

FRONTIER: HURTING

Herald flutters in, humming the Mother's lullaby.

HERALD

Oh hello! Did you stumble here by accident? Do you have a listening partner? Are you in search of healing hive?

(Beat)

Sorry, I'm ahead of myself. First close your eyes. We're about to embark on a unique adventure together. You noticed there are two paths—Hurting and Healing. No matter which pathway you choose, they will both lead to healing in the end. Whether with a listening partner or journeying alone, I have a friend to keep you company in each story, so don't be a passive listener. Engage with the imagined world around you.

The atmosphere shifts.

And pay attention. You didn't even notice you've drifted off to dreamland.

(Realizing)

Oh no! Maybe it's not a dream.

Sounds are coming from all around you. Sometimes they flicker, leaving you in cold silence.

LEFT: There are voices in the distance and close to your ear. Mourning and cries of people forced to leave the land, "This is our home" "He is a child! You're putting a child to death!" "No one can own the land!" A crowd shouting "hang them"

LINCOLN

All 39 in one day.

OFFICER

Yes, President Lincoln.

RIGHT: Voices, "What if you opened your eyes and the world was looking back because it needs you." "It's screaming for help, but you won't even acknowledge it's presence." "You hold the healing."

FRONT: Humming of the mother's lullaby.

MOTHER

MY LITTLE BABY GIRL
WRAPPED TIGHT IN ALL HER FEARS
A NIGHTMARE OF HER MAKING
EYES SHUT FLOODING TEARS

DON'T LET IT HOLD YOUR SPIRIT
OR THE TERRORS WILL HAVE WON
HERE'S A SONG AND EVERY TIME YOU HEAR IT
AWAKEN AND RUN

BEHIND: These are thoughts in the back of your mind. "how do I open my eyes? I don't remember. I feel trapped. I trapped myself. I feel everything. Everything in the world is hurting. If I open my eyes it will stare back and find me. It can't find me. It can't find me. I can't find me."

*ABOVE: Although it's very faint and muffled, you can hear the children shouting from ***Frontier: Healing*** The shout "awaken!" "All the colors in the sky" "Aki's singing" "Soft grass" "Grandma's smile" "My friends" "My uncles stories"*

*BELOW: The crackling of fire. The sound of Dotty humming from ***Jazz: Healing****

HERALD

Better listen to your friend there. I think they might have a game to help you with your nightmares. And remember, there are many pathways to healing. I hope to see you there.

END OF PLAY.