

BOOK REVIEW

In Search of April Raintree

by Beatrice Culleton

In Search of April Raintree is a sad and moving story about the frustration, resentment, anger and confusion of two sisters trying to make it in a large urban society. Although the novel is fiction, the author admits that much of the story is based on her own experiences as a Metis child who became the ward of the Children's Aid Society.

Both of Mrs. Culleton's sisters committed suicide and the tragedy of their lives, and the tragedy of the Native people (alcoholism, suicide and incarceration) has led her to try and explain the dilemma of the Native experience.

In Search of April Raintree traces the lives of April, her sister Cheryl and their parents who live in a succession of dilapidated houses in urban Manitoba. The parents drink a lot of "medicine" but April doesn't like the way it changes their behavior. She also wonders why no one ever gets better in spite of the amount they drink.

As a result of their parents' alcoholism the sisters are removed from their home and placed in foster homes. Much of the book deals with their lives in an increasingly depressing succession of foster homes where April is treated as virtually a slave laborer while her sister experiences radically different treatment.

The girls emerge as different in their outlook as they are in their appearance. One is fair-skinned, the other is dark. One is ashamed of her ancestry and tries to hide it, the other wears it as a badge of honour.

At one point, April dreams of a future where she could "pass" as a white person. "Being half-breed meant being poor and dirty. It meant being weak and having a drink. It

meant being ugly and stupid. It meant living off white people. And giving your children to white people to look after... When I got free of this place, when I got free of being a foster child, then I would live just like a white person."

On her 18th birthday - her coming of age and the beginning of her freedom from bondage - April returns to Winnipeg, where she lands a good job as a secretary in a law office. Here we come to one unbelievable soap opera-like aspect of the book. April is courted and wooed by a wealthy easterner who marries her and takes her away to his Ivory Tower in Toronto.

As April rises higher up the ladder of white society, Cheryl leaves her studies at the University of Winnipeg and begins to fall lower and lower, becoming disillusioned and succumbing to alcoholism and prostitution. In her efforts to rehabilitate the younger sister, April herself is victimized by a gang of white hoodlums who are convicted and imprisoned after their gang rape.

Cheryl commits suicide and April finds her diary which recounts the despair of a young Native girl trying to lift herself by her bootstraps in the ghetto of Winnipeg core area.

In Search of April Raintree is written in a raw unsentimental style which is occasionally painful to confront. Stretches of the narrative pour forth in cathartic torrents, which may leave some readers in tears. Ms. Culleton's first novel is a powerful story which must have been a very difficult one to write. What the book lacks in literary polish is more than made up for in compassion, understanding and beautifully controlled emotion.

In Search of April Raintree was published by Pemmican Publications and a limited number of copies are available from the Kermode Friendship Centre, 3313 Kalum Street, Terrace, B.C. Beatrice Culleton is on a national tour and was in Terrace on September 29, 1983. (Reprinted from KAINAI NEWS)

THE OLD ONES

And now let us think of the Old Ones. It is they who are our true teachers. Those who have kept the wisdom accumulated over centuries will help in these troubled times. They speak our true language, and it is our instruction that when they speak, we should listen.



OUR WOMEN

It is the women people who gave us our life, who are related to the Mother Earth. We turn our thoughts to you who raise our young children in our ways and languages, who keep our nations on the path of life, who hold purity in your ways and hearts. Women! Remain strong in our ways so that our nations will endure.

(Both excerpts taken from the Akwesasne Notes Calendar Datebook. Available from Akwesasne Notes for \$3.00 each.)



Festival of Values

1982	FORD GRANADA	4 dr., Loaded	2,000 miles	\$7,695
1981	CHEVY IMPALA	4-dr., 6-cyl., PS, PB, Auto. Trans.	46,000 mi	\$5,495
1981	DODGE OMNI	4-dr., Auto Trans., Air	28,000	\$4,995
1979	BUICK REGAL 2-dr., V-6, Auto. Trans., PS, PB, Bucket Seats			\$4,995
1979	FORD THUNDERBIRD	V-8, Auto. Trans., PS, PB, Air, Stereo, 40,000 miles		\$4,995
1979	OLDS 88 HOLIDAY COUPE	V-8, Auto. Trans., PS, PB, Cruise		\$5,295
1979	CHRYSLER LeBARON	2-dr., V-6, Loaded		\$4,695
1977	CHEVY MALIBU	2-dr., 6-cyl., Auto. Trans., PS, PB		\$2,995
— TRUCKS —				
1980	CHEVY 1/2 ton, 4-wd, V-8, AT, PS, PB			\$6,295
1977	PLYMOUTH TRAIL DUSTER, V-8, AT, DP Plow		46,000	\$3,995

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Short time man said to Long time man

oh hey, heres some money
uh, get outta the way
yeab, move aside
need some help?
need aspirins or band aids?
i wanna build a tower, you see
i wanna see the stars
im expecting a message

Long time man said to Short time man
this is my son
look into his eyes
see the fire of the eternal mystery
see the knotted wood
see the medicine root
see the wolf



Short time woman said to Long time woman
bold on to this please
could you watch this?
straighten things out too/heres some money
yeab, my husbands gonna
-show me the stars
theres a message out there somewhere

Longtime woman said to Short time woman
this is my daughier
feel ber belly
feel the strength of the eternal mystery
feel the ocean
feel the wind
feel the shade of the great tree
bear the roots drink deep



the world is ending said
Short time man to Long time man
i leave what is left to you

Long time man said to Long time woman
i thought they would never leave.

— Alex J.

Slavin's Waterbeds

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SLAVIN'S

WATERBED WORLD

CHILDRENS' SECTION

COLOR MY WORLD

THANKSGIVING DINNER MENU

SEARCH-A-WORD

M A S H E D P O T A T O E S
Y X A O R G E R R U E L A T
R Y L T T R A E R S A K E U
R O A R S A S K A E L L E F
E H D O V E N X I D J F F
B S S L L Y R S M P N E F I
N A P L K O D M A T H N O N
A U S S C R S A L A A S C G
R Q X Z I O C Y X E M A A I
C S E I P N I K P M U P R H

Thanksgiving Dinner Menu

Find these words across, backwards, up and down or diagonally to discover a scrumptious Thanksgiving menu to enjoy.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Turkey | Gravy |
| Stuffing | Meat Pies |
| Cranberry | Mashed Potatoes |
| Pumpkin Pies | Squash |
| Hash | Salads |
| Pickles | Hot Rolls |
| Yams | Corn |
| Peas | Tea |
| Coffee | Milk |

TURKEY

Turkeys were hunted for food by the Indian hunters of long ago. Some tribes made pets of turkeys and made them tame. There are many turkey farms now in America, because Indians saw how useful they could be to our people.

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. reflexive | 2. lag |
| 5. agile | 3. complex |
| 6. species | 4. induced |
| 8. primate | 5. acquire |
| 9. deficit | 7. capacity |

THANKSGIVING SCRAMBLE

- Thinnaggvisk
- Yukter
- Banciererrrs
- muppnik epi
- desham stopeato
- snidergs
- dalssa
- vargy
- shaquus
- plecap ipc

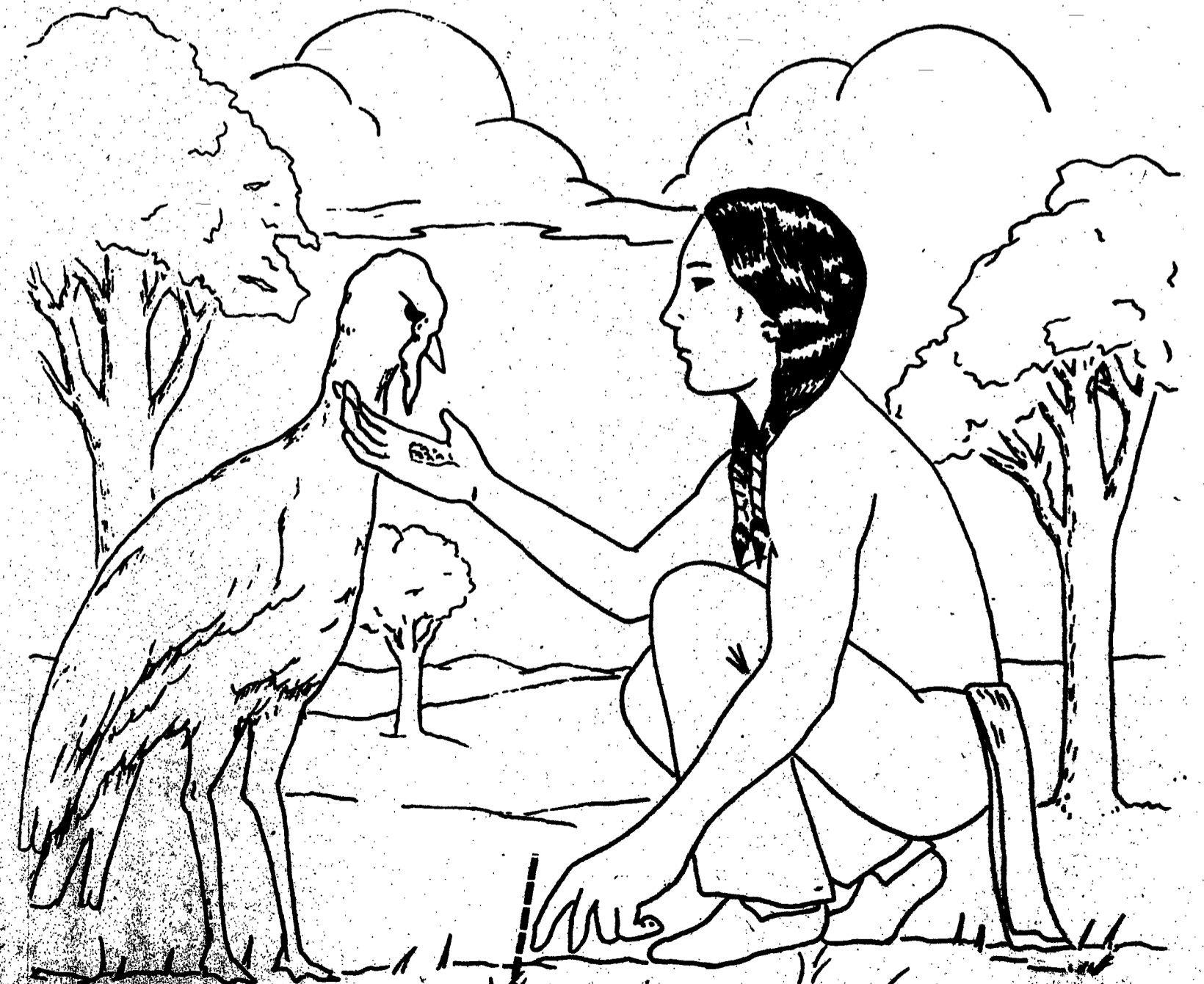


Illustration from "A Coloring Book of Con-... People of the Americas," Pro-

duced by the North American Indian Travelling College, RR #3, Cornwall Island, Ontario K6H 5R7)