



Grandmother's Stories: How the Earth and Sky Began

Daniel Auger

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Daniel Auger's grandmother was the greatest storyteller he ever knew. In her soft voice, she spoke of heroes and giants, of evil deeds and mysterious spirits. Born on a reserve and educated at an Indian residential school, she was intensely curious about the old ways. In her quest to find out who we are and where we came from, she collected stories from her home community and from her journeys to powwows, sweats, potlatches and family events across North America. This collection of 38 Native myths is a timeless window onto a world when the People were first created:

* The Sun created the Earth and the people on it, but when they began to kill one another, the Sun wept until the entire world drowned. Only one woman and an old man survived, who repopulated the Earth.

* Water once covered the world, and the Creator sent Muskrat to the bottom of the Ocean to see what was there. Muskrat returned with a ball of mud, which the Creator transformed in the Earth and all living things on it.

* The trickster Raven opened a giant clamshell he found washed upon the beach, and when he opened it, out popped tiny human beings.

* In a world that existed before our own, people lived in great longhouses in the sky around a beautiful celestial tree. One day a man uprooted the tree, and when his wife looked into the hole she fell down below to the world we know today.

* Old Man came from the south and made the world as he walked along. One day he made a man and a woman out of clay, and Old Man taught them how to survive in the world he created.

From the back cover, by Daniel Auger, the author: Many of the stories my grandmother told me are buried in the mist of my lost youth, so I have turned to other friends with more vivid memories to help me understand the source of how we came to be here and how we belong on this earth. These stories speak of the magic and mysticism that feed our need to understand who we once were; they are a timeless window onto a world when the People were first created. Daniel Auger

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