

MONSTER, A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE 1
By Dennis Saddleman
 I HATE YOU RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
 I HATE YOU
 YOU'RE A MONSTER
 A HUGE HUNGRY MONSTER
 BUILT WITH STEEL BONES 5
 BUILT WITH CEMENT FLESH
 YOU'RE A MONSTER
 BUILT TO DEVOUR
 INNOCENT NATIVE CHILDREN
 YOU'RE A COLD-HEARTED MONSTER 10
 COLD AS THE CEMENT FLOORS
 YOU HAVE NO LOVE
 NO GENTLE ATMOSPHERE
 YOUR UGLY FACE GROOVED WITH RED BRICKS
 YOUR MONSTER EYES GLARE 15
 FROM GRIMY WINDOWS
 MONSTER EYES SO EVIL
 MONSTER EYES WATCHING
 TERRIFIED CHILDREN
 COWER WITH SHAME 20
 I HATE YOU RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL I HATE YOU
 YOU'RE A SLIMY MONSTER
 OOZING IN THE SHADOWS OF MY PAST
 GO AWAY LEAVE ME ALONE
 YOU'RE FOLLOWING ME FOLLOWING ME WHEREVER I GO 25
 YOU'RE IN MY DREAMS IN MY MEMORIES
 GO AWAY MONSTER GO AWAY
 I HATE YOU YOU'RE FOLLOWING ME
 I HATE YOU RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL I HATE YOU
 YOU'RE A MONSTER WITH HUGE WATERY MOUTH 30
 MOUTH OF DOUBLE DOORS
 YOUR WIDE MOUTH TOOK ME
 YOUR YELLOW STAINED TEETH CHEWED
 THE INDIAN OUT OF ME
 YOUR TEETH CRUNCHED MY LANGUAGE 35
 GRINDED MY RITUALS AND MY TRADITIONS
 YOUR TASTE BUDS BECAME BITTER
 WHEN YOU TASTED MY RED SKIN
 YOU SWALLOWED ME WITH DISGUST
 YOUR FACE WRINKLED WHEN YOU 40

TASTED MY STRONG PRIDE 2
 I HATE YOU RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL I HATE YOU
 YOU'RE A MONSTER
 YOUR THROAT MUSCLES FORCED ME
 DOWN TO YOUR STOMACH 45
 YOUR THROAT MUSCLES SQUEEZED MY HAPPINESS
 SQUEEZED MY DREAMS
 SQUEEZED MY NATIVE VOICE
 YOUR THROAT BECAME CLOGGED WITH MY SACRED SPIRIT
 YOU COUGHED AND YOU CHOKED 50
 FOR YOU CANNOT WITH STAND MY
 SPIRITUAL SONGS AND DANCES
 I HATE YOU RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL I HATE YOU
 YOU'RE A MONSTER
 YOUR STOMACH UPSET EVERY TIME I WET MY BED 55
 YOUR STOMACH RUMBLED WITH ANGER
 EVERY TIME I FELL ASLEEP IN CHURCH
 Your stomach growled at me every time I broke the school rules
 Your stomach was full You burped
 You felt satisfied You rubbed your belly and you didn't care 60
 You didn't care how you ate up my native Culture
 You didn't care if you were messy
 if you were piggy
 You didn't care as long as you ate up my Indianness
 I hate you Residential School I hate you 65
 You're a monster
 Your veins clotted with cruelty and torture
 Your blood poisoned with loneliness and despair
 Your heart was cold it pumped fear into me
 I hate you Residential School I hate you 70
 You're a monster
 Your intestines turned me into foul entrails
 Your anal squeezed me
 squeezed my confidence
 squeezed my self respect 75
 Your anal squeezed
 then you dumped me
 Dumped me without parental skills
 without life skills
 Dumped me without any form of character 80
 without individual talents
 without a hope for success

<p>I hate you Residential School I hate you You're a monster You dumped me in the toilet then 85 You flushed out my good nature my personalities I hate you Residential School I hate you You're a monster.....I hate hate you Thirty three years later 90 I rode my chevy pony to Kamloops From the highway I saw the monster My Gawd! The monster is still alive I hesitated I wanted to drive on but something told me to stop 95 I parked in front of the Residential School in front of the monster The monster saw me and it stared at me The monster saw me and I stared back We both never said anything for a long time 100 Finally with a lump in my throat I said, "Monster I forgive you." The monster broke into tears The monster cried and cried His huge shoulders shook 105 He motioned for me to come forward He asked me to sit on his lappy stairs The monster spoke You know I didn't like my Government Father I didn't like my Catholic Church Mother 110 I'm glad the Native People adopted me They took me as one of their own They fixed me up Repaired my mouth of double doors Washed my window eyes with cedar and fir boughs They cleansed me with sage and sweetgrass 115 Now my good spirit lives The Native People let me stay on their land They could of burnt me you know instead they let me live so People can come here to school restore or learn about their culture The monster said, "I'm glad the Native People gave me another chance 120 I'm glad Dennis you gave me another chance The monster smiled I stood up I told the monster I must go</p>	<p>Ahead of me is my life. My people are waiting for me 4 I was at the door of my chevy pony 125 The monster spoke, "Hey you forgot something I turned around I saw a ghost child running down the cement steps It ran towards me and it entered my body I looked over to the monster I was surprised I wasn't looking at a monster anymore 130 I was looking at an old school In my heart I thought This is where I earned my diploma of survival I was looking at an old Residential School who became my elder of my memories I was looking at a tall building with four stories 135 stories of hope stories of dreams stories of renewal and stories of tomorrow 139</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2014/04/03/monster-by-poet-dennis-saddleman</p>
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