

Spotlight

June 2, 2017

There are few things sweeter than sharing a story with a little one. This week's spotlight features two great choices for a snuggly storytime. *Little You* and *We Sang You Home* by Richard Van Camp are the perfect combination of poetic language and sing-song rhythm making them great choices for reading out loud.

Both *Little You* and *We Sang You Home* feature stunning illustrations by Julie Flett that are perfectly matched to Van Camp's lyrical words. Each title welcomes baby to the world through a series of descriptions of home and family combined with loving affirmations. The books use a sense of wonder at the beauty of the natural world and a message of welcoming to the child that exudes a sense of comfort, safety, and well-being. Both these titles would make treasured inclusions to a bedtime ritual or family library.

Richard Van Camp is a Tlicho author from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories whose works for adult and children have been celebrated. Nationally and internationally, he is a renowned story teller and best-selling author. *Little You* has been published in Bush Cree, Dene, and South Slavey and all his books are available in Braille for free at request from the Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI). The Yellowknife Public Library owns the English version of these titles.

Both *Little You* and *We Sang You Home* feature illustrations by Julie Flett. This collaboration has proved to be fruitful for both artists as the combination of Van Camp's gentle words with Flett's unique illustrations make for striking books that are appealing to both parent and child. Flett is a Cree-Metis author and illustrator based out of Vancouver, British Columbia. Like Van Camp, her work focuses on Canadian First Nations children and her style has been influenced by other notable Cree and Inuit artists.

Little You and *We Sang You Home* are books to be treasured and shared again and again. You can see Richard Van Camp in person this weekend as part of the NorthWords Writer's Festival.

Megan Clark
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