

Na Opinkw

by Julie Ershadi

Alewikaonink nelematahpi. Sukelan ok sasapelehele. Mpasukwi ok nkentka.
On the porch I sit. It is raining and there is lightning. I get up and I dance

Ntalakihela. Nkahes um wikewamink ok luwe, “Kulinakwsi.
I jump around. My mother she comes from the house and says, “You look good.

Nkata kentka shek kench nemikemosi. Kuwatun hech kux ok kxans
I want I dance but must I work. You know it ? your father and your-brother

alapa xu umok menupekunk?” Nteluwe “Ku.
tomorrow will they come from the lake I said no

Keku hech kemikentamuhemo nek ki ok nuhuma?
What ? you all are doing those you and my grandmother?

Chinke hech xu ahpuwak?” Luwe, “Newixenin xinklokwenipuwakan.
When ? will they are here? She said, We are cooking it a big dinner.

Xu nemilawenanak xaheli otaesak. Xu kota kawiyok kux ok kxans.
will we give them many flowers will they want they sleep your father and your brother

Xu kshixtunena nel enta kawinka.
will we wash them the bedrooms

Xu Nulelintamuhena enta pat kux. Xu nteluwehena ‘kaholeluhena!’ ” Luwe,
will we are glad when comes your father. will we say ‘We love you!’ she said,

“Sukelan. May kpapi. Weli kishku.” Machu. Sipung mpemeska.
it is raining. go you play. It's a good day she goes home. to the river I walk

Mpenamen ne pemapanink. Lekhikwi ntakohchi. Mpenamen na haki.
I look at it the sky at this time i am cold I look at it the ground

Ika, hitkwike, kixki na mpi, neyo
There, among the trees, near the water, I see him

opinkw. Wulhatunena xinkwipita ok sekeyo weshkinko. Yukwe somi ntalemi.
opossum. He had them big teeth and black eyes. Now very I was scared.

Na opinkw alenixsu. Luwe, “Skixkwe. Knewel keshihela tekenink.
The opossum he speaks Lenape. He said, “Young woman. I see you you run in the forest.

Kepentul ktasuwi. Newinkatam. Kuwahaok hech nek awenhakeyok?
I hear you you sing I like it you know them ? the Indians

Wikuweyok yu tali lomewe.” Nteluwe, “Kehela!
They lived here long ago.” I said, “Surely!

Nkata Lenapeowsi! Xu kewichemi hech?” Luwe, “E-e. Kewichemilch.
I want to live the Lenape way! Will you help me ? He said, “Yes. I will help you.

Wentaxa alapa. Kelenemenen oselenikan.”

Come here tomorrow. You carry it a lantern

Nemachi. tela nkahe kupene na opinkw.

I went home. I tell her my-mother about the opossum.

Wixenina nel tipasi pakawenikana enta wixenink.

She is cooking the chicken dumplings in the kitchen

Luwe, “Kux ok kxans xu kota uwatuneyo

She says, “Your father and your-brother will want they know it

Nteluwe, “Xu ntelaok opanke. May nkawi.

I say Will I tell them tomorrow go I sleep