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Narrator: *Kaasgéiy* Susie James

Title: *Yéilch Ana.óot Aaní Alyéx* / Raven makes the Aleutians

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

Transcription: *Ƙeixwnéi* Nora Marks Dauenhauer

Introduction:

This narrative follows immediately from the preceding story by *Kaasgéiy* Susie James. The Dauenhauers decided to separate her single performance into separate narratives. This story starts from where Raven falls out of the sky after the great flood of the world by his Uncle. Raven then lands on a kelp bed and recruits sea otters to help him build some land. In *Kaasgéiy* Susie James's telling, Raven tosses pebbles brought up by the sea otters and these become islands that today form the Aleutian Chain. Raven flies from island to island until he reaches the Alaska Peninsula. This story segues immediately into the following story where Raven obtains fire from a volcano with the help of Owl.

Text:

	[Raven is falling]
1 Aagáa áwé tle,	That's when
tle yei alxéis',	he's wishing,
« Sú ¹ kadootl káx' kwshé xat gágásgéet,	“Let me fall on a bed of tangled kelp,
sú kadootl káx' kwshé xat gágasgeedí. »	let me fall on a bed of tangled kelp.”
5 Yóo áwé	That's what
tután hú ƙwaa, Yéil.	he's wishing for, Raven.
« Sú kadootl káa xat gágasgeet. »	“Let me fall on a bunch of tangled kelp.”
Tle ch'a yéi kei tutáni áwé tle,	But then as he's wishing,
aadáx tóot,	away from it,
10 aadáx tóot wudiyéƙ du lú.	his nose broke away from it.
Ƙunayéi wdzigít yínde.	He started to fall downward.
Ƙaatlex: Daa sáwé yéi duwasáakw sú?	Mary: What is it that's called <i>sú</i> ?
Haa!	Well!

15	Ha, á xáa wé wéidu á, geesh, geesh. ²	So, that's the one that's out there, bull kelp, bull kelp.
	geesh t́n kawust'éeex'i tle, tle yaakw yáx nateech.	When bull kelp gets tangled up it just, just gets like a boat.
	Kasat'éeex' nooch héen xukáx', sú.	It gets hard on the surface of the sea, sú.
20	A shaayí aa yéi nateech. A sha_xaawú aa yéi nateech.	It has a knob on it. There's hair on it.
	Héen taanáx ḱinde koos.áaych. Tle a káx' áwé wdzigeet tle.	It grows from the bottom of the sea. That's what he fell on then.
	É! Kudaseigákw áwé tle tla_x niyís.	My! He's trying to catch his breath back.
25	Ch'áakw a kát satáan. Yá du daadé oo.á_xch át áwé: "xaa.a_x_xaah"	He's lying there for a long time. He keeps hearing this sound around him: "hahhhahh"
	Kei dusáaych. É! Aagáa áwé kutées'.	It's exhaling. Hey! He's looking for it.
30	Daa sá, daa sá diséikw? Wáa nanéi sáwé tle ch'a áa altin yéiná_x áwé kei sh wudixích yá_xwch'. ³	What's that, what's breathing? At some point a sea otter popped up right along where he's watching.
	Yá_xwch' ásiwégé, sée.aach.	Yá_xwch' is I guess probably sea otter.
	Yóo áwé kwshé duwasáakw yá_xwch'.	That's probably what they call it, yá_xwch'.
35	Kaatl'éix': Sea otter. sée.aat.	Mary: Sea otter. Sea otter.
	Nei! Tle aawa.éex' « A_x páadnaayi, haagú!	Look! He just calls him "My partner, come here!
40	Haagúk', haagú, k'aagú. ⁴	Come here you sweet guy, come here, you should come here.
	Tlél gé aadé xaat gidisheeyi yé? L'éiw káx' gé ya_x eeltsées yú diyéex'?' »	Isn't there any way you can help me? Do you get down to the bottom?'"

	« Aaá » tle yóo ash yawsikaa.	“Yes” the sea otter says to him.
45	« L’éiw káx’ xá yax xaltsées. »	“I reach the bottom.”
	Ah!	Ah!
	« Ax̄ xooní » (wáa sá tsú a yát x’eiḵdliyoo).	“Cousin” (he’s also addressing him like family)
	« L’éiw ax̄ jeet kakwách.	“ Bring me some gravel.
	L’éiw káa yéi nateech, yú l’éiw aax̄ kagakwaach.	The gravel is lying on the bottom, bring up some gravel.
50	Ax̄ jeet kakwach l’éiw wé diyéedáx. »	Bring me some gravel from down there.”
	Aagáa áwé tle kát shawdix̄ích wé yáxwch’ik’ ku.aa.	So then the sea otter dove down.
	Ch’áakwx̄ sateeyí áwé tsú aawa.áx̄ adaséigu.	After a long time he heard him breathing again.
55	Gwáa, tle yá ash x̄án anáx̄ kei sh wudix̄ích.	Wow, close by him he surfaced.
	Anáx̄ kei jiw dihóo.	He swam over.
	Tle ash jéet áwé akaawakwách wé l’éiw. Haahá!	Then he handed him the gravel. Aha!
60	Ash jináa yan a kakwáach áwé tle wáa sá du toowú yatee!	When he puts it in his hand, how good he feels!
	Aneutian Island, tliyaanax̄.á áwé yóo.á.	The Aleutian islands, they’re way out they say.
	Tax’ aayí ayú deikée wé tax’ aayí	There’s a rocky peninsula.
	Awdzigeedi yé áwé.	That’s where he fell.
65	Áwé daak áwé a kanalít wé l’éiw, wé té.	Then he tosses the gravel toward the mainland, those pebbles.
	Kei akawugeex’í áwé x’aat’x̄ nax̄satee.	As he threw them each became an island.
	É! Tle x’aat’x̄ áwé nasteech.	Hey! They became islands then.
	Tle a kaadé áwé kdaḵínch.	Then he would fly to one.

70	A káx' áwé ganúkch kudaseigákw nooch.	He sits there, catching his breath.
	Ch'áakw kudaseigágu áwé tsu kei aa koogeex'ch.	While he's catching his breath for a while, he'd toss another one.
	Xaat'x naxsatee.	It becomes an island.
	Tle tsu x'aatx'x yoo sitéek tle tsú	It keeps becoming another island again.
75	Wé té áwé daak akanalít.	He tosses another pebble toward the mainland.
	Tle kdaqínch a kaadé. Ha!	Then he'd fly to it. Wow!
	Dawóotl yéi adané wé yaa ndaqín. Yáax' áwé tle a kaa gashkákch.	He's having a hard time flying. Now and then he would light on one of the islands.
80	Ch'áakw kudaseigágu áwés tsu ch'u yéi ch'u yéi adaaneiyí áwé tle ka wé	While he's catching his breath again for a long time like this, he's throwing them
	ka wé yanaḡ akaawlít, wé té.	ashore over there, those pebbles.
	Á áwé tax'aayí kwlayát'x sitee, wé tax'aayí	This is what became of the long peninsula, the peninsula
85	Aneutian Island tliyaanaḡ.á.	on the other side of the Aleutian Islands.

1 [Say something about *sú* versus *kájaa* as described by Jimmy Johnson (**THIS VOLUME**). Leer identifies *sú* as simply 'long seaweed' with no further detail.]

2 Bull kelp or *geesh* is a large, monotypic species of kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana* (K.Mertens) Postels & Ruprecht 1840) found along the Pacific coast of North America from about Monterey (California) to the Aleutian Islands. It is also known in English as ribbon kelp or bullwhip kelp, and is a long, tubular seaweed with a pod or air bladder at the end. From one end of the pod hang broad, ribbonlike blades, and from the other end extends a tube or stipe (stalk) up to 30 or 40 feet long that resembles a bullwhip from which the popular name derives.

Bull kelp is one of the most common seaweeds in its range. The species name is after Fyodor Petrovich Lütke who was the commander of the corvette *Seniavin* during the Russian expedition of 1826–1829 to North America. The type location of the species is in Sitka Sound where Lütke’s crew collected samples.

3 *Yáxwch’* – also pronounced *yúxch’* – is the sea otter (*Enhydra lutris* L.). The sea otter was once prolific on the coast but was hunted nearly to extinction during the Russian colonial era; they are relatively common in certain areas of Tlingit country and Alaska maintains the largest population of sea otters in the Pacific. Although sea otters are an endangered species, Tlingit people are legally allowed to hunt them for traditional use, alongside other marine mammals like seals and sealions. Sea otter fur is the densest of any animal and is highly valued for warmth and decoration.

4 These couple of lines are very difficult to translate. Raven uses the diminutive *-k’* on the end of the exclamation *haagú* ‘come here’ as *haagúk’*. Then he says *k’aagú* which is a contraction of *k’é* ‘(it’d be) good (if)’ and *haagú*. The exclamation *haagú* is itself derived from the imperative verb phrase *haat gú* ‘come here’ with the postposition phrase *haa-t* ‘to here, hither’ and *gú* an irregular imperative form of the verb root \sqrt{gut} ‘singular subject go by foot’.