



## THE WHITE RAVEN

Jewel Lavan

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Indigenous Youth in Care

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**Keywords:** Indigenous children/youth in care, urban Indigenous youth, urban Indigenous identity, Indigenous belonging

**Acknowledgement:** We raise our hands in deepest respect and gratitude to the ancestors and families of the lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən and WSÁNEĆ nations and to our own ancestors and Nations. We raise our hands to all Indigenous children and youth who have grown up in colonial systems, to those we have lost, and to those who survive, resist, and imagine justice and resurgence. INVINCIBLE is grateful for funding provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Insight grant 435-2020-1191) and the Canet Foundation.

**Jewel Lavan** is an Indigenous youth in care and an INVINCIBLE youth storyteller/researcher who has been working with the Kinship Rising research project at the University of Victoria since 2023.

Please contact the Kinship Rising project: [kinshiprising@uvic.ca](mailto:kinshiprising@uvic.ca)







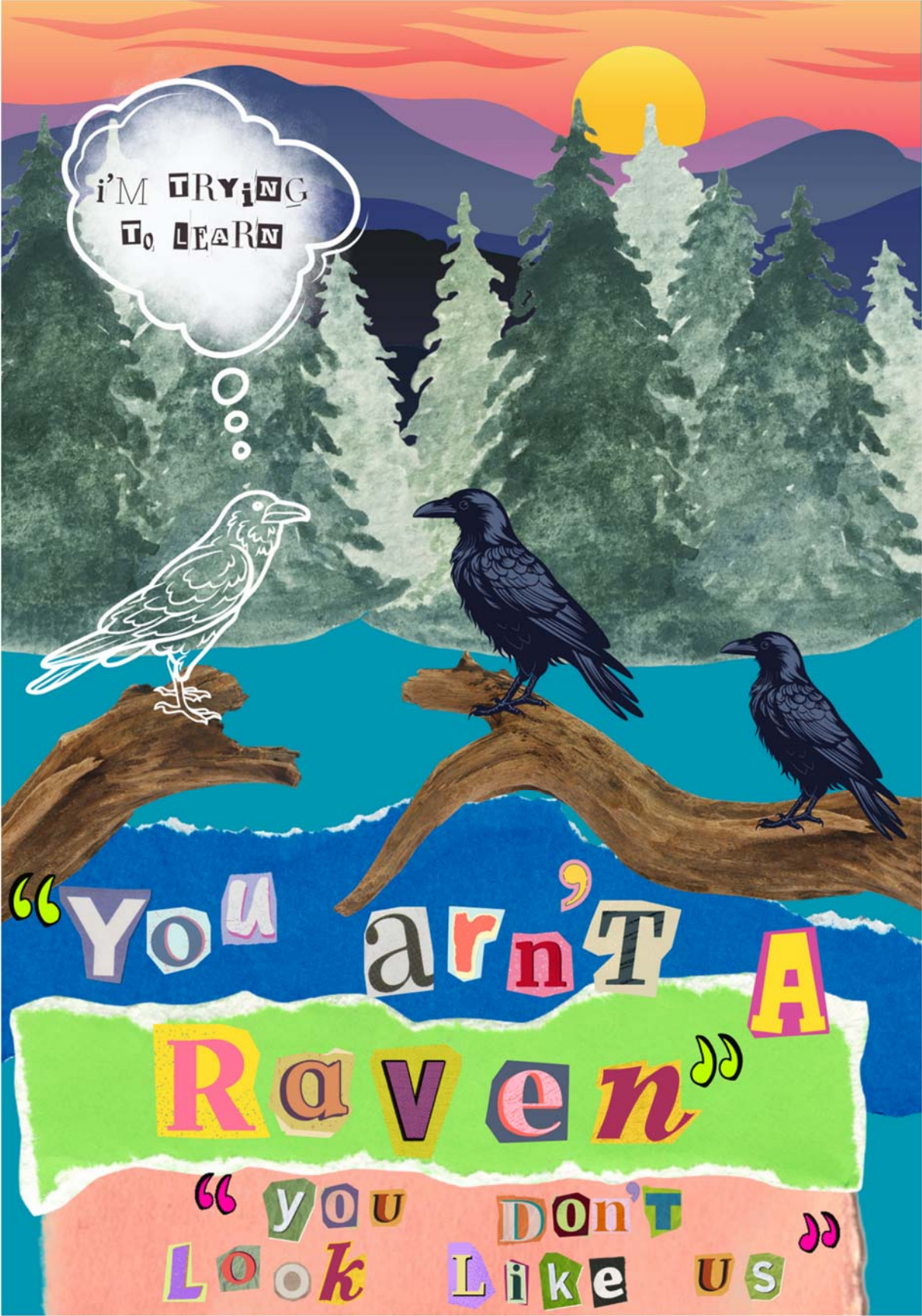
**Born into a world where I didn't belong.  
I am **lost**. In this city surrounded by strangers,  
with eyes that don't look like mine.**

**The ocean is the only thing that makes me  
feel at home but why do I still feel **lost**? Am I  
an imposter?**

**I was raised by the moon, sun  
and stars. I am **different** from  
my family, I'm a white raven  
and they weren't ravens at all.  
They say its because I'm  
special.**

**My dads a raven.  
But he's **lost** too  
so I was never  
taught how to be  
a raven.**

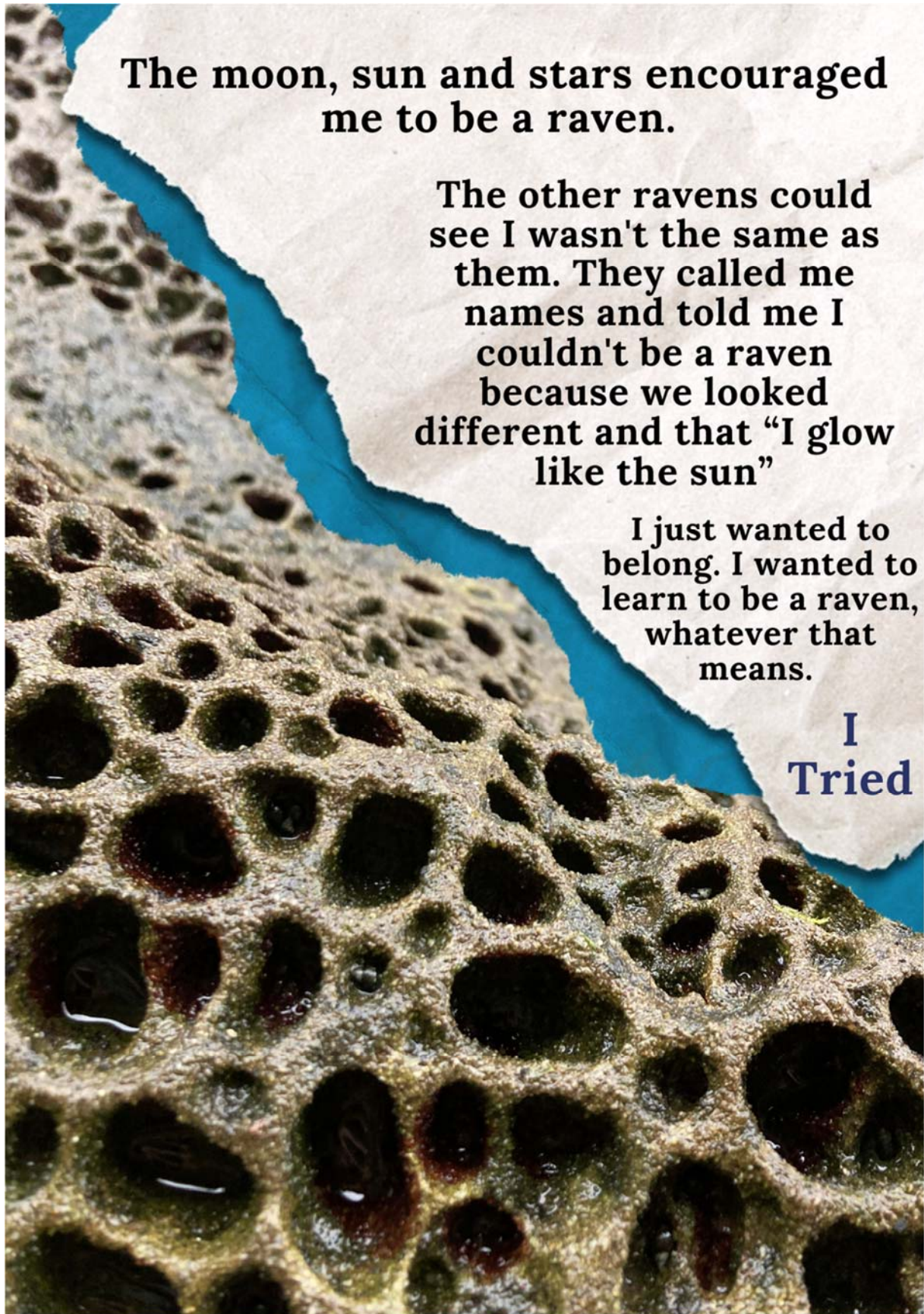












**The moon, sun and stars encouraged  
me to be a raven.**

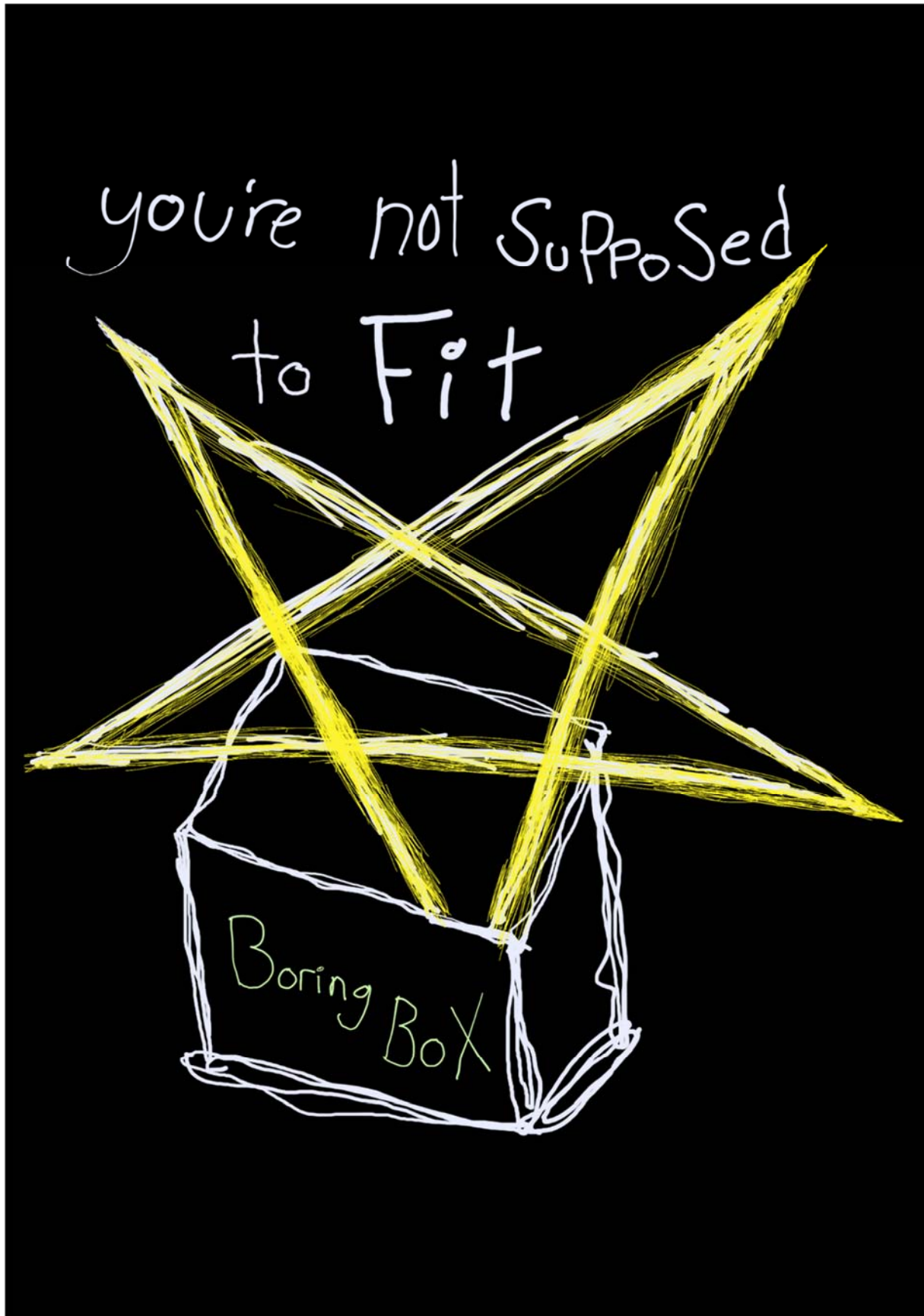
**The other ravens could  
see I wasn't the same as  
them. They called me  
names and told me I  
couldn't be a raven  
because we looked  
different and that "I glow  
like the sun"**

**I just wanted to  
belong. I wanted to  
learn to be a raven,  
whatever that  
means.**

**I  
Tried**







I felt **alone** until I met a white, black bear,  
named Spirit. Spirit felt **alone** too, we were  
both lost.

We could understand each other.  
We shared stories with each other  
and taught each other what we  
knew.

Together we realized our  
appearance didn't affect  
our value. We became  
family.

We are  
special.











**I'm an Urban Indigenous!**

**I am not an imposter and I do belong!  
This is who I am, I am not lost!**

**I am exactly where I'm meant to be. I  
am still learning and wish to continue  
learning for the rest of my life.**

**This is just part of my story;**





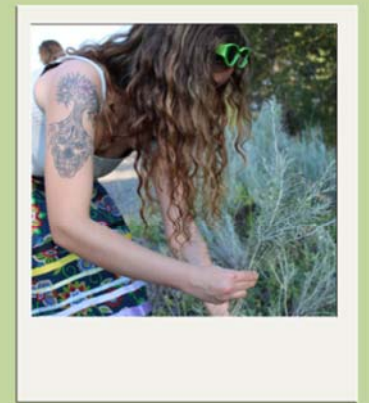
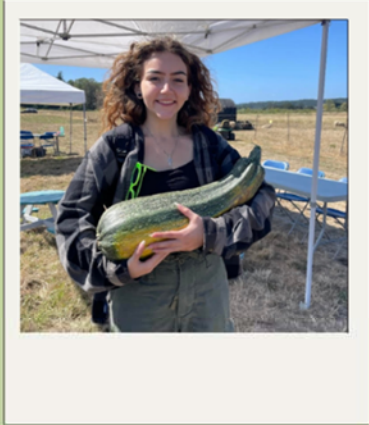


I'm extremely proud to be able to share this short story I've written and illustrated about my personal experience being an Urban Indigenous Youth that didn't quite fit the "image". I hope my story can remind people that you are never alone! You aren't supposed to fit in a box, especially not the boring box! Embrace your differences as that's what makes us who we are, be proud! We are strong, we are warriors, we are INVINCIBLE!

My name is Jewel Lavan, I am Cree from the Flying Dust First Nations as well as Metis on my biological Fathers side. On my Mom's side I come from strong Irish roots. I was born and raised in Victoria and am eternally grateful to have the privilege to work, learn and play on the beautiful unceded land of the Lekwungen peoples. I encourage you to take a moment to practice mindfulness whatever that may look like for you. :)



# My Story ♡



Jewel Lavan

Cree from The Flying Dust First Nations,  
Metis and Irish.

My life plan as of currently is to simply live my life to the fullest! (and to finish school haha) I hope to become a Red Seal Electrician and to start my own business bringing green energy to remote communities and apprenticing Indigenous youth who may not have the opportunity to move away for school.

I love being involved in cultural and community activities. I enjoy all types of art, I recently learnt how to bead and I made my own ribbon skirt for my high school graduation! I feel happiest when I'm near the ocean or in the forest <3



[Click here to view this story on the INVINCIBLE website](#)