



**Excerpt from the Author's Note to
We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom**

This is not just a Native American issue; this is a humanitarian issue. It is time that we all become stewards of our planet so we can protect it for our children and our children's children. Water affects and connects us all. We must fight to protect it. I have hope that the next generation, YOU, will continue to see the importance of preserving our precious planet by pledging to be a Water Protector with me!

This book was created as I became increasingly aware of the many tribal nations that are fighting oil pipelines from crossing their tribal lands and waterways:

In April 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe stood up against the titans of industry to protect their region's water and sacred burial grounds from one of these oil pipelines-the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Although the tribes and residents are often told that these pipelines are safe, there are countless oil leaks every year across the world. These leaks cause tremendous damage and destruction to plants, wildlife, and water.

What started out as a camp made up of a few tribal members near the Cannonball River in Fort Yates, North Dakota, would eventually grow into a movement that would bring together more than five hundred Indigenous Nations from all over the world to stand for clean water.

Seeing reports of the protests had a profound effect on me. I am a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, a tribe also located in North Dakota. While other members of my tribe traveled to Standing Rock to lend their support, traveling to North Dakota from my home in Maryland wasn't possible for me at the time. But I knew what it was! Using my voice to tell a story. A story to honor the Standing Rock Water Protectors and share this historical movement with the world. Sadly, despite the fierce protests, construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline moved forward-with no assurances to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that the pipeline wouldn't leak and that their water sources would be safe from contamination. Unfortunately, there were leaks in the Dakota Access Pipeline before construction was even complete.

Like the Standing Rock Sioux, many tribes and their allies continue to fight pipelines on a daily basis. This is not just a Native American issue; this is a humanitarian issue. It is time that we all become stewards of our planet so we can protect it for our children and our children's children.