

## CREATOR'S DAY

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Emma John (Emily Hubert)



**Keywords:** Indigenous children/youth in care, Indigenous web of life, Indigenous spirit animals, Indigenous caregiving, Nuu-chah-nulth storytelling

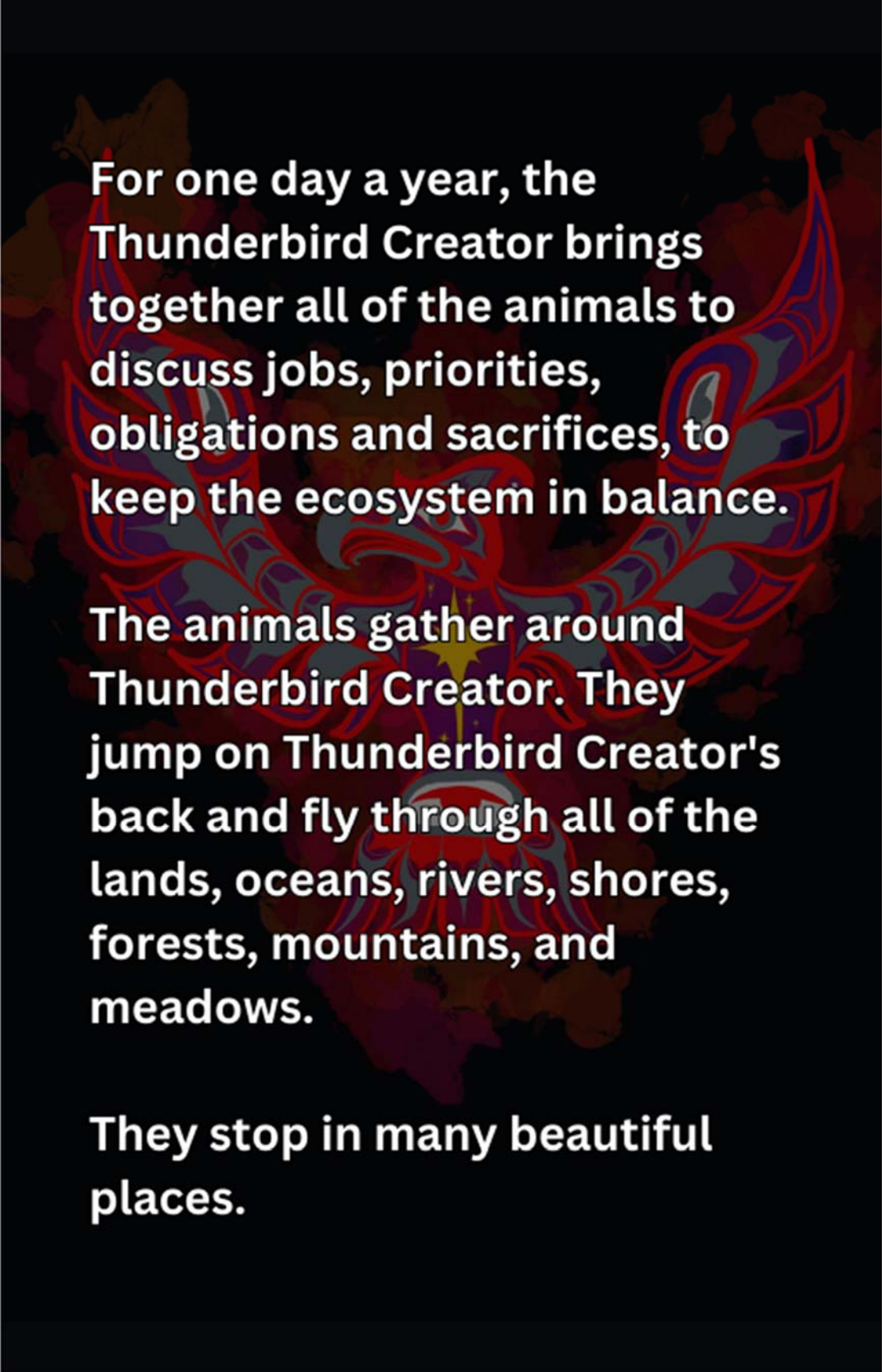
**Acknowledgement:** We raise our hands in deepest respect and gratitude to the ancestors and families of the ʔəᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ and WSÁNEĆ nations and to our own ancestors and Nations. We raise our hands to all Indigenous children and youth who have grown up in colonial systems, to those we have lost, and 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.

ᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖᑖ Emma John (Emily Hubert) 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 2021.

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



A spirit animal story brought to you by  
Emma John (Emily Hubert)  
tātuusinapšiił



**For one day a year, the Thunderbird Creator brings together all of the animals to discuss jobs, priorities, obligations and sacrifices, to keep the ecosystem in balance.**

**The animals gather around Thunderbird Creator. They jump on Thunderbird Creator's back and fly through all of the lands, oceans, rivers, shores, forests, mountains, and meadows.**

**They stop in many beautiful places.**

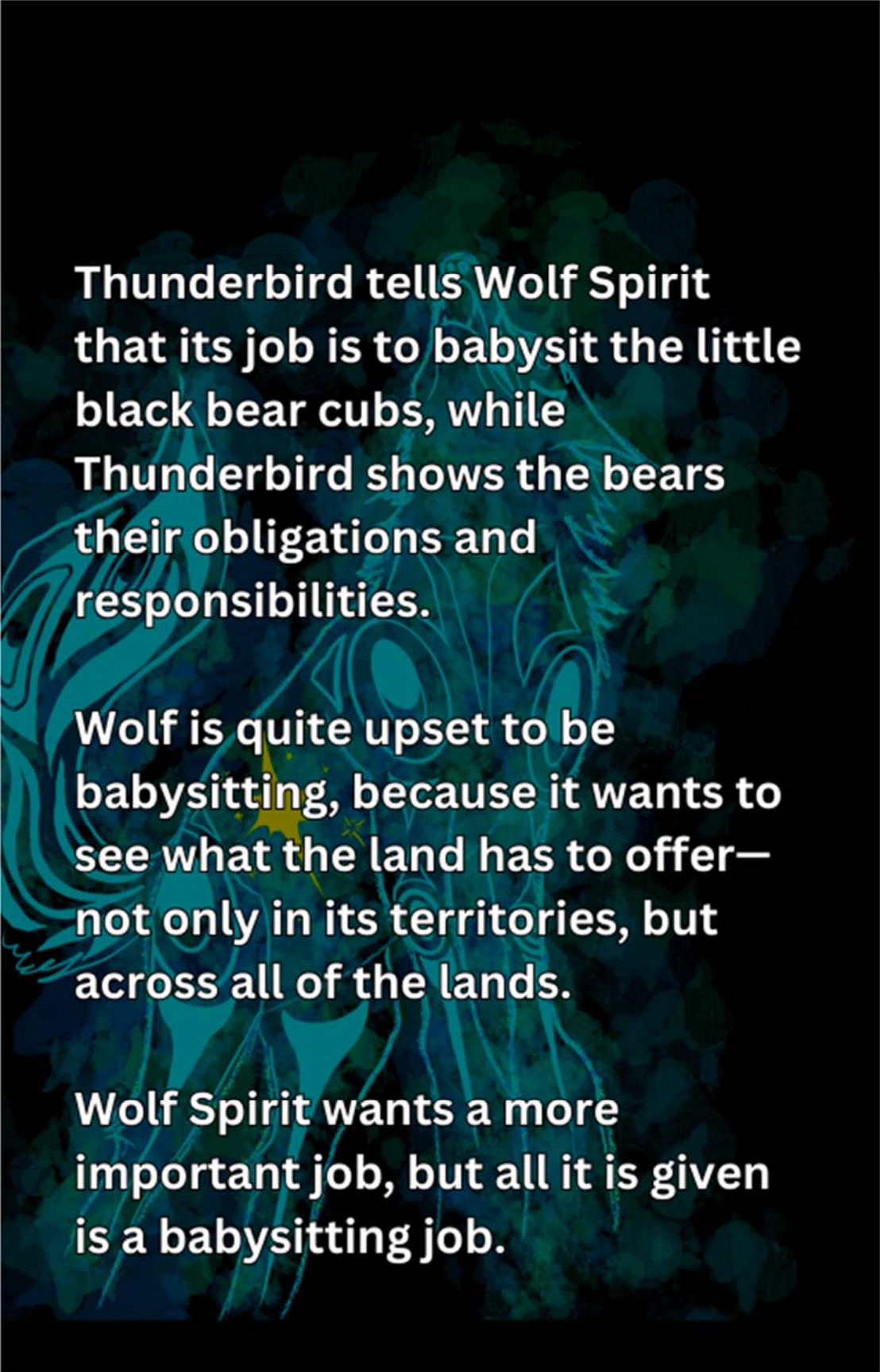


**At each place, they decide who will take care of the ecosystem, so as to maintain balance and harmony between the land and the people. The birds take care of the trees. They are gardeners, distributing seeds from trees and berry bushes or grains from the farms to make sure even the little people/creatures get some food.**

**The deer are to maintain the fields and forest beds, to watch over and prepare for the spiritual ceremonies.**

**All the spirit animals listen carefully to learn what they will need to take care of in each special territory.**

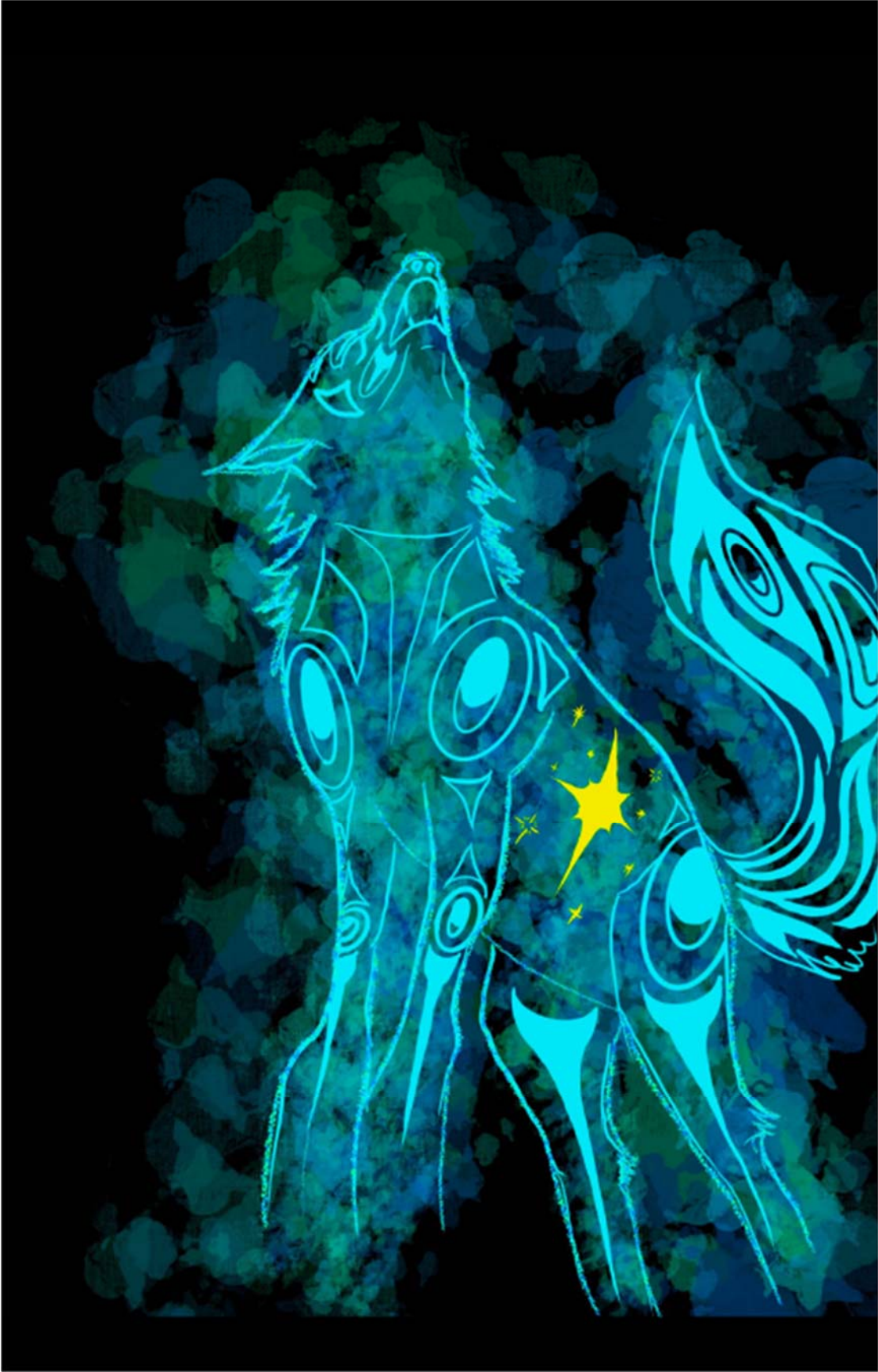




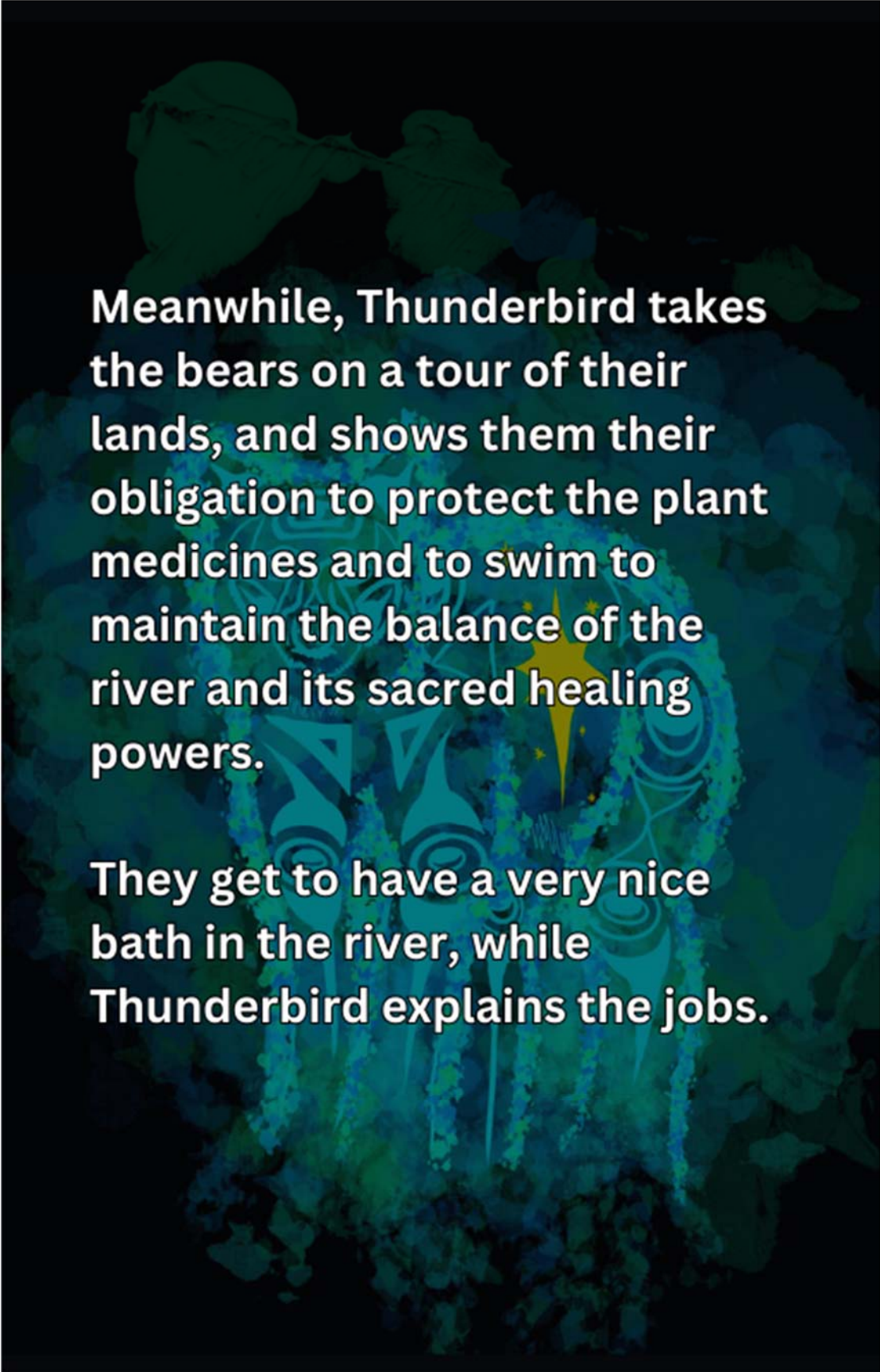
**Thunderbird tells Wolf Spirit that its job is to babysit the little black bear cubs, while Thunderbird shows the bears their obligations and responsibilities.**

**Wolf is quite upset to be babysitting, because it wants to see what the land has to offer—not only in its territories, but across all of the lands.**

**Wolf Spirit wants a more important job, but all it is given is a babysitting job.**



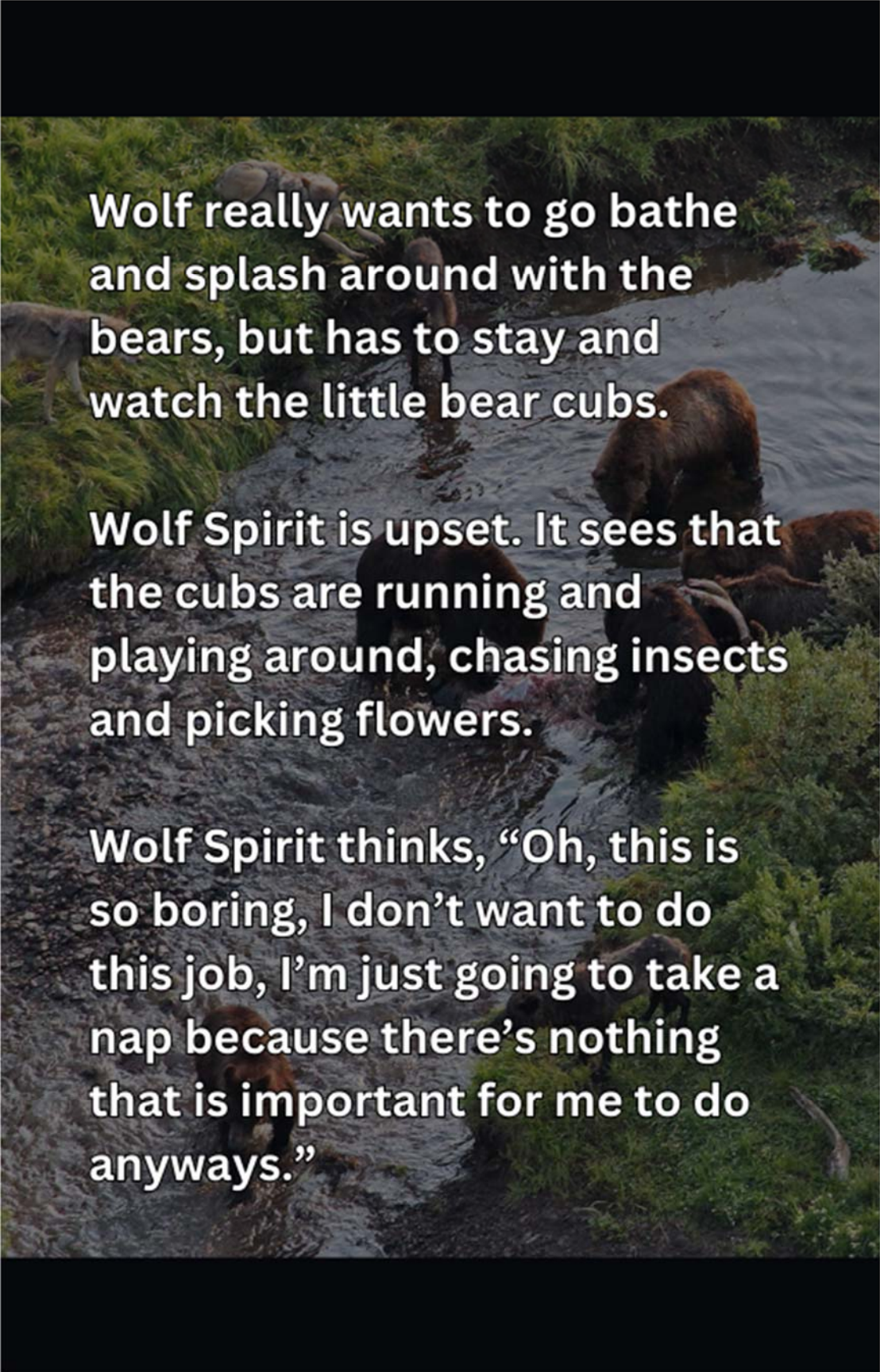




**Meanwhile, Thunderbird takes the bears on a tour of their lands, and shows them their obligation to protect the plant medicines and to swim to maintain the balance of the river and its sacred healing powers.**

**They get to have a very nice bath in the river, while Thunderbird explains the jobs.**





**Wolf really wants to go bathe and splash around with the bears, but has to stay and watch the little bear cubs.**

**Wolf Spirit is upset. It sees that the cubs are running and playing around, chasing insects and picking flowers.**

**Wolf Spirit thinks, “Oh, this is so boring, I don’t want to do this job, I’m just going to take a nap because there’s nothing that is important for me to do anyways.”**



**As Thunderbird finishes teaching the bears about the balance of the river and aquatic life, they get back to Wolf Spirit.**

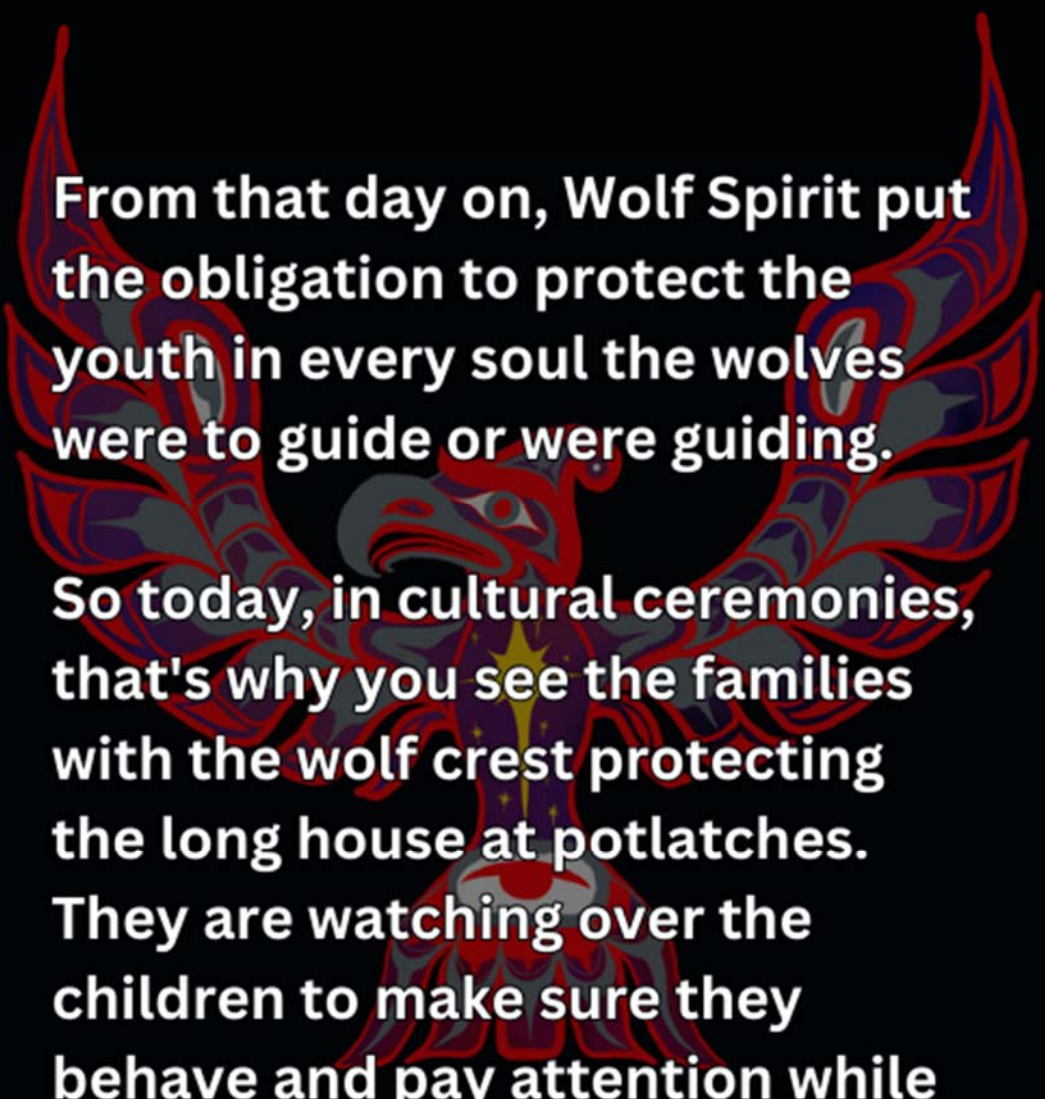
**Thunderbird sees that Wolf is not paying attention to the bear cubs one bit, but is sleeping.**

**Creator gets very upset with Wolf and says, “Why have you not done the job I tasked you with?”**

**Wolf answers: “Because it’s minuscule, I should be out there looking for a real task, a real obligation, something more important than babysitting a few cubs!”**

**Thunderbird Creator looks down at Wolf and explains in a powerful voice: “To watch the children is an important job, to guide and protect them is a real obligation! It is a sacred experience to teach them in the time you have.”**

**Thunderbird towers over Wolf Spirit, who bows its head down in shame: “I’m sorry that I have forsaken this important obligation. I now see that this was the most important job of them all. Protecting and guiding future generations is how we thrive to offer a better home for our future ancestors and spirit guides.”**



**From that day on, Wolf Spirit put the obligation to protect the youth in every soul the wolves were to guide or were guiding.**

**So today, in cultural ceremonies, that's why you see the families with the wolf crest protecting the long house at potlatches. They are watching over the children to make sure they behave and pay attention while culture is in practice.**





ʔatuuŋinaŋšiiŋ  
Emma



Thank you all for taking the time  
to read/listen to my story.  
ʔunupuŋi ʔeekoo ʔeekoo čuu  
(all done, thank you, see you later)

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