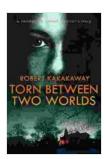
# Breaking the Silence: A Residential School Survivor's Story of Resilience and Hope

In the tapestry of Canadian history, the dark chapter of residential schools looms as a haunting reminder of the deep scars inflicted upon Indigenous communities. For survivors like Mary Two-Axe Earley, the legacy of trauma reverberates through generations, shaping their lives in profound and often agonizing ways.



### Torn Between Two Worlds: A Residential School

Survivor's Story by Robert Kakakaway

★★★★★ 4.5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 3587 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Print length : 174 pages
Lending : Enabled





#### Mary's Journey

Mary Two-Axe Earley was born into the Cree Nation in Saskatchewan in 1937. At the tender age of six, she was forcibly taken from her family and sent to the notorious Lebret Indian Residential School. For the next 12 years, she endured unimaginable horrors that would forever alter the course of her life.

Mary vividly recalls the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of the school authorities. She was beaten, starved, and humiliated. Her Cree language and culture were systematically stripped away, leaving her feeling lost and disconnected from her heritage.

The psychological damage inflicted upon Mary was equally devastating. She developed post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression. The trauma of her residential school experience extended beyond her own life, affecting her children and grandchildren.

#### **Breaking the Silence**

For decades, Mary carried the heavy burden of her residential school trauma in silence. Ashamed and filled with guilt, she kept her experiences a secret from her family and community.

However, in her later years, Mary found the courage to break the silence. She began sharing her story with others, determined to bring awareness to the horrors of residential schools and to promote healing and reconciliation.

Mary's powerful testimony has had a profound impact on audiences across the country. She has spoken before parliamentary committees, universities, and community groups, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those who hear her.

#### **Hope for the Future**

Mary's story is a testament to the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Despite the unimaginable trauma she endured, she has emerged as a beacon of hope for Indigenous communities.

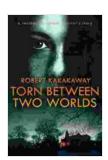
Through her advocacy work, Mary has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the lasting effects of residential schools on Indigenous peoples. Her unwavering commitment to reconciliation has inspired countless others to join the movement.

While the legacy of residential schools continues to cast a shadow over Indigenous communities, Mary's story offers a glimmer of light. Her journey

from silence to empowerment shows that healing is possible, and that even the deepest wounds can be mended through the power of truth-telling and reconciliation.

Mary Two-Axe Earley's story serves as a powerful reminder of the dark history of residential schools in Canada. Her courageous decision to break the silence has paved the way for healing and reconciliation, inspiring countless others to come forward and share their own experiences.

As we continue to grapple with the legacy of residential schools, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of survivors and learn from their stories. By understanding the profound impact of these institutions, we can work together to create a more just and equitable future for all Indigenous peoples.



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