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

nák naadaa yú kéet	he leaves it behind, and heads towards that killer whale.
Yá kaa éenináx sá gíwé tlakw kaa téix' tóogaa tsá wé gákw.	This one under the armpits, perhaps, it quickly pleases the heart, that hard dried fish.
30 Tliyéi tsu a kát yaa shunalxix gé?	Did he stop eating all of the food there?
Áwé du xoonx'í has niyaadé a yáx áwé has áwé haa wsiteen.	And his friends, they are over there, and it is like they can see us.
Kaa téix' tóodé has a tsú wé gákw.	It is going into the heart, this dried hard fish, too.
Góok!	Go one!
35 Kéet has luwagóok.	Killer whales are running.
Óo, goosh téx'!	My, the heart of the dorsal fin,
héent has luwagóok.	they are running into the water.
Áwé a tóox hél toowú sákw saa yé hóoch' áwé ch'a saduwax'ákw tle.	And then inside it there would be no spirit, the name is gone, it was forgotten then.
Ku.éex' áwé yoo ksiník.	It is called «ke.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 duwaxák'w anáx.	It's still okay, that people forget about it.
Kúnáx aa duwaxaa.	They are really paddling there [?]
Gunei áwé yáx 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,
yán uwaláa	the tide had gone out.
50 Lein áwé káx .áa	He is sitting on the tideflats.
Áa gíwé ash yawdudzika: 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
	Kadaᵗwáal ch'u tle wé yeisú.	He is just trembling there still.
55	Hadáa!	Oh my!
	Hadáa!!	Oh my goodness!!
	Chookánsháa ka s ka shát káalk'u áyá xat dateeyí.	Women of the Chookaneidí and the paternal nephews of those wives did this to me.
	Dzéex'w gíwé tle yéi yaawaᵗaa.	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 xat gaysagú! »	“Take me aboard with you!”
	Hé'! Yaᵗ shayawlihík taay wé,	My! They were crammed full of fat, the boats of
	wé kéet.	the Killerwhales
	Taaych yaᵗ shayawlihít wé yaakwx'.	The boats were filled with fat.
65	« Dáᵗde s'é kᵗwashéex. »	“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 xán.	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 axaa,	They're chanting, keeping time with the paddles.
	wé Lukshiyaank' gúxk'u wé aax yaᵗ 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	“What the, what are you doing? What did he

	x'ayaká? Wáa sáwé wé i yátk'u? »	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 sákwshé wé lítaax has awliyéx? Du jeet at diwát'.	I wonder what they used for a knife? Something grew in their hands.
	Ch'u yú kaá wakkooyekgi 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'atích,	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 sákwshí du een kanéek 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 Éeshx̣ wusitee wé kéeṭ ku.aa.	Only then, perhaps, did that killerwhale become Iron Berry Line's father.
	Wé yaakw ayasatani áwé sh jiwldihaa dé, du x̣úx̣ sáḳw.	That one steering the boat, she came with him now, her husband-to-be.
	Gunyéi kóox̣, yan kuyagóo áwé yeisú dé, hé'!	The boat began to go, and the people were still going in a fleet towards the shore then, my!
	Wé aanṭkeeni tlein.	Those big villagers.
105	X'éigaa daa wdudziḱúx̣ wé taay. Át gáku tláakw at kaaxát.	Truly transporting that fat around. That hard fist was quickly fastened to it.
	Áwé tle hú ku.aa yéi a daa kei tuwdishát du x̣úx̣ kei gajaagí.	And her, though, she suddenly thought about killing her husband.
	Kei gajaaḳ.	Killing him.
110	Áwé tle gákwgaa áwé woogoot. A loowú lak'áats' wéit'aat áwé. A teix̣' tóode aawatsaaḳ, wé wé a loowú lak'áats' aaní gákw. Tle ách áwé awlijáḳ du x̣úx̣.	And then she went walking after that hard dried fish. This one has a sharp nose. She stabs it through the heart, with that sharp nosed hard dried fish. With this she kills her husband.
115	Ch'a yák'w de áwé kei kawdigáx̣ Yéil: « Haaaa! Haaaa! Haaaa! Haaaa!»	All of a sudden Raven started to cry out: “Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa!”
120	« Wáa sá ikawdiyaa? » yóo yawdudziḱaa. « Ax̣ x̣úx̣ teix̣' wook'óots! Ax̣ x̣úx̣ teix̣' wook'óots! Haaaa! »	“What happened to you?” people said. “My husband had a heart attack! My husband had a heart attack! Waaaa!”

	aagáa daa gáax̣.	she's crying about it.
125	Du áx' tle ash jiyaguwashíx̣ gíwé wé lukshiyaaŋ yádi.	Then that baby mink was running all over her.
	« Yéi x̣'ayaḱaaŋín áx̣ x̣úx̣,	“My husband always used to say
	« X̣at naḱáani x'wán, ch'a hé x'aa lukanáx̣ x̣at kagaax̣dus.haa.	‘When I die, please just bury me on that peninsula.
	Ch'a hé x'aa lukaa kei x̣at gadusháat »»	Just carry me onto to that peninsula”
	yóo x̣'ayaḱaaŋín ax̣ x̣úx̣.	my husband would say.
130	A yáx̣ x'wán du een̄ yéi jinayné.	Please work on doing this to him.
	Ch'a wé x'aa lukáx' kei gashaadí, wé tliyaa,	Just carry him down to that peninsula, the one over there,
	aadé gasháat. »	carry him down there.”
	Du x̣'éigaa tsú aduḱooḱúŋ.	People did as she said.
	Áwé wé kéet tlein áwé wé x'aa lukaa kei wduwashát.	This huge killerwhale was carried over to that peninsula.
135	Aadé áwé nagútx̣ gaax̣ shoodé.	She wanted to go over there to cry.
	De ax̣á síwé gé, de yaa anaskít ásíwé gé, wé kéet tlein?	But she's eating him, isn't she, eating him up, this huge killerwhale?
	Aagáa áwé tle kei akoogáax̣ch aadé:	This is when she starts crying to it:
	[song]: Ḡayeis' Katleiḳw Tik'i Eesh, ei	[song:] Iron Berry Line Father, hey
	Haa ḱaa gagook gagoo, gagook gagoo.	Our clan's expert swimmer, expert swimmer.
140	Áwé gáax̣ nooch aadé.	She was crying towards it.
	Ḡayeis' Katleiḳw Tik'i Eesh, ei	Iron Berry Line Father, hey
	Haa ḱaa gagook gagoo.	Our clan's expert swimmer.
	A shukwát áwé gáax̣ nooch.	Before she would always cry.
	Haa ḱaa gagoo.	Our clan swimmer.
145	[end song]	[end song]
	Anax̣ haat gágoot áwé, yaa ax̣'aklatáx̣' wé k'óox̣'.	When she came along she's chewing gum.
	Áwé tle yá aan x̣'ayéet ḱaa.aadich áwé tle	So the people going along the village say to

	yei yanask̄eich, «Shéi!	her, "Hey!
	haa x̄'éit agálts'ík i k'óox̄'u. »	we're whining for a piece of your gum."
	« Jaa!	"Hush!
150	L góot k̄aa x'éigaa uwatiyi n̄aa ch'u k'óox̄'u áyá x̄atáax'. »	This gum I'm chewing can't be chewed by just anyone's clan."
	Tle yóo áwé yanak̄eich hú k̄u.aa,	That's what she would say, though,
	« L góot k̄aa x'éigaa uwatiyi naa ch'u k'óox̄'u áyá x̄atáax'. »	"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 k̄uyaawa.aa. Aadé yoo kwdzigítgi yé.	At some point people realized what he was doing. This was how he did things.
	Aadáx̄ sh jiw̄dlihaa.	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	k̄utx̄ ashulixeexi yé.	the place where he wiped them out.