

Victoria. Elle a traduit plusieurs livres pour enfants et travaille actuellement sur un projet de recherche concernant la critique en littérature pour la jeunesse.

## THE FOLLY OF ACTING IN ANGER

**The falcon bow, an arctic legend**, James Houston. McClelland & Stewart, 1986. 96 pp. \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-7710-4252-3.

In *The falcon bow, an arctic legend*, James Houston dramatises the benefits of tolerance and love for others different in language and culture. Mixing details of Inuit life with fairy tale motifs, the author's somewhat stylized presentation glamorizes the arctic scene but without losing authenticity. We learn how Kunga builds an igloo, or a kayak, or transforms a kayak into a sled, and about the dangers of waterfalls, about crossing ice bridges when the weather turns warm, and about the precautions that must be taken with polar bears. Houston not only teaches his young reader respect for other people but also warns against unnecessary killing: although the hero kills a caribou when he and his companion are starving, they save the aged bull walrus which has been victimized by its school.

The story begins with the orphan Kunga, determined to avenge his parents' murder by the Cariboo Indians who mistakenly believed them guilty of a crime that they did not commit. Finding his sister still alive and married to one of these Cariboo Indians, Kunga learns a new respect for these people. When the starving mainlander, Pudlat, who lives between the sea shore Inuit and the Cariboo Indians, approaches Kunga and blames the Indians for burning tundra grasses to scare the migrating Cariboo, Kunga defends those who were once his enemies. Taking his foster parents' companion, the White Dwarf, and the falcon bow, Kunga sets out on a quest to ascertain the cause for the disappearing Cariboo and to find his sister, Shulu, and her Indian husband, Nepawa. The theme of the story is reinforced when his two friends the White Dwarf and Nepawa fight due to a misunderstanding. Acting as mediator, Kunga transforms these two enemies into the best of friends.

In the final movement of the story, the young hero returns the falcon bow to his stepfather, Telikjuak, and in a ceremonial act, the latter frees the falcon to pursue a raven. Although Kunga protests the killing of the raven, Telikjuak points out that the raven can defend itself. Thus, a balance in nature is recommended and man's interference in this plan is not approved.

Houston tells a simple story where factual prose is highlighted by the occasional poetic passage. When two wolf dogs are lost on the ice bridge,

Kunga describes the animals as “pulling the image of the moon through the water” behind them. Again, the long journey inland describes the setting: “Each day the sun rose late and moved crablike along the hills, disappearing earlier every night. When the stars came out, the whole world around them seemed to snap and crackle in the sharpness of the cold.” Here and elsewhere, the figurative way of thinking peculiar to native culture is reproduced to suggest the beauty of the arctic landscape.

A highly visual story, *The falcon bow* is illustrated by Houston himself in a style that perfectly captures these rugged people and their way of life. Using charcoal sketches, the author does wonderful tricks with perspective to emphasize the actions of these people, and he uses light and shadow to give us the impression of human expression. Altogether the book is a readily accessible stimulus to the young imagination and teaches about a way of life different from the child’s own. Highly recommended.

**Gillian Harding-Russell** has recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on post-modern Canadian poetry at the University of Saskatchewan and has reviewed books (some for children) for *Freelance, Newest, Quarry, event, and The University of Toronto Quarterly*.

#### UN ÉVÉNEMENT PAN-CANADIEN: LA B.D. FRANSASKOISE

**Le Géant Edouard**, Claudette. Illus. Chloé. Regina, Louis Riel, 1986. 31 pp. 7,95\$ broché, avec *Guide pédagogique* 1,95\$ ISBN 0-920859-06-02.

Grâce à l’aide financière du Bureau de la Minorité de Langue officielle du Ministère de l’Éducation de la Saskatchewan, et, grâce à l’heureuse initiative des Editions Louis Riel qui ont publié et qui distribuent cet album pour la Commission Culturelle Fransaskoise, vous pouvez lire une bande dessinée qui saura vous surprendre agréablement à plusieurs égards. Dans une trame historique authentique, avec des arrangements fictifs judicieux, on nous raconte la courte biographie du géant Joseph-Edouard Beaupré qui lutta avec Louis Cyr à Montréal, et qui mourut à l’âge de vingt-trois ans au Missouri.

Un souci technique des plus efficace au niveau de la composition, de l’utilisation du découpage cinématographique et du choix de personnages bien typés, se retrouve dans le dessin de l’illustratrice Chloé, âgée seulement de quinze ans. On sent un débordement d’intérêt pour le sujet traité et un indéniable amour pour le héros; ce qui nous le rend très sympathique et inoubliable.

Malgré certaines lacunes graphiques, qui se combleront avec le métier, et des couleurs parfois trop criardes, les codes visuels s’harmonisent bien