

# lot

Sarah de Leeuw

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Kung Jaadee hin.uu Xaad kihlgaa dii kya.ang. My cousin Crystal Robinson gave me my name at the memorial potlatch honouring my great uncle, who was hereditary chief of my clan. Yaguu'laanaas sduu dii isgaagang. Kaads Nee sduu dii isgaagang. Dii.uu Gaw Xaadaagang, waagyaan I am also Tlingit, Musqueam, Hawaiian, and I am connected to the Tseilwatuth First Nation through the George family.

*Lot*. Gam dii guu 'la.anggang. I saw a quote while I was reading *Lot*: “Daily reminder that colonialism was not a historical event, it is an ongoing genocide.” *Lot* is good for settlers who don't know about colonial violence in BC, and in Canada; it brings up racism early [and] addresses it when describe[ing] Haida Gwaii and things de Leeuw has learned. From the way she [tells] parts of the story, de Leeuw has a strong interest in learning about Haida culture: *Lot* describes Haida Gwaii and things de Leeuw has learned, in particular [about] traditional foods, and learning haw'aa and chinay. *Lot* [also] follows [what] John R Swanton was told by Haida ancestors.

I was re-traumatized upon reading *Lot*, and to let you all know; my trauma isn't to be put on display for all to see, or to enjoy, or even to be entertainment. The stereotypes [written about in *Lot*] are what I have heard countless times since I was 5 years old. I was bullied by 17 students in my Kindergarten class, when our teacher left the room. Those Armed Force kids told me who I was (at least according to what they thought I was; told to them by their parents, and the parents were told by their superiors; before they were posted to my community of Tlagaa Gawtlaas, or New Masset, on the northern end of Haida Gwaii). I learned to hate myself for most of my life. I learned to love myself on my own, despite the hatred I've felt from countless non-Indigenous people. I am, and I always have been, a human being. I am a human being who struggled with reading *Lot*.

Colonialism hurts all of us, as we are all part of this web, one world. We are all part of it, and what one does to one affects us all. I believe people interested in learning more about Haida Gwaii will enjoy reading *Lot*. I grew to enjoy de Leeuw's book as well; the descriptions of my home territory reminded me of how much I love the beaches, the fish, the whales. I do not speak of stereotypes as I don't wish to give power to such negativity. Instead, I share the opposite of stereotypes.

I teach people to love themselves, and to love others.

I love myself, and I always will.

—Kung Jaadee, Haida and Squamish Storyteller

*In memory of my friend Ya'Ya Heit.*

*For Margo Greenwood. And almost 25 years of working together  
against coloniality.*

Early on.  
I learn.

The world.  
Began here.

Begins.  
Here.

In the beginning  
this land was

nothing  
but

sea water  
so they say.

In the beginning  
it was both

light and dark  
so they say.<sup>1</sup>

Contagion  
monsters

are always in-  
visible or sporting

beautiful  
masks.

There are many names for  
land is only one.

There are many names for  
water is only one.

There are many names for  
light is only one.

There are many names for  
raven is only one.

For ocean is only one.  
For bear is only one.

For moss is only one.  
For berry is only one.

For salal is only one.  
For deer is only one.

For salmon is only one.  
For river is only one.

There are many names for  
stone is only one.

There are many names for  
island is only one.

There are many names for  
queen is only one.

There are many names for  
song is only one.

There are many names for  
home is only one.



V0T 1R0  
Pop. 282 (2016)

Est. 1907  
Elvt. 5m/16ft

557 4149  
P.O. Box 19

Hwy. 16  
Area: 13.59km<sup>2</sup>

V0T 1S0  
Pop. 852 (2016)

Incorp/ed. 2005  
559 6121

Area: 37.28km<sup>2</sup>  
Elvt. 20m/65.25ft

P.O. Box 129  
2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

No. 2 Reserve  
Yagan (No. 3) 86 acres

About No. 5, about 9  
No. 6, Ain, 164 acres

About 100 acres  
Nos. 2, 3 or 4?

No. 7 (Yan)  
Meagewan, No. 8

No. 9, Kose  
Reserve #9?

No. 10  
27 acres

20 acres  
#8 there?

Kung, No. 11  
10 or 15

No. 12  
No. 13, Yatze

45 acres  
No. 12

No. 14 – Jalun  
No. 15, 101 acres

About 6 or 8  
101 acres

No. 15, Tatense  
Otter, \$14 each

and the marten \$7  
Exhibit "D8"

Lots 1546 and 1547  
Nos. 8256 and 8257

Lot 1626  
Timber Licence No. 37108

7 3/4 acres  
Timber Licence No. 2517

Coal licences  
Nos. 7965 and 7992<sup>2</sup>