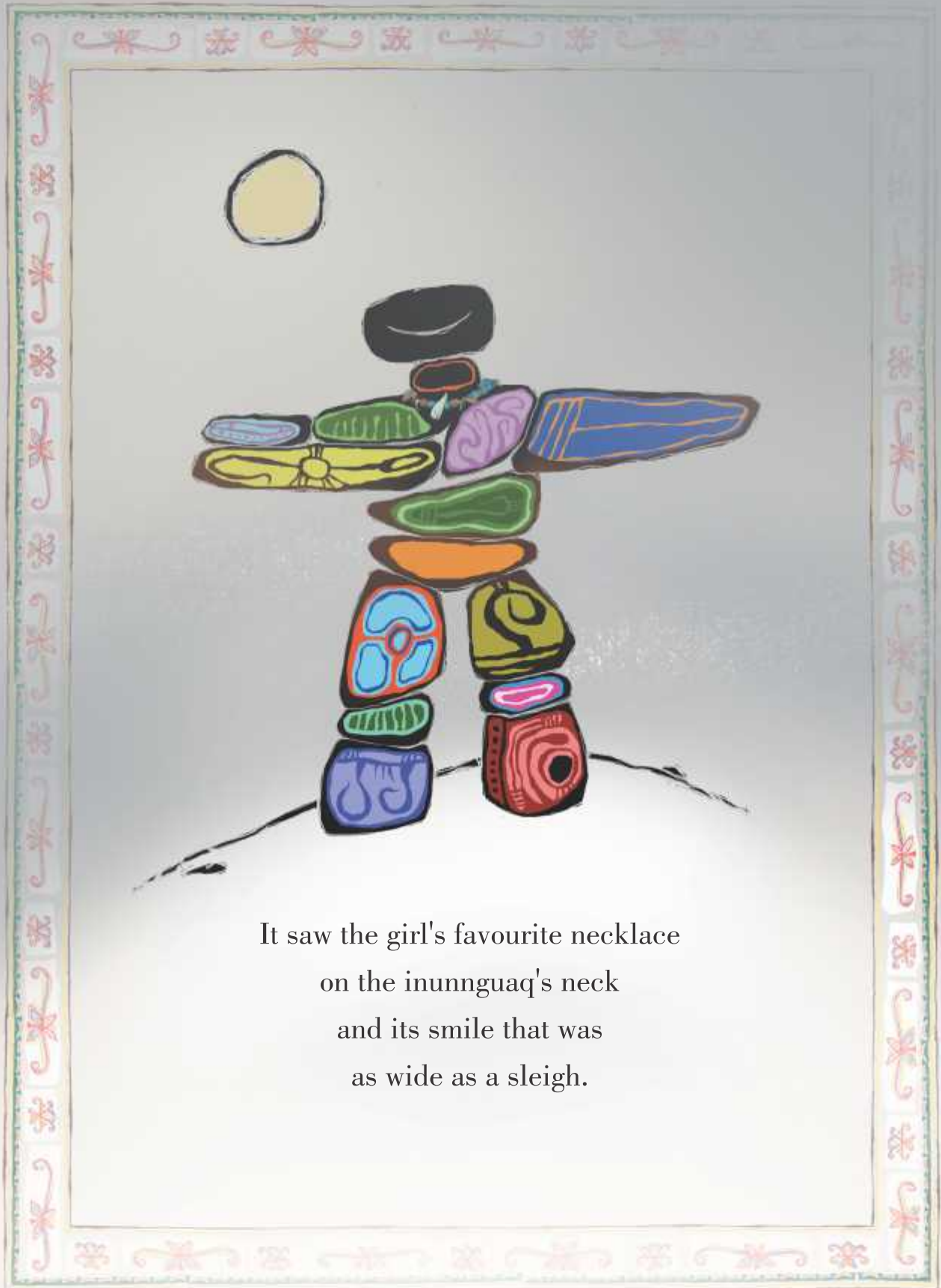
Ahna's mother believed the animal spirits  
had delivered the food.  
Her father thought the little dog  
had brought the meat.  
The girl was sure her parents  
had come back with the meals.  
Even Akiak was puzzled.



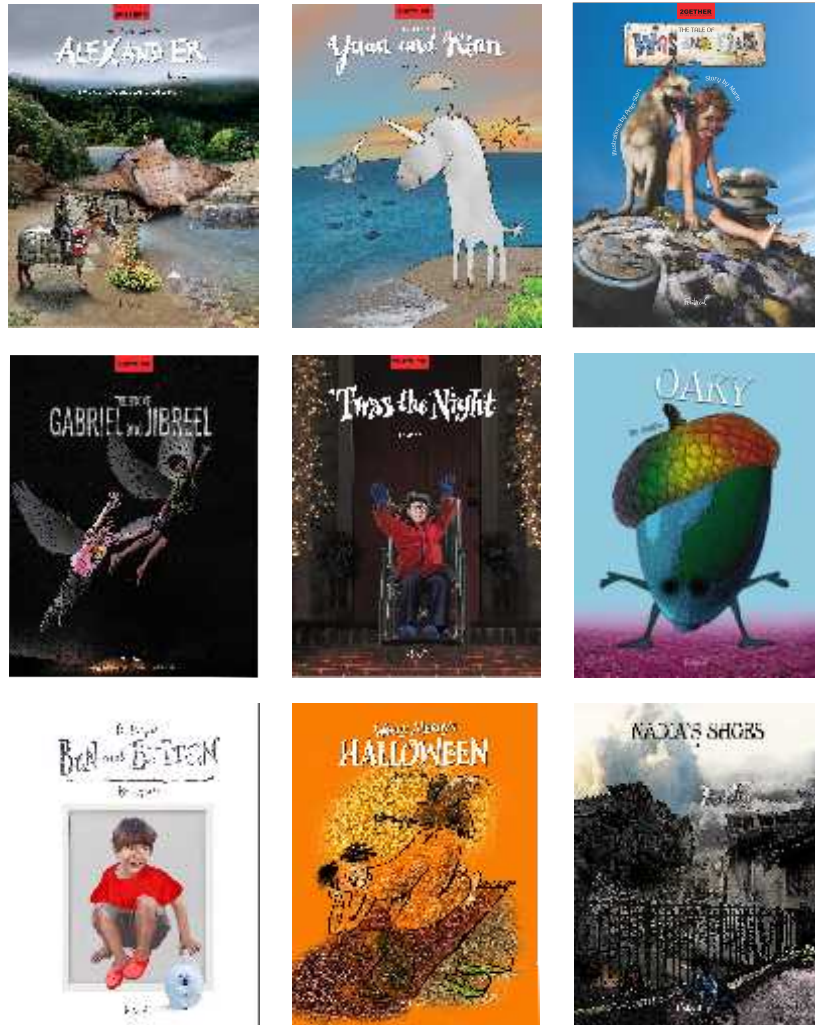


Only the moon knew the truth.  
It had witnessed the flight of the rocky cairn.  
It watched the landmark waving its hands to guide  
Ahnah's parents home.





It saw the girl's favourite necklace  
on the inunnguaq's neck  
and its smile that was  
as wide as a sleigh.



Books by the same author - available on Amazon, Kobo, Barnes and Noble, Google Play, Magicblox, iTunes, ACX, Audible, and other online platforms



Marin Darmonkow  
 lives with his family in Canada.  
 THE SMILE is his tenth published book.  
 The author is all ears. Tree leaves  
 whisper stories all the time and he will share  
 some of them with you in his future publications.



In a land where there is six months night  
and six months day,  
where the wind rarely rests, and food is scarce,  
a girl and her family struggle to survive.  
When mother and father leave to find food,  
Ahnah and her favourite dog, Akiak,  
must endure on their own,  
but by following a dream, they may bring  
a smile to more than one face.

Dear Mighty Reader,

I would be very thankful if you post a review  
about my book on Amazon, your blog, Goodreads  
or any other platform of your choice.

Thank you in advance,  
Marin





want to find more books like this?



This edition of this free ebook was  
brought to you by -

<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read,  
early chapter books, middle grade, young adult

*Always Free – Always will be!*

**Copyright – Legal Notice**

This book has a standard copyright. The permission to publish this FKB version has been provided by the author or publisher to <https://www.FreeKidsBooks.org>. The book may not be re-posted online without the author's express permission.