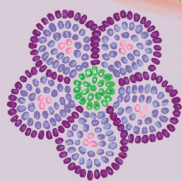
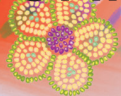
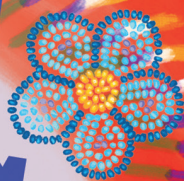


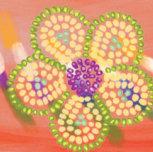
CHAPTER SAMPLER



# One Beaded Earring



Pat Lamondin Skene



illustrated by  
**Natalie Laurin**

—CHAPTER SAMPLER—

# One Beaded Earring



**Pat Lamondin Skene**

*illustrated by* **Natalie Laurin**



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

Text copyright © Pat Lamondin Skene 2025  
Illustrations copyright © Natalie Laurin 2025

Published in Canada and the United States in 2025 by Orca Book Publishers.

All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, artificial intelligence (AI) training and similar technologies. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher. The publisher expressly prohibits the use of this work in connection with the development of any software program, including, without limitation, training a machine-learning or generative AI system.

**Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication**

Title: One beaded earring / Pat Lamondin Skene ; illustrated by Natalie Laurin.

Names: Skene, Pat, 1945- author | Laurin, Natalie, illustrator.

Series: Orca echoes.

Description: Series statement: Orca echoes

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20240518683 | Canadiana (ebook) 20240518691 | ISBN 9781459841598 (softcover) | ISBN 9781459841604 (PDF) | ISBN 9781459841611 (EPUB)

Subjects: LCSH: Métis—Juvenile fiction. | LCGFT: Novels.

Classification: LCC PS8637.K46 O54 2025 | DDC jC813/.6—dc23

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024948762

**Summary:** In this illustrated early chapter book, the loss of one of her mother's treasured beaded earrings leads Delia to learning about her Métis heritage when she asks her grandmother for help replacing it.

Orca Book Publishers is committed to reducing the consumption of nonrenewable resources in the production of our books. We make every effort to use materials that support a sustainable future.

Orca Book Publishers gratefully acknowledges the support for its publishing programs provided by the following agencies: the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Book Publishing Tax Credit.

Design by Dahlia Yuen.

Edited by Vanessa McCumber and Gabrielle Prendergast.

Printed and bound in Canada.

28 27 26 25 • 1 2 3 4

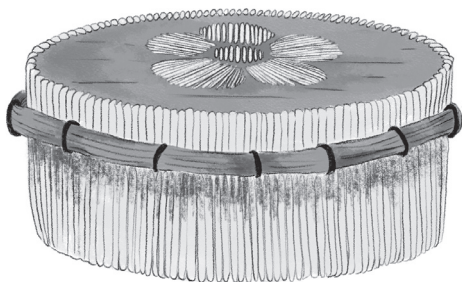


**CERTIFIED CANADIAN PUBLISHER**



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS  
orcabook.com

*For Jessica with gratitude, marsi.*



## Chapter One

Delia admires her earrings in the mirror of the school washroom. Rows of tiny blue, green and white beads are threaded together. They form a triangle pattern. Long strands dangle and sparkle. The colors blend together as they fall into a fringe. Delia likes the way they tickle her neck.

Girls crowd around the sink, oohing and aahing.

“Those are the coolest!”

“Where did you get them?”

“I love the colors!”

“Can I see them?” Kali asks.

Delia hesitates, then takes off the earrings and hands them to her friend. Kali holds them to her ears. She swishes them back and forth, making them dance.

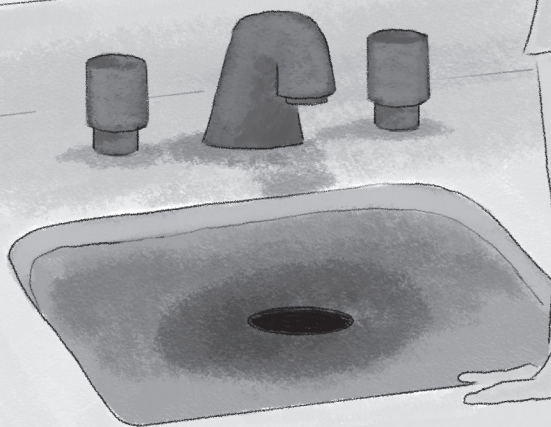
The other girls ask for turns. They pass the earrings around.

“Okay, give them back,” Delia says. She’s glad she wore these earrings to school. She likes having something pretty to show off. The other kids always seem to have new outfits and fancy sneakers. Delia doesn’t feel like talking about her thrifted clothes and hand-me-downs. But no one else has earrings like these. These are special.

“Are they yours?” Kali asks.

“No, they’re my mom’s,” Delia says.





“Does she know you have them?”  
Kali asks, laughing.

“No,” Delia replies sheepishly. Then quickly adds, “I’m going to put them back in her jewelry box as soon as I get home.”

Amara comes out from one of the washroom stalls. She starts washing her hands. “Hey, I haven’t had my turn yet,” she says.

Delia removes the earrings again and holds them out. Amara picks one up with her soapy hand. She lifts it to her ear. Then...disaster! The earring slips through her wet fingers. It falls into the sink. Amara tries to shut off the running water. But the beautiful beads disappear down the drain.

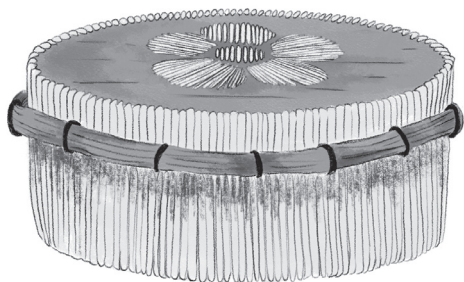
Everyone freezes. Delia clings to the remaining earring. She stares down the



drain hole like she's willing the other one to simply pop back up. Her heart begins thumping in her chest.

The earring is gone.





## Chapter Two

“Someone get Mr. Farkenworth!” Delia yells.

The other girls fly out the washroom door. They run for help. Delia listens to their footsteps disappearing down the hall. She looks at the one beaded earring in her hand. She can’t believe this is happening. What will she tell her mom? She can picture the look of disappointment on her face.

“If only I could start the day all over again,” she whispers in the mirror. “I’d never take the earrings to school.” Delia closes her eyes to stop the tears. She wishes her best friend, Jeffrey, was there with her. He’s always good at calming her down when she gets upset.

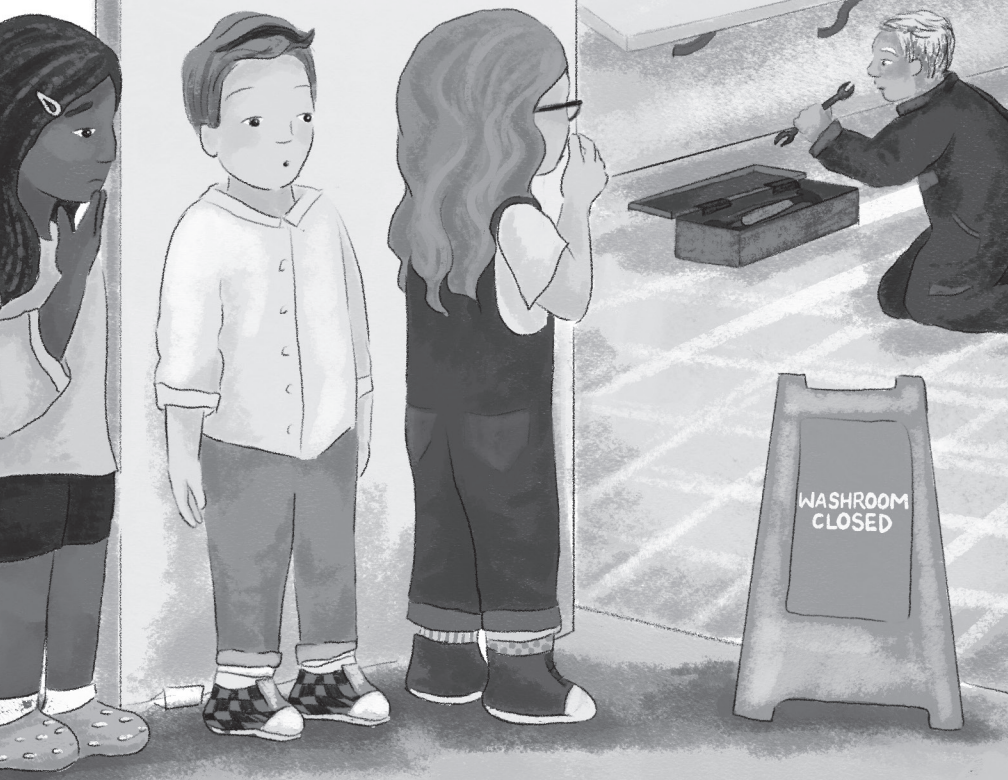
After what feels like forever, the girls arrive with the school custodian. He’s holding a wrench and an empty pail. Delia asks him to *please* find the earring. “It’s a matter of life and death,” she adds.

“Don’t worry. It’s probably in the P trap,” Mr. Farkenworth replies.

“Is there pee in there?” Delia gasps.

Mr. Farkenworth laughs. “No, it’s called a P trap because the pipe is shaped like the letter *P*. Now let’s take a look.”

Mr. Farkenworth asks them all to leave the washroom while he works. He props the door open with a yellow plastic Washroom Closed sign. Delia and the girls crowd around. They watch from the hall, holding their breath.



“What’s going on?” a friendly voice asks. It’s Jeffrey! A flood of tears pours down Delia’s cheeks. She tells him what happened.

“I hope he finds it, Delia,” Jeffrey says softly. “Try not to worry, okay?”

Mr. Farkenworth makes lots of clanking and banging noises with his wrenches. Then everything goes quiet. He comes out from under the sink, shaking his head.

“I’m sorry, Delia. It’s not there. If the water was running in the sink when it fell, the earring must have been flushed all the way through the pipe. There’s nothing more I can do.”

Delia tries to swallow the lump in her throat. “Thanks for trying,” she manages to say.

“It was an accident, Delia,” Amara says. She looks like she’s about to cry too.

Delia shrugs. “I know you didn’t mean to, Amara.”

“I guess we have a slippery situation,” Jeffrey says. “I’m so sorry, Delia.”

“What am I going to do?” Delia sits on the floor against the wall.

“We’ll figure something out,” Jeffrey replies. He sits down beside her. Delia leans against his shoulder until the bell rings for class.