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I am an Inupiaq-Norwegian woman from Ukpiagvik (Barrow, Alaska). I am the eldest daughter of George and Debbie Edwardson and the granddaughter of Elizabeth Ahmoagak Thebedo and Edward Edwardson, Susan and Paul Foss.

In recent times indigenous story telling has been supplanted by the influx of western content through modern media and the adoption of western models of storytelling. As a result we have unconsciously silenced the voices of our ancestors. And with that we have stopped transferring to our children our own indigenous values, morals and world-view. We learn how to connect to our world through these stories. So the danger of losing these stories and our capacity to convey them is that our children receive only a fractured sense of identity. Missing from that identity is their ability to understand and relate to the world around them and process the trauma and tragedy that is daily present in our communities as a result of the history we have survived.