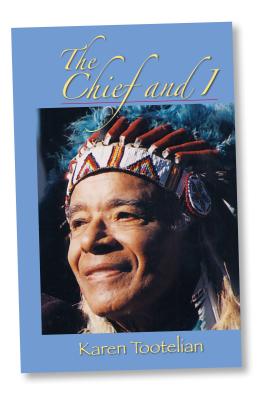
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The Chief and I

Karen Tootelian

n the summer of 2002, writer/environmentalist Karen Tootelian began caring for the eighty-nine-year-old Chief of the Mattaponi Tribe, Webster Little Eagle Custalow. What began as her personal journals evolved into a book about their deep friendship and compassion for one another. Told in Ms. Tootelian's poetic voice, this is also the story of the Mattaponi River, the battle Little Eagle began to save it from a reservoir, and about her own spiritual bond with this river.

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"The Chief and I is a lyrical tale that snakes along like an old, wise river. It weaves together many stories: the Chief's story, the story of the Mattaponi and of all American Indians, but mostly it is the story of one woman's battle to save the river that nourishes her. Savor this book, and think on the rivers in your life and how they sustain and support you and the communities you treasure."

-Rebecca Wodder, President, American Rivers



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Karen Tootelian-Westermann has been writing since childhood. A writer and editor, she is the author of Nobody Knows What It's Like to Be 6 and John Peter Zenger: Free Press Advocate. Her poetry, feature articles, and environmental essays have been published in a variety of magazines. Karen lived in Ohio, Switzerland, and Illinois before settling in Virginia. She moved to rural Virginia after college and fell in love with its rivers. Karen has a daughter and a son, Jessica and Michael Mountcastle. She now lives with her husband, Lee, and amazing dog Bandit, along the Mattaponi River and fights to protect it from the proposed King William Reservoir.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

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