



Those That Cause Fear

Illustrated by Germaine Arnaktauyok

By Neil Christopher



This book is for my daughter, Amber Arnaktauyok.
—G.A.

For my little monster, Mia-Laure.
—N.C.

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Arctic Monsters

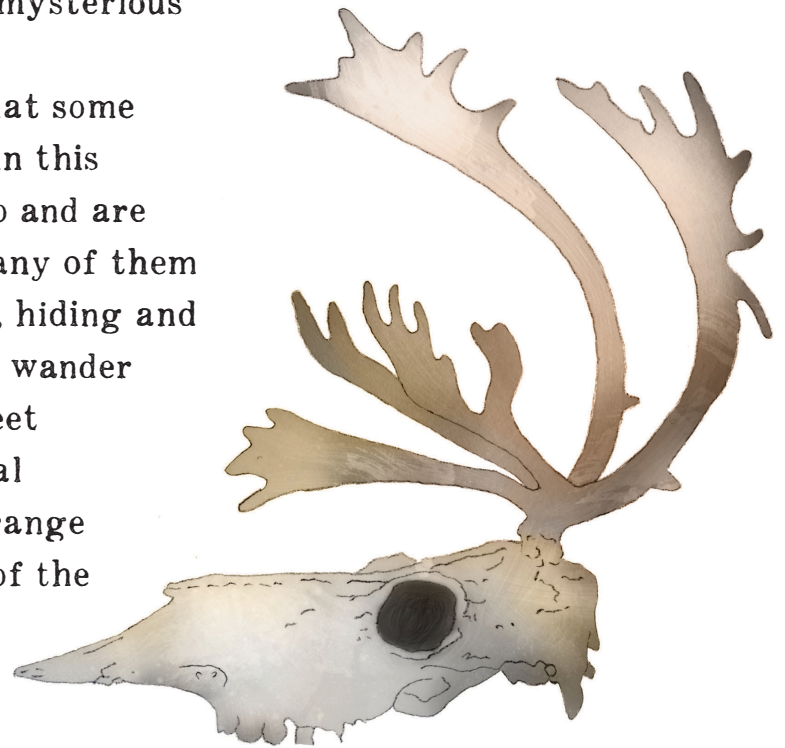
Try to imagine the dangers of living in the Arctic—what comes to mind? Did you think about the winter blizzards that bring powerful winds and blinding snow? It is true that blizzards are dangerous, as you can easily lose your way if you are not careful. Did you think of the dangers of travelling on the sea ice? It is true that the sea ice can shift and break, and can take people far out to sea away from their homes. Perhaps you imagined the huge animals, like polar bears or wolves? You would be correct, as these animals are large and strong, and need to be respected at all times.

But this book is not about those dangers. This book is about the dangers that lurk in the northern darkness and in the remote places of the Arctic. As you turn the pages of this book, you will be introduced to the things that go bump in the Arctic nights. This book is about Arctic monsters!

If you listen to hunters and elders telling stories about the North, you will find that some of the stories make reference to strange things that have been encountered on the tundra or sea ice.

I have spent years listening to these old stories, and researching the journals of Arctic explorers from long ago. I have gathered this information and presented some of it here in this book for those who are drawn to the mysterious things of the world.

An important thing to note is that some of the beings and creatures discussed in this book are said to have existed long ago and are no longer present in the world. But many of them are thought to still be out on the land, hiding and waiting for an unsuspecting person to wander close. So, sit back and get ready to meet the giants, cruel ogresses, supernatural creatures, beautiful sea people, and strange beings that inhabit the hidden world of the Arctic.





Amautalik

Those who wander the inland tundra, far away from the seacoast, should be watchful for a dangerous giant called an *amautalik*. An amautalik is an ancient ogress, both large and cruel, who wanders the tundra looking for children and lost travellers. These beings resemble large, monstrous women. They either wear an *amauti*—a parka used for carrying children—made of thick walrus skin, or they carry a basket made of driftwood, bones, and antler, lashed together with rotting seaweed. When people are caught, the amautalik will place its victims in the amauti's pouch or in the basket it carries to steal them away.



Dog Children

Those who hear the howls of dogs as they travel through remote regions of the North, beware! These sounds might not be the calls of sled dogs. They could be the calls of dangerous creatures that are part dog and part human.

Inuit elders tell the ancient story of a woman who was tricked into marrying a land spirit. Eventually she became pregnant, and gave birth to children that were a mixture of dog and human—the dog children! These dog children grew quickly and became very dangerous. In some regions of the Arctic, they say these dog children still wander the tundra looking for lone travellers and people who have lost their way.



Palraijuq

When travelling in the Western Arctic, you need to take care near rivers, ponds, and lakes, as these places are the habitat of the *palraijuq*. At one time, these aquatic monsters were common, but now there are very few left. The palraijuq is a large, reptilian creature with a long snakelike body that possesses six legs. This creature uses the water to hide itself. It is said that a palraijuq can lie motionless underwater for days while it waits for an animal or human to come to the water's edge for a drink. Once its prey is close, the palraijuq will leap out of the water, grabbing its victim in its huge mouth filled with hundreds of sharp teeth. Then the palraijuq will drag what it has caught underwater to drown it.



Earth Children

Imagine what the North was like a long time ago. Many things were different back then. If we listen to Inuit storytellers, we will learn that there were very few Inuit living on the land in those times. But those ancient days were a time of magic, and we are told that the land gave birth to children. These children were found on the ground and were adopted by the people who happened upon them. These children were sometimes called *nunamiinngaaqtut*, a word meaning “from the land.” The earth children helped Inuit increase in number. They were just like any other human beings, but with a deeper connection to the land.



Iqallijuq

If you travel across the tundra, you will likely encounter many rivers and streams that weave across the land on their way to the sea. These waters are often rich with fish. Old stories tell us that these fish were the creation of a huge man and his magic axe. Inuit folktales tell us that this being was large and extremely ugly. It is said that he chopped old driftwood with his magical stone axe. With each strike from this axe, wood splinters would be thrown into the water. As soon as these pieces of wood touched the water, they were transformed into the char that are so common in the North. Because of this, the man is sometimes called *Iqallijuq*, meaning “Father of Char.” It is because of this huge man that Arctic lakes and rivers are filled with fish.

Travellers beware: although this huge being did the North a great service by creating the fish that feed so many northerners, he is to be avoided. The old stories tell us that he is ashamed of his ugly appearance, and will use his axe to harm anyone who might see him.



Giant Fish

Have you ever gone fishing in a lake? Well, in the North, this can sometimes be dangerous! In remote Arctic lakes, it is said that codfish can sometimes grow to huge sizes. You will hear many storytellers from different regions mention these giant fish. It is said that they can grow large enough to swallow ducks and geese, and the largest of the giant codfish can even catch a caribou or a human that has fallen into the water!

Inuktitut Pronunciation Guide

Aasivak	aa-see-vac	nanurluk	na-nur-look
akla Inua	ak-la ee-new-a	nanurluit	na-nor-loo-weet
amarujjuat	a-ma-ru-jew-at	Nuliajuk	new-lee-a-yuk
amautalik	a-mow-ta-lik	nunamiinngaaqtut	new-na-men-ga-toot
amauti	a-mow-tee	palraijuq	pile-ray-yuk
Inukpasugjuk	ee-nok-pa-sew-yok	qallupilluk	ka-loo-peel-look
Inukpasarjujuk	ee-nok-pa-sar-yo-yok	qallupilluit	ka-loo-peel-loo-weet
inuksuit	in-uk-su-weet	taliillajuq	ta-lee-la-yuk
Iqallijuq	ee-kal-li-yok	taliillajuut	ta-lee-la-yut
kajjait	ka-yah-t	Tuniit	to-neat
Mahahaa	ma-ha-haa	ulu	oo-loo

