

RED FISH & HUCKLEBERRIES

Pine Ratcliffe



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Pine Ratcliffe 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

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BY PINE RATCLIFFE

That summer we picked huckleberries in your yard
The sun's heat on the back of our necks
And our knees in the dark damp dirt
The sour red berries burst on our tongues
Soon the red fish will run
They say it's genetic
The parasites in our brains
Red fish are filled with parasites
They say
Now I'm across the street
Looking at your yard
It's been four days since you fell out at red fish
And I wonder if the huckleberries are still there
And if the red fish will run

