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Narrator: *Kaasgéiy* Susie James

Title: *Yéil ka Kéet* / Raven and the Killerwhales

Recording: late 1960s, Sitka, *Kaatl'éix* Mary Pelayo

Transcription: *Keixwnéi* Nora Marks Dauenhauer, *Dzéiwsh* James Crippen, *Keiyishí* Bessie Cooley, *X'unei* Lance Twitchell

Introduction:

The plot in this story is fairly complicated. Raven wants to trick the Killerwhale people out of their store of fat so he pretends to be a woman in need. ‘She’ has Mink as her ‘baby’, hitches a ride in the Killerwhales’ canoe, and begins to eat the fat intended for her baby.

This particular story is rarely told. A version by *Kaadashaan* was recorded by Swanton (1909: 114–116). *Kaasgéiy* Susie James provides much more detail than the narrative by *Kaadashaan*, including the existence of the Low-tide Mink that Raven takes as a baby, [ETC].

The first 2 minutes and 41 seconds of the narrative were not originally transcribed by *Keixwnéi* Nora Dauenhauer, presumably having missed this portion in her process of transcribing from cassette tape. This segment of the narrative was transcribed and translated separately by *Dzéiwsh* James Crippen and *Keiyishí* Bessie Cooley on 4 July 2015. It is the end of a different story that *Kaasgéiy* Susie James seems to have told after the tape ran out in recording the preceding story, and may be the end of that story.

Text:

1	Aagáa awé tle tle yak'éi áwé yéi kuyaawaḡaa.	And then at that time then something good was said.
	<i>Kaa</i> tónáḡ yaawaxíx: yak'éi haawú áhé haa kaawú l woowu gáa yak'éi [?]	It went through the minds of people: it's good he's around us, he didn't walk over us [?]
5	Áwé tle yú áwé yaḡ shawdudzixék'w wé áwé kéet. Tle yá kéet shóot áwé shawdzixék'w wé	And then that it was slurped up by that killer whale there. Then that killer whale slurped to the end of it

	wé s'áawx' sáani, yées káax'w sáani	the little crabs, young people.
	tle yóode,tle wé	then way over there, then that
10	wé yáay tsú kaa xoo. Á áwé hú ku.aa. Hú ku.aa áwé tle, tle k'óox' du jée.	that whale was among the people as well. And him there. Him, though, then he had some pitch.
	Goot sákwhíwé du jéet kawdiyáa we k'óox' wé Yéil ku.aa?	Where did that pitch come to him from, though, that Raven?
15	Áwé tle kaa jeet awsi.in. «Yee waak xá gaxyik'úx' yéi yee waak. yee waak wé s'áawx' sáani.» Yee waak gaxyik'óox'.	And then he gave it to people. "You all are going to pitch up your eyes. your eyes, those little crabs." You all are going to put pitch on your eyes.
	Áwé ldakát yú yax ash yéi yeewsixá ku.éex'i tlein áwé kaa waagí wuduwak'óox'	He ate up every one you at a big potlatch, and pitch was put on the people's eyes.
20	Áwé yú s'áawx' sáani ku.aa yéi h x'ayaká: «haadáa!	All of those little crabs said: "oh my!
	Haadé shí k'é ch'as kaa waagí kudzitee gé?»	Where the people's eyes over this way?"
	Tle ldakát ch'ás du daat has aléet wook'óox'.	He scatters them all around himself, they are pitched up.
	Ách áwé yóo.á kawdlijéchx tsá.	Because of this, they say, he merely surprised them.
	Has du daadé s aawalít tlél has du waak has aawagook.	He spread them all around himself, their eye's were blinded.
25	Áwé yú kasiyidéin at ká s daashxít ka aax áwé has aawat'úk. Gwáa!	And they ran around on it like crazy, and he just shot them off from it. Hey!
	Ch'u tle gaaw wé shux'wáa katáanáx daak lidák.	And then the first chance he got, he steamed them in a pit.

náḵ naadaa yú kéet	he leaves it behind, and heads towards that killer whale.
Yá ḵaa éenináḵ sá gíwé tlakw ḵaa téiḵ' tóoḵaa tsá wé gáḵw.	This one under the armpits, perhaps, it is one that stabs the heart, that hard wood.
30 Tliyéi tsu a kát yaa shunalxíx gé?	Did he stop eating all of the food there?
Áwé du ḵoonx'í has niyaadé a yáḵ áwé has áwé haa wsiteen.	And his friends, they are over there, and it is like they can see us.
Ḷaa téiḵ' tóodé has	It is going into the heart,
a tsú wé gáḵw.	this hard wood, too.
Góok!	Go!
35 Kéet has luwagóoḵ.	Killer whales are running.
Óo, goosh téx'!	My, the heart of the dorsal fin,
héent has luwagooḵ.	they are running into the water.
Áwé a tóox hél toowú sákw saa yé hóoch' áwé ch'a saduwax'áḵw tle.	And then inside it there would be no spirit, the name is gone, it was forgotten then.
Ḷu.éex' áwé yoo ksiník.	It is called «ḵe.éex'».
40 A kát has shoowlixeex áwé kei dagook wé.	They ate it all up, they really know how to do that.
Gaa yeisú a duwaxáḵ'w anáḵ.	It's still okay, that people forget about it.
Ḷúnáḵ aa duwaxaa.	They are really paddling there [?]
Gunei áwé yáḵ saxáa áwé.	He began to eat it all up.
Wé kéet aax áwé ch'a gunei uwagút.	Be began to walk away from the killer whales
45 Yóoxde niyaat áwé yaa nagút.	He is walking way over that way.
Wé leint uwagút.	He walks to the tideflats.
Hé!	My!
Lein áwé,	The tideflats,
yān uwalāa	the tide had gone out.
50 Lein áwé káḵ .áa	He is sitting on the tideflats.
Áa gíwé ash yawdudziḵaa: mmm!	And then maybe it was said to him: hey!
xát áyá l ka.aa tsá!	it's me, don't sit on me!

	Tlé du ká kgwasteech.	He is going to keep putting it on him
	Kadaḡwáal ch'u tle wé yeisú.	He is just trembling there still.
55	Hadáa!	Oh my!
	Hadáa!!	Oh my goodness!!
	Chookánsháa k̄a s k̄aa shát káalk'u áyá ḡat dateeyí.	Women of the Chookaneidí and the paternal nephews of those wives did this to me.
	Dzéex'w gíwé tle yéi yaawaḡaa.	Maybe those baby clams said it.
	Á há'!	Well!
60	Á há'! Tle ch'a yaa gíwé aawashát du yakaayí.	Well! Then maybe he just held it out in front of him.
	« Yaax ḡat ḡaysagú! »	“Take me aboard with you!”
	Hé'! Yaḡ shayawlihík taay wé,	My! They were crammed full of fat, the boats of
	wé kéet.	the Killerwhales
	Taaych yaḡ shayawlihít wé yaakwx'.	The boats were filled with fat.
65	« Dáḡde s'é kḡwashéex. »	“First I'll run up into the woods.”
	Du shoodé yan dul.aat áwé tle yú	When they steered ashore for her
	áwé aawashaadi léini k'óoxk'u áwé tle du jée.	she had in her arms a little low-tide mink she had caught.
	Aan áwé tsú wé du yeik ká du tooch wulichéesh awunoogú	With it, too, the spirit of it, she thought herself to sit
	wé yaakw s'aatí ḡán.	near the skipper of the boat.
70	Tle wé gunéi kawduwanaa wé yaakw, hé'!	They began to chant in the boat, oh my!
	Kadunaa áwé wé aḡaa,	They're chanting, keeping time with the paddles.
	wé Lukshiyaank' gúcx'u wé aax yaḡ ayatáx'.	She bites off the ears of that tiny mink.
	« Dzáax! Dzáax! »	“Waaa! Waaa!”
	Ash jeedé kdagáax.	He's crying in her arms.
75	« Wáa sá, wáa sá daa eené? Wáa sá ḡ'ayaḡá? Wáa sáwé wé i yátk'u? »	“What the, what are you doing? What did he say? What's wrong with your baby?”

	« Ha, dé ch'a wé taay xáawé akawdzigáax. »	“Well, he’s crying for some of the fat.
	Wé taay. »	That fat.”
	Hé! Wé tsaá taayí.	My! That seal fat.
	« Du jeet aa xásh! du jeet aa xásh! »	“Cut some for him! Cut some for him!”
80	Daa sákwhé wé lítaax has awliyéx? Du jeet at diwát’.	I wonder what they used for a knife? Something grew in their hands.
	Ch’u yú kaa waḵkooyekgi áwé tle a x’anák ananút’ch.	While they weren’t looking she would swallow it from the baby.
	Hél tsú ch’u du x’éix akooda.oo wé.	None of it goes into the mouth
	Lukshiyaank’ ku.aa,	of the mink.
	Ch’a hóoch áwé ananút’ch a x’anák.	It’s Raven who keeps swallowing it from its mouth.
85	Ch’a l yei wuwáat’i áwé tle tsu ash jeedé kei kwdagaaxch.	It’s not long after that he starts crying into her arms again.
	X’oon aa du jeet duxaash sáwé dé yéi yawdudzika,	How many times are they cutting some for him before she was asked,
	wé yaakw s’aatich,	by the skipper of the boat,
	wé a t’ika aach:	that one out past it:
	« Wáa sáwé iyasáakw wé i yátk’u, wáa sá? »	"what is that child of yours, what?
90	Wáa sáwé iyasáakw? »	What do you call it?”
	« Gayéis’ Katléikw Tík’i Éesh áhé. »	“This is Iron Berry Line Father.”
	Aadóoch sákwhí du een kaṇeek gayéis’ yei kukgwasteeyí?	I wonder who told him about iron existing?
	Aadé kagaxádi yé.	The way it resembles it.
	« Gayéis’ Katléikw Tík’i Éesh áhé,	“This is Iron Berry Line Father,
95	Gayéis’ Katléikw Tík’i » yóo.á.	Iron Berry Line,” they say
	« Gayéis’ Katléikw Tík’i. »	“Iron Berry Line.”
	Ch’a yú ...	Just that ...
	yú a t’ika át áx’ kéetch	that killerwhale on the outside of it.
	Kéet hóoch asháa	The killer whale who married Raven
100	Aagáa gushíwé tsá Gayéis’ Katléikw Tík’i	Only then, perhaps, did that killerwhale

	Éeshx̣ wusitee wé kéeṭ ku.aa.	become Iron Berry Line's father.
	Wé yaakẉ ayasataní áwé sḥ jiẉdlihaa dé,	That one steering the boat, she came with him now,
	du x̣úx̣ sáḳw.	her husband-to-be.
	G̣unyéi ḳóox̣, yaṇ ḳuyagóo áwé yeisú dé,	The boat began to go, and the people were still going in a fleet towards the shore then,
	hé'!	my!
	Wé aanṭkeeni tlein.	Those big villagers.
105	X'éigaa daa wdudziḳúx̣ wé taay.	Truly transporting that fat around.
	Át gákụ tláakẉ at kaaxát.	That hard wood was quickly fastened to it.
	Áwé tle hú ku.aa	And her, though,
	yéi a daa kei tuwdishát du x̣úx̣ kei gajaagí.	she suddenly thought about killing her husband.
	Kei gajaaḳ.	Killing him.
110	Áwé tle gákẉgaa áwé woogoot.	And then she went walking after that hard wood.
	A loowú lak'áats' wéit'aat áwé.	This one has a sharp nose.
	A teix' tóode aawatsaaḳ, wé	She stabs it through the heart, with that
	wé a loowú lak'áats' aaní gákw.	sharp nosed hard wood.
	Tle ách áwé awlijáḳ du x̣úx̣.	With this she kills her husband.
115	Ch'a yák'w de áwé kei kawdigáx̣ Yéil:	All of a sudden Raven started to cry out:
	« Haaaa!	“Waaaa!
	Haaaa!	Waaaa!
	Haaaa!	Waaaa!
	Haaaa!»	Waaaa!”
120	« Wáa sá ikawdiyaa? » yóo yawdudzikạa.	“What happened to you?” people said.
	« Ax̣ x̣úx̣ teix' wook'óots!	“My husband had a heart attack!
	Ax̣ x̣úx̣ teix' wook'óots!	My husband had a heart attack!
	Haaaa! »	Waaaa!”
	aagáa daa gáax̣.	she's crying about it.

125	Du áx' tle ash jiyaguwashíx gíwé wé lukshiyaan yádi. « Yéi x'ayaḱaaayín áx xúx,	Then that baby mink was running all over her. “My husband always used to say
	< Xat naḱáani x'wán, ch'a hé x'aa lukanáx xat kagaaxdus.haa. Ch'a hé x'aa lukaa kei xat gadusháat »» yóo x'ayaḱaaayín ax xúx.	‘When I die, please just bury me on that peninsula. Just carry me onto to that peninsula” my husband would say.
130	A yáx x'wán du een yéi jinayné. Ch'a wé x'aa lukáx' kei gashaadí, wé tliyaa, aadé gasháat. »	Please work on doing this to him. Just carry him down to that peninsula, the one over there, carry him down there.”
	Du x'éigaa tsú aduḱoogún. Áwé wé kéet tlein áwé wé x'aa lukaa kei wduwashát.	People did as she said. This huge killerwhale was carried over to that peninsula.
135	Aadé áwé nagúтч gaax shoodé. De axá síwé gé, de yaa anaskít ásíwé gé, wé kéet tlein? Aagáa áwé tle kei akoogáaxch aadé: [song]: Gayeis' Katleikw Tik'i Eesh, ei Haa naa gagook gagoo, gagook gagoo.	She wanted to go over there to cry. But she's eating him, isn't she, eating him up, this huge killerwhale? This is when she starts crying to it: [song:] Iron Berry Line Father, hey Our clan's expert swimmer, expert swimmer.
140	Áwé gáax nooch aadé. Gayeis' Katleikw Tik'i Eesh, ei Haa naa gagook gagoo. A shukwát áwé gáax nooch. Haa naa gagoo.	She was crying towards it. Iron Berry Line Father, hey Our clan's expert swimmer. Before she would always cry. Our clan swimmer.
145	[end song] Anax haat gagóot áwé, yaa ax'aklatáx' wé k'óox'. Áwé tle yá aan x'ayéet naa.aadích áwé tle yei yanasḱeich, «Shéi!	[end song] When she came along she's chewing gum. So the people going along the village say to her, "Hey!

	haa x'éit agáłts'ík i k'óox'u. »	we're whining for a piece of your gum.”
	« Jaa!	“Hush!
150	L góot kaa x'éigaa uwatiyi naa ch'u k'óox'u áyá xatáax'. »	This gum I'm chewing can't be chewed by just anyone's clan.”
	Tle yóo áwé yanakeich hú ku.aa, « L góot kaa x'éigaa uwatiyi naa ch'u k'óox'u áyá xatáax'. »	That's what she would say, though, “This gum I'm chewing can't be chewed by just anyone's clan.”
	Ho!	Ho!
	Aadé kaaxát de.	That's how he looks.
155	Wáa nanéi sáwé a daa kuyaawa.aa. Aadé yoo kwdzigítgi yé.	At some point people realized what he was doing. This was how he did things.
	Aadáx sh jiwlihaa.	He got himself out of there.
	Tsu á gunéi sh kudziyáa áwé wé kéet áx',	He's beginning to travel, himself, those killerwhales there,
160	kutx ashulixeexi yé.	the place where he wiped them out.