

How the Moose Lost her Horns  
Story inspired by a Dene legend told by Pat Martel  
Dat'ó Deníye bedé beghá húle ʔajá  
Yunızı homie  
Behomı Pat Martel

A long time ago the cow moose and the bull moose both had horns. They could take the horns off just like hats.

**Yunızı ʔatthé deníye ts'údaı denıyane bált'o ʔedé hahéıya nı. Bedé hayéle haduwele dene ts'áh háhılʔá k'ızı.**

One summer day a bull moose and a cow moose were walking through the bush. They were looking for some tall green grass to eat. They stopped at a big blue lake.

**La dzıne sine ku denıyaneı deníye ts'úda dechën yaghe dzegheʔás  
T'anchay lath'ı tloghe goth nenëth neshé sheghétıh ka kaghélıh.  
Tu cho déhtl'ës ga nelʔas.**

The cow moose said, "I'm so hot. I'm going to take off my horns."  
"Don't do that," said the bull moose. "You might lose them."  
"No I won't," said the cow moose. "I'll put them on this rock beside the lake."

**Deníye ts'úda hadı, "Edu duwéa sedé hást'ıh ha."  
" Hahoné sáná, denıyane ʔadı. "Neghá ʔáııldél lía."  
"İle hásné haıle." Deníye ts'úda hadı. "ıa tthé k'e níyesʔá ha tu cho déhtl'ës ghá."**

So the cow moose took off her horns and put them on a rock beside the big blue lake. She found some tall green grass and started to eat. Soon she forgot about her horns.

**Deníye ts'úda bedé hayıláu tthé k'e nıʔá tu cho déhtl'ës ghá.  
T'anchay lath'ı tloghe goth nenëth neshé yólʔau yeghá shéti ha  
nuʔá. Dadı bedé ghá nánıddhërléu yenálnílee.**

A big sucker fish was swimming in the water close by. He saw the moose eating the tall green grass. This made the sucker hungry for some food. The sucker saw the horns on the rock. He decided to steal the shiny and bright horns. The sucker came up and opened his mouth as wide as he could. The sucker swallowed the horns in one big gulp.

**Deldëlcho tu yé Deníye tsén nıdhıle tseghebıju deníye ts'úda tlıgh nenéth ghá shetıh hezıa deldële dák'é duwéa bër badhı zájáh. Deldële denıdé tthé k'e thezı yezi. Denıde bek'e sarédiu benat'ıa denı ghá nészi ha nıddhén. Deldélé bedá daharıntıu necha ts'ethıle híla. T'ághá denıdé hıchúu zeyı edé yélna.**

The horns were too big for the sucker. No matter how hard he tried, the sucker couldn't swallow the horns. The horns were stuck in its throat.

**Ku zeyı edé ts'ethıle deldëldá zızı nechá hulı yélná horeıdza ku yeba horénıle hajáh. Deldëlk'áze yé denıdé nełkéth.**

The sucker swam into the shallow water and twisted and turned. The horns were stuck. The sucker swam into deep water and twisted and turned. The horns were still stuck.

**Deldële tu tarıthıle yé nıbíu dzënarégıthéu narelghıth. Denıdé Yénéłkéth. Deldële tu tarıthá ye nıbíu dzéréghıthu narelghıth. ?elı denıdé bek'áze ye nełkéthı.**

Finally, the sucker swam far away from the moose twisting and turning all the way to the bottom of the lake.

**K'athı, deldélé nıdha ts'éyebı deníye ch'ası dzënanarégıthu nahálthere tucho tıá nıhbı.**

The sucker never came back to the rock by the lake and the cow moose was very sad that she had lost her horns. This is why the cow moose doesn't have horns like the bull moose.

**Deldélé tımbá gá tthe thezı ghá dzerebileu deníye ts'úda hánuele duwe bedé ghá hule za. ?eyı t'a deníye ts'úda denıyane k'ızı bedé háıyaıle.**

To this day the moose horns are still stuck in the sucker. If you ever catch a sucker, you can boil its head and you will see small moose horns still stuck in the sucker's head.

**Dó díri dzı ts'én denıde ɹełó deldäldá ye nełkëth. Deldële hílu dé, déldële tthí hílbés dé dedäldá ye denıde húłáh háší.**