

## CHAPTER II

# WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG

*“Come and help me - I’ve been waiting for you.*

*What took you so long?”* a voice asked through the kids’ Inuas.

Frantically, they looked around and realized they were in an Inuit village. An Inuit man lay on a bed of caribou hides and was being attended to by a man who was obviously a shaman, because he was chanting the secret chants of the shaman. It was the shaman’s Inua that had spoken to them. Another man sitting behind the shaman held a drum in his

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left hand and was beating it with the drumstick he held in his right hand. The people of the village sat in a circle around these three. They were calling on the man to confess his sins so that he may be well again.

*"Who are you and how did you know we would be coming here?"* asked Amy, looking inquiringly at the shaman.

*"I am Toolook. I asked my helping spirits to find someone to assist me on my journey to retrieve a stolen soul in the netherworld. The way is long and treacherous, and only the strongest shamans can complete such a dangerous undertaking. My Inua talked to THE OLD ONE and he told me about you. He said you were brave and would help me. You must prepare yourselves for our journey, call your helping spirits to assist you, for we shall need all the help we can get to see us through to the end of our mission."*

*"But, how did we get here?"* Amy wanted to know.

*"THE OLD ONE summoned you,"* Toolook told her.

*"Why did he do that?"* Amy asked again.

*"He told me that if I needed your help he would summon you, and he did,"* Toolook replied.

*"Yes, but how did he get us here?"* Amy demanded to know.

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*"I don't know. How can THE OLD ONE do the things he does? One does not question what THE OLD ONE is capable of doing. He just does what has to be done to maintain harmony in our world."* Toolook responded.

"Oh," said Amy, a bewildered look on her face.

While Toolook continued chanting, the kids began to talk to each other.

"What is THE OLD ONE getting us into now? Why isn't he here?" Ty asked.

"Don't get excited Ty," Amy scolded her brother.

"Maybe THE OLD ONE is busy doing something else and he can't be here," offered Parker.

"Yeah I'll just bet!" Ty retorted.

"We have to help - THE OLD ONE said it is our duty as shaman to help the people," Amy reminded her brothers.

"How can we help when we don't know what to do?" Ty sighed, shrugging his shoulders.

"Toolook said he was coming with us. I'm sure he knows what to do and we'll just have to help him," replied Amy.

"I just know this is going to be fun," Parker exclaimed excitedly.

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"It'll be fun alright," Ty said with a sneer, "what is this netherworld that he said he was going to?"

"I don't know" Amy admitted.

"Kadluk mentioned the netherworld and the never-ending feast once before when we first met him," Parker reminded his sister and brother.

"That's right Kadluk did mention them," Amy said while looking at Ty.

"I'll bet it's a far off place. Do you think we'll be able to fly there?" asked Parker.

"It doesn't sound like a place I want to visit; in fact it sounds rather scary," Ty howled.

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*"What is wrong and how can we help?"* Amy asked Toolook through her Inua.

*"This man is very sick. I have tried everything and yet he still does not respond. His friends and relatives have given him their Inyusuq and the evil spirits have not been driven from his body. I have determined that this man's soul has been stolen from him and is being held by his dead relatives' souls in the netherworld. I need your help to retrieve it!"* Toolook informed the kids.

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*"What is Inyusuq?"* Amy wanted to know as she looked inquiringly at Toolook.

*"Yeah, and what's this netherworld you keep talking about?"* Ty demanded to know, with sarcasm in his voice.

*"Inyusuq or personal souls are the powerful forces that reside in all individuals and serve as the source of good health, stamina, willpower and energy. They comprise all the elements that give a person life. The netherworld is where the dead souls go to enjoy the never-ending feast after their journey on earth has ended. Did THE OLD ONE not tell you this?"* Toolook queried, looking suspiciously at the kids.

*"Oh he probably did and I just forgot. This Inyusuq - it drives the evil spirits from the sick person's body when it is given by friends and relatives?"* Amy asked.

*"Of course, that is the only way to get rid of the evil spirits when all else fails,"* replied Toolook. It sounded like doubt was creeping into Toolook's voice as he looked inquisitively at the kids. *"You are the young Kabloonas that THE OLD ONE knows, are you not?"* Toolook inquired.

*"Yes, we are the young white people that know THE OLD ONE, we are his friends. He is showing us the ways of the shaman,"* replied Amy.

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*"Well then you can help me. I have heard that you are strong and wise in the ways of the shaman. I will need your strength and wisdom to complete the journey that I must take without delay,"* Toolook told the kids.

*"Who is that with you and why don't you take him?"* Amy asked pointing to the drummer.

*"That is my assistant and he does not possess the traits of the shaman and cannot perform the tasks that are required,"* Toolook answered.

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The shaman's assistant sat behind the shaman, methodically beating the drum he was holding, while calling on the shaman's helping spirits to come to his assistance in his time of need. Boom-Boom-Boom went the drum.

*"Look at the drum - the handle is carved in the image of a man. What do you suppose that means?"* Amy asked, the excitement of a possible discovery clear in her voice.

*"I don't know,"* replied Ty, shrugging his shoulders.

*"It's probably carved in the image of a man because we will be seeking a man's stolen soul,"* Parker remarked as he looked at the drum.

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*"I suppose you're going to tell me the images of people hanging from the drum on those leather strips represent the dead souls that have stolen this fellow's soul?"* Amy asked Parker.

*"That would be my guess,"* Parker replied as he peered closely at the drum.

*"There are no feathers hanging from this drum, what does that mean?"* Ty wanted to know.

*"I would say it means we won't be flying on this trip,"* Parker stated.

*"Yeah, you're probably right,"* Amy sighed.

The rhythmic beating of the drum had induced a trance-like state and the Trapps could hear themselves calling to their tutelary spirits, their guardian spirits, to protect them and assist them during their journey to the netherworld. The kids and Toolook called on their ancestors' spirits to stand by them and give them their strength in their time of need during the journey. While the drum continued its rhythmic beat, the relatives of the sick man called on the spirits to assist the kids and Toolook. Before they took their journey, the Trapps and Toolook had to be bound securely to prevent their spirit helpers from flying away. Using the slip knots THE OLD ONE had shown them, they laid on the ground and bound each other until they were immobile, while Toolook's assistant bound Toolook.

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Once they were bound, the assistant again began to beat the drum while Toolook chanted. The drumbeat continued, Boom-Boom-Boom. The kids joined Toolook chanting the secret chants of the shaman, "AIIIEEE," they chanted.

The villagers shouted words of encouragement and called on Toolook and the kids to be strong during their journey.

As the drum continued to beat, Toolook announced. *"The way is open! I see the Road-of-Shadows that we must travel on to reach the netherworld."*

The villagers all cried, *"go in safety, and be strong!"*