

“A garden of beauty, innocence, broken trust, and truth.  
This is magnificent storytelling.”

—Richard Van Camp, author of *Gather* and *Little You*



# FOUR FACES OF THE MOON

WRITTEN AND CREATED BY  
**AMANDA STRONG**



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MOON**

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## INTRODUCTION

Adapted from a stop-motion animation, *Four Faces of the Moon* is a story shared across generations. It will continue to ripple forward well beyond my lifetime. I share this story with my ancestors and with my grandmother Olivine Bousquet, who I dedicate this story to. We attended ceremonies together and I often sat and listened to her retell the history of our family. My grandma had a fighter's spirit and a presence that woke up the room. Spending time with her gave me the spark to carry our story forward.

Photography was one of my earliest forms of expression. I built a makeshift darkroom in my basement when I was a student. It became a portal between past and present, a place where time stood still. When inside I felt grounded in the present with my heartbeat and the timer as steady reminders, but I was also able to exist within time in a way that I hadn't previously experienced. In this story, the darkroom becomes a place between time and space.

In the settling of Canada and the United States, the slaughter of the Buffalo, the building of the railway, and the many tactics used to control and starve Nations left many families without land, shelter, or food. Many were forced into assimilation and survival. We come from families that resisted and went underground to keep our culture alive. The complexity of this experience cannot be told in one telling. Stories like this will continue to crack the earth like a Prairie lightning storm.

When I am feeling discouraged I remind myself that my grandma Olivine is at my side and all of my family are with her. They fought to keep ceremony, language, and our connection to the land and the Buffalo alive. *Four Faces of the Moon* is a personal story, yet it is also shared among so many. I offer it to you as space to create further discussion around the disenfranchisement and displacement of Indigenous Peoples and the original beings of the land in order to make way for the current colonial reality.

In Resistance and Love,  
Spotted Fawn



# CHAPTER ONE NEW MOON

WE WALK WITH OUR ANCESTORS,  
TRACING THEIR STEPS WITH OUR OWN.  
WE COME TOGETHER AND  
CARRY THE STORIES FORWARD.

KI PIMOHTÂNAW KÂNAKATASKÎTWÂW  
KIWAHKÔMÂKANAK AHCI,  
Î PIMT'SAHAMA OTAHKISKÎWINOWÂWA.  
KIMÂMAWINTONAW MÎNA  
ÂTAYOHKÊWINA KIKANAWIHTÎNAW.









***DRIP***

***DRIP***

***DRIP***



WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD,  
I WAS GIVEN THE NAME  
GIDAGAAKOONS  
IN A CEREMONY.

IT MEANS SPOTTED FAWN.



SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE NAME,  
I HAD A VIVID DREAM . . .

I WAS STANDING ALONE  
IN A FOREST LIT BY A CRESCENT MOON.  
I FELT LIKE I WAS INSIDE A PAINTING.



THE LAND WAS STILL AND  
EVERYTHING WAS ASLEEP . . .

THEN, THE CALM WAS BROKEN  
BY A SMALL FAWN  
CRASHING THROUGH THE FOREST.

**RUSTLE**

**CRASH**



HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF

