

Noorn

Snake

An old story retold by
Kim Scott, Ryan Brown and the Wirlomin Noongar
Language and Stories Project

With artwork by
Alta Winmar



THE CHARLES AND JOY STAPLES
SOUTH WEST REGION PUBLICATIONS FUND



UWA PUBLISHING



Ryan Brown and Kim Scott

Noorn

This book is inspired by a story recounted by Ryan Brown as he heard it from his great-grandfather, *Pa Tjinjel* Roberts, and developed in a series of community meetings grouped around contemporary members of the Roberts clan.

The Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project is a not-for-profit cultural organisation and relies not only on the efforts and talent of its reference group and committee, which at the time of writing includes Hazel Brown, Helen Hall, Roma Winmar, Iris Woods, Connie Moses, Ezzard Flowers, Albert Knapp, Elaine Minitier, Henry Dabb, Clint Bracknell, Darryl Williams, Errol Williams, Mary Gimondo, Lefki Kailis and Kim Scott (and the too many people who have passed away in the years since our last publication); but also upon the support of its members. There are too many of them to list here,

but we would like to particularly acknowledge Joyce Cockles and her family for their passion and involvement.

We would also like to thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council; Professor Steve Mickler, Head of the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University; Alan Carpenter at Wesfarmers; Karen Herlihy, Chris Spurr and Graeme Simpson at South Coast Natural Resource Management; Mike Frampton and the team at Norton Rose Fulbright, Andrew Greaves and Renae Bullivant at Maxim Business and WritingWA for their support.

For further information, or to download a reading of this story, go to www.wirlomin.com.au.

Ngalang Demi, baal noorn wabiny.

My grandfather he snake playing

Baal, noorn, wabelanginy.

He, the snake, playing together

Koora, demangka baalap noorn moortang.

Long ago old people they snake family

My grandfather used to play with snakes.

My people, we've always been related to snakes. Snakes are our family.



Koora koora, Demi baal marnti, baal noorn noorok djinang.

Long ago grandfather he young man he snake egg see

Baal yoowart baranginy. Baal yoowart birn. Baal nanap nyininy,

he no grabbing he no scratch/scrape he camp/stop sit

baal nidja noorn noorok djinanginy

he this snake egg looking

Long ago, when he was a young man, my grandfather found a snake's egg. He didn't grab it, he didn't even touch it. He just stayed right where it was, and didn't let it out of his sight.