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Narrator: *Kaasgéiy* Susie James

Title: *Yéil ka Yáay* / Raven and Whale

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

Transcription: *Kéixwnéi* Nora Marks Dauenhauer

Introduction:

This is an introduction.

Text:

1	Át sh jiwldlihaa áwé, wé yáay, anax kei x'ákji yé. Hí'!	He came upon it, the whale, where it was emerging from the sea. Wow!
5	[?? – ??] É'!	Hey!
	Yú kéet – yáay. « K'é yan yakayéi áyú, k'é a yíkde n̄kadaḱeení »	That killerwhale – whale. “Let me wait for it so I can fly into it.”
10	tle yóo tuwatée. Tle kéi wux'aagí áwé, yan aḱawuḱeigí, tle yíkde wdiḱeen. Tle hóoch'.	is what he thought. Then the whale emerged as he was waiting and he flew into it. That was it then.
	De du jeewú áwé x'aan ku.aa,	And he had already gotten fire,
15	K'ákwk' du jeenax̄ yan aḱawsiyeigí, du uxgankáas'. ¹ A yíx' áwé tle shóot awdi.ák; gwál gán tsú yei awsinéi. A yíx' áwé tle shóot awdi.ák.	that Little Owl had brought in for him, his matches. He made a fire inside it; he probably also had firewood. He made a fire inside it.
20	Hé'! Tle wé du x'aani ch'ookx̄ áwé ka.áa wé yaaw.	My! Herring were pouring in by the edge of the fire.

	Tláakw woonei atgalt'óos'.	He was busy barbecueing.
	Tláakw!	Hurry!
	Tláakw!	Hurry!
	Tláakw!	Hurry!
25	Gwál ch'a wáa sákwshíwé eex tle yoo asinút'k, wé yaaw.	Perhaps he's just somehow swallowing the oil of those herring.
	Wáa nanéi sáwé shoowaxeex wé yaaw, hóoch'?	At some poing the herring had disappeared, all gone.
	Tle ch'a yaa nax'ák, ch'a yaa nax'ák.	The whale just keeps on going, it just keeps on going.
	Yeisú de yá a yik.ádi ku.aa.	Presently he started on its innards.
30	Atx axáash wé yaandéin nanéi, t'óos', t'óos'.	When he got hungry he cut them down, barbecue, barbecue.
	Wáa nanéi sákwshéwé kúnáx a téix't ayaawashát.	At some point I guess he really grabbed its heart.
	Hóoch'k'.	It's finished.
	Haahá,	Yes indeed,
35	du een gunayéi wlitít, too aawanúk.	it began to drift with him, he could feel it.
	Du een kéi uwatán.	It breached with him.
	Hé! Gashgitch.	My! It would drop.
	A téix't lítaa ayasháat ásiwégé, daa sákwshíwé lítaa awliyéx'?	I guess he cut the heart with a knife, what was it that he used as a knife?
40	Yáax' áwé gunéi wulitít du een.	Here it began to roll with him.
	« Lik'éiyi yéide shéi-ei-ei-ei-ei, x̄aan galahaashí » yóo.á.	“Ma-a-a-ay it float with me to a fine place” he said.
	« Lik'éiyi yéit kwshí x̄aan galahaashí » yóo alxéis',	“May it float with me to a fine place” he wished,
45	« Lik'éiyi yéit kwshí x̄aan galahaashí. Lik'éiyi yéit kwshí x̄aan galahaashí. »	“May it float with me to a fine place. May it float with me to a fine place.”
	Yóot áwé ash een át wulihásh,	It floated there with him,

Ltu.aa tliyaanax̄.á ágíwé yei duwasáakw lik'éiyi yéi xóo.	past Lityua Bay I guess there's a place called 'Fine Place'.
L'éiw kuwát', át wulihásh.	It drifted there, to a long sandy beach.
50 Áwé tle	So then
tóo aawanúk ash een aax̄ daak̄ naltít.	he felt it when the whale was rocking on the beach.
Ch'a a yée sh kawjix'aakw.	He just kept quiet inside.
Wáa nanéi sáwé atyátx'i du daadé aseiwa.áx̄.	At some point he heard the voices of children around him.
« Héi! Yáay yáat satáan!	“Hey! There's a whale lying here!
55 Yáay yáat satáan! »	There's a whale lying here!”
Ball gíwé woosh jeet kawdugéex'.	Maybe they were playing catch with a ball.
Áwé tle neildé has at'aawoogoot.	So they ran home with the news.
« Aadóo sgí k̄aa kaanáx̄ angaxashak'ú-ú-ú- ú,	“Is there anyone who can cut someone ou-u- u-ut
yáay yíkdáx̄ kei ax̄dukeení? »	so I can fly out of a whale?”
60 [fs]	
Aadóo sgí k̄aa kaanáx̄ angaxaashák'u wé yáay yíkdáx̄ kéi x̄dukeení? »	“Is there anyone who can cut someone out so I can fly out of a whale?”
yóo áwé x̄'ayaḱá.	is what he said.
« Iya.áx̄ch ágé? » atyátx'i,	“Do you hear that”, said the children,
65 « T'aanax̄toogoot, neildé! »	“Let's go and tell, home!”
Tle neil has luwugugúk̄ áwé tle yéi s x̄'ayaḱá,	They as they came running home in a pack they said
« Gán! Yáay áyú yóot satáan, yáay.	“Look! There's a whale lying over there, a whale.
Áyú a yíkde áyú,	From inside
yéi x̄'ayaduká	someone is saying
70 < Aa sgí k̄aa kaanáx̄ angaxaashák'u, yáay áwé yíkdáx̄ kei ax̄dukeení? >	'Is there anyone who can cut me out so that I can fly out of a whale?’
Yóo áyá x̄'ayaduká a yíkde. »	This is what someone's saying inside.”

	« Háa! »	“Gosh!”
	Tle sdu x’éix akdudliyáakw,	People don’t believe them.
75	« Tléik’, haadé yaat yi.á, k’é aadé gaxyisa.áax. »	“No, come here with us, so you can hear it.”
	Tle guné s uwa.át aadé wé aantkeení. Gwaa!	So the townspeople start to go there. Wow!
	Ch’a ayáx áwé.	It’s true.
80	« Aa sgi kaa kanáx angaxaashk’ú-ú-ú-ú-ú yá yáay yíkdáx kei xdukeení-i-i-i-i? » yóo áwé x’ayaká.	“Is there anyone who can cut someone out so I can fly-y-y-y out of this whale?” is what he said.
	Tle wé shaanákw tsú jiwduwataan aadé. Gwál ax yáx áwé wdishán, wé shaanákw.	They led a little old lady over there too. Maybe she was as old as me, that little old lady.
85	Aagáa áwé kawduwa.áakw kéi wduxaashí yóo. Kóok yáx áwé kéi wduwaxásh.	This is when they tried cutting a hole, like this. They cut a box-shaped hole.
	Aadóo sá jiwduxwétl, tle tsu goot kaa áx goot wé kei nduxáshi.	Whoever’s arm was tired, another one goes there when they’re cutting.
	Daa sákwshí wé lítaax wududliyéx?	I wonder what they used for a knife?
90	Ayáx kunagei áwé ch’a yak’u dé áwé kaa yát ... du tóogaa áx kukunalgéi áwé kaa yát wudikín.	As it gets large enough suddenly now at their faces – when it’s big enough for him he flies out at their faces.
	He-he-he Wé shaanákw kwa tle kei shikaawashee.	Hehehe. The little old lady sang a song.
95	[song] X’unei, x’unei Ch’a kei gidakeen Ch’a kei gidakeen X’unei, x’unei	[song] Raven, raven, just fly up just fly up Raven, raven
100	Ch’a kei gidakeen	just fly up

	Ch'a kei gidaḱeen	just fly up
	X'unei, x'unei	Raven, raven
	Ch'a kei gidaḱeen	just fly up
	Ch'a kei gidaḱeen	just fly up
105	Ḳuyax yidaḱeen	You fly properly
	X'unei, x'unei	Raven, raven
	Ch'a kei gidaḱeen	just fly up
	Ḳuyax yidaḱeen	you fly properly
	Ḳuyax yidaḱeen	you fly properly
110	Tle yá x'aa t'ei dé áwé wdzigéet.	Then he dropped behind this peninsula.
	Tle hóoch'.	That's it.
	Haaha!	Uh-huh!
	Yeisú dé tláakw koowanei wé yáay taayí xáash.	Now everyone was excited cutting the whale blubber.
	Daatx yaa ndutéen wé yáay.	They took the entire skin away from the whale.
115	A yeex ḱuwsinák' ḱaa hitx'i xánde.	They relayed pieces to their houses.
	Tláakw at yatee	Everything was exciting
	wé yéi jiné.	with the work.
	Tlax naakú yáx yatee hú ḱu.aa.	But he was nearly dead from exhaustion
	Wé yáay yíkdáx kei daḱéen	when he flew out of the whale,
120	yax at gukú	like a proverb
	« Du xaawú tóotx kawlix'áas wé éex. »	“His feathers dripped with oil.”
	Áwé ... k'ei sh daa ilgéikw	Then he first wiped himself off
	wé x'aat'ák'w yat'éik,	behind that peninsula
125	sh daa ilgéikw.	he wiped himself off.
	Adudáakw.	They're rendering fat.
	Taat kanáx tlél uxéix'w wé adaakw.	All night through they don't sleep rendering fat.
	Áwé dus.ée wé dleey.	They're cooking the meat.

	Dus.ée wé yáay dleeyí kawdudlixaash.	They're cooking the whale meat that was cut out.
130	Du tóogaa natée áwé tsá, aan yaa uwagút.	When he liked how much they had done he came into the village.
	« Daa sá, daa sá yéi daayné? » tle yóo kuyawsiḱaa.	“What’s that, what are you doing?” he said to them.
	« Yáay áwé wduwat’ei, yáay. Yáay áwé wduwat’ei.	“A whale was found, a whale. A whale was found.
135	Aa tlein! Aa tlein! Aa tlein! A daa yéi jidunéi. »	A huge one! A huge one! A huge one! People are working on it.”
	« Haaw! Haaw! Ha, tlél shéigíl daa sá a yíkde wdu.aax wé yáay gé?» tle yóo kuyawsiḱaa.	“Well! Well! So, wasn’t there anything heard from inside the whale, I wonder?” he said to them.
140	« Shéigíl ch’a kḱawdu.aaxák’w a yíkde? »	Were any strange sounds perhaps heard inside it?”
	« Ha, a yíkde at wuduwa.aḱ, a yíkde. A yíkde at wuduwa.áḱ.	“Well, from inside something was heard. Something was heard inside.
	« Aasgí kaa kanáḱ angaxaashák’w yáay yíkdáḱ kei xduḱeen? » yóo x’ayaduḱá a yíkde.	‘Is there anyone who can cut someone out so I can fly out of the whale?’ is what was said from inside.
145	Áwé du kanáḱ anduxáash áwé ch’a wé x’aa yat’éide woogwáatl a yíkdáḱ. »	When a hole was cut he rolled just behind the peninsula from inside.”
	« Tlaagóo! Ha yú haa aaníx’ xáa tsú yéi at kawdiyáa, yú haa aaníx’.	“Amazing! You know, this happened in our village too, in our village.
150	Áwé tle kútḱ kaashoowaxéex. Wé yáay a yíkdáḱ kei wduwaḱeení, yáay,	Then they all died off. That whale, when someone flew out from inside it, the whale,

	has awuxaayí áwé aantkeení ku.aa	the townspeople who ate it
	yaḅ has yawsix'ákw tlé,	all died off then,
155	kuṭṭ has shoowaxéex.	they all perished.
	Ch'as a náḅ,	Away from it,
	a náḅ naa wulgáas'i sgiwé yak'úi wé át,	the only good thing is to move away from it,
	a náḅ naa wulgáas'i. »	move away from it.
	« Hu, ho-ho!	“Hu, oho!
160	Góok! »	Go!”
	(Wáa sá du k'ík' aduheengín.)	(They believed him somehow.)
	« Góok! Naa gaxlagáas'. »	“Go! Let's relocate.”
	Tle naa wligáas'.	They relocated.
	Goo sákwhíwé át naa wligáas' du x'ayáḅ?	Where is it that they relocated to as he said?
165	Aagáa áwé yeisú de	Then presently
	tláakw woonei hú ku.aa wé yáay taayí xá.	he got busy, eating the whale fat, you see.
	Tláakw yatee kúnáḅ.	He was very busy.
	Aagáa áwé	This is when
170	tléil áyá [héen] k'át [a kát] koosti wé lingit'aaní.	there wasn't much of anything in this world.
	Kawjigeedí yáḅ áwé yatee, ch'a kawjigeedí yáḅ.	It was like darkness, just like darkness.
	Tléil kát kei.á koostí.	There wasn't any daylight.
	Tléil á.	None.
	Tléil tláḅ.	Not really.

1 **uxganḅáas'**: This word is usually translated as 'matches'. It is composed of an element *uxgan* which is related to the verb root \sqrt{gan} 'burn' and the noun *káas* 'stick'. The formation of *uxgan* is not certain but it might be a contraction of a potential mode form of a verb meaning 'it can burn'. The same *uxgan* is also seen in a couple of other terms for flammable items such as

uxganhéen ‘kerosene’ with *héen* ‘water’, *uxganté* ‘coal’ with *té* ‘rock’, and *uxganl’oowú* ‘matches’ with *l’oowú* ‘wood’. Raven is often described as having matches derived from his obtaining fire, despite the fact that matches are a 19th century European invention. Although Raven stories occur in the mythic past they are also in another way timeless so that they can incorporate phenomena from the present day of the storyteller.