



Children's Non-Fiction

44 pages hardcover

Ages 8 and up

HC 7.5 x 10.25

\$19.95 CDN/ \$18.95 USD

ISBN 978-1-894778-40-4

ISBN 1-894778-40-5

With historic photos and
Epilogue on the Second
World War period

Theytus Books Ltd.
Green Mountain Road • Lot 45
RR#2 • Site 50 • Comp.8
Penticton • BC • V2A 6J7
Phone: (250) 493-7181 x59
email: order@theytusbooks.ca
www.theytusbooks.ca
Authors website: www.firstnationswriter.com

When the Spirits Dance

By Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden

When Lawrence's father goes overseas with the Canadian Army during the Second World War, the young Cree boy struggles to grow up while wrestling with the meaning of war. With Papa gone, Mama raises the children alone. Traditional foods like wild meat and fish are scarce and many other foods are rationed. Angry about the changes and confused about the future, Lawrence misses his father and his teachings about their natural way of life. When army runaways threaten the family, Lawrence's courage and knowledge of traditional skills are called upon to keep them safe. With guidance from his grandfather and encouragement from his grandmother, Lawrence faces his challenges, becoming wiser and stronger, and earning the respect of his elders.

When the Spirits Dance from Theytus Books, Canada's leading aboriginal publisher, is the second book in the Lawrence Series. The series includes *As Long as the Rivers Flow* (Groundwood Books), winner of the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction, and the Honour Book of the 2006 First Nation Communities Read program.

Also by the author, *The Gathering Tree*, the gentle story of a family learning HIV awareness together (Theytus Books). "*The Gathering Tree* uses a storyline based on Canadian Aboriginal culture to educate children about HIV/AIDS prevention." – The Daily Voice, XVI International AIDS Conference

- Library and Archives Canada Remembrance Week Launch, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2 pm, Ottawa, ON
- Author tours: October - First Nation Communities Read tour, British Columbia;
Nov. 18-26 - Canadian Children's Book Centre TD Canadian Children's Book Week tour, Ontario

CHAPTER THREE – Runaways!



The postmaster

Victor with all them kids," he said.

Bobby cut in. "Wasn't Victor in the Great War of 1914?"

Old Ed chomped down hard on his pipe. "That's right. He lied about his age. That's how he got in." Old Ed stopped talking. He jerked his head toward Lawrence. The two men slipped out with their mail.

Lawrence walked up to the wicket. Standing on tiptoes, he could just see above the tall ledge. "Is there any mail for us?" he asked in a shaky voice. He didn't like hearing anyone talk about his Papa.

The postmaster peered down his spectacles at the boy. "Don't listen to those old gossips. They have nothing better to do."

He shuffled through a pile of mail. "I have a letter for your mother. I believe it is from your Papa," he said.

Hands in his pockets, Lawrence walked along the highway. A lumber truck passed sending gravel flying in the air.

Going for the mail made Lawrence feel grown up. Now that he was at school he didn't need a note from his mother to give to the postmaster.

Two men stood inside the post office. Old Ed, the bottle collector, and Bobby, who hauled freight from the train station, stood talking. They didn't notice Lawrence walk in.

"Nobody left around here but us old guys and cripples," Bobby said to Old Ed. Standing behind his wicket, the postmaster ignored them.

Old Ed's pipe hung from the side of his mouth that still had teeth. "The army even took some of the old guys. Look at

Lawrence took the envelope quickly and hurried to the door. The postmaster called after him, "Hold on, son! Tell your mother to be careful. There are runaways from the army prowling in the area. The police say they are deserters looking to steal anything they can. Some folks have lost food and clothes."

Lawrence ran all the way home. He was panting hard when he thrust the letter into his mother's hand.

"We have a letter from Papa," Mama said joyfully. The children crowded around her. Mama unfolded the letter and read it out loud. Papa missed them very much and hoped to be home soon.

She showed them a postcard of their father wearing his army uniform. Under his photograph were the words, "Somewhere in England."

Papa looked handsome in his uniform. Staring at his father's smiling face, Lawrence forgot all about the runaways.

Mail was scarce during the war. For security reasons, Papa's exact location could not be revealed on his postcard.

