

Why Animals and Man Can No Longer Talk to One Another

The Indian Reading Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Why Animals and Man Can No Longer Talk to One Another

Level II Book 20

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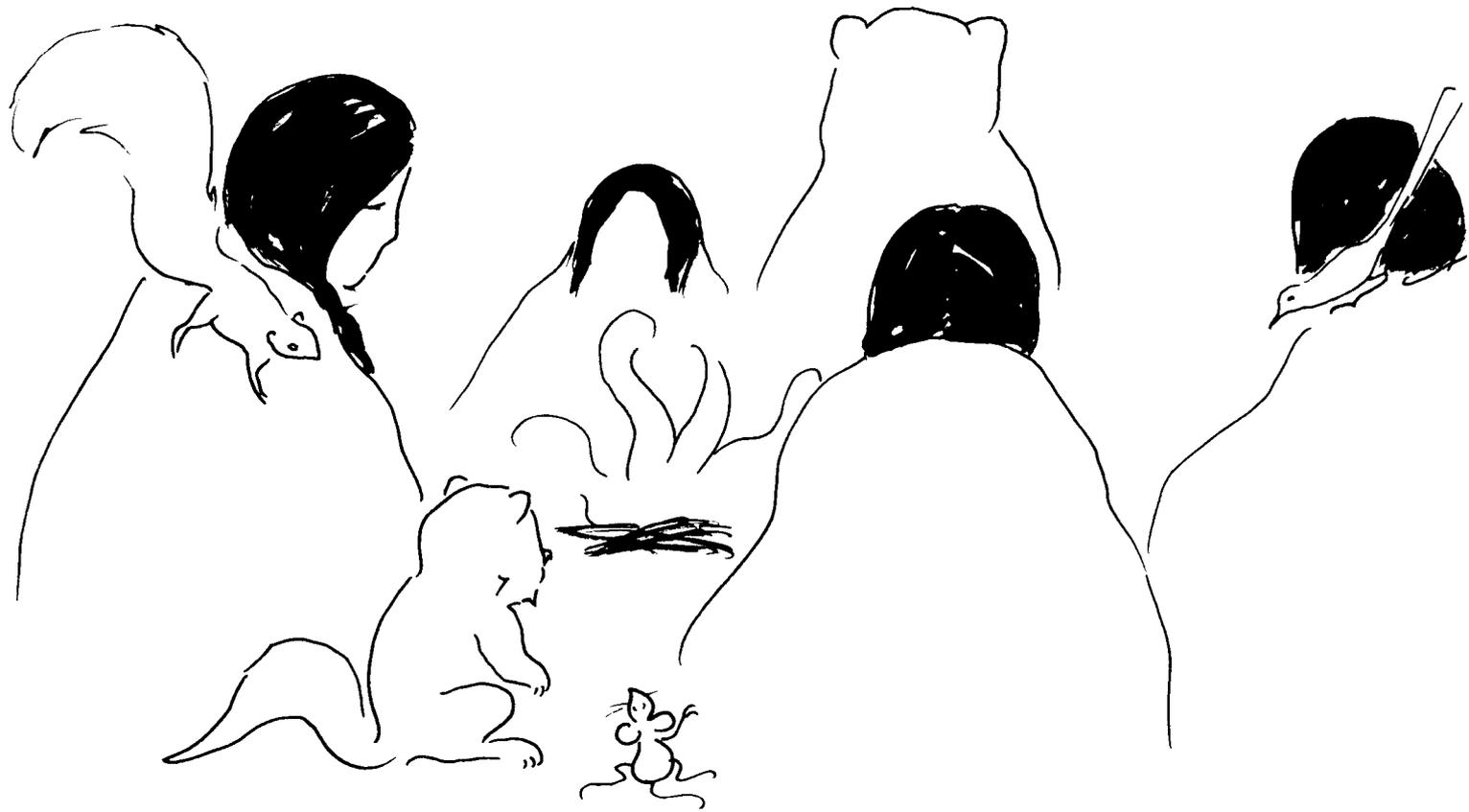
A long time ago the animals and man could talk
to one another.
This story tells why this is no longer true today.

Many winters ago, the animals and the Indian people
could talk to each other.

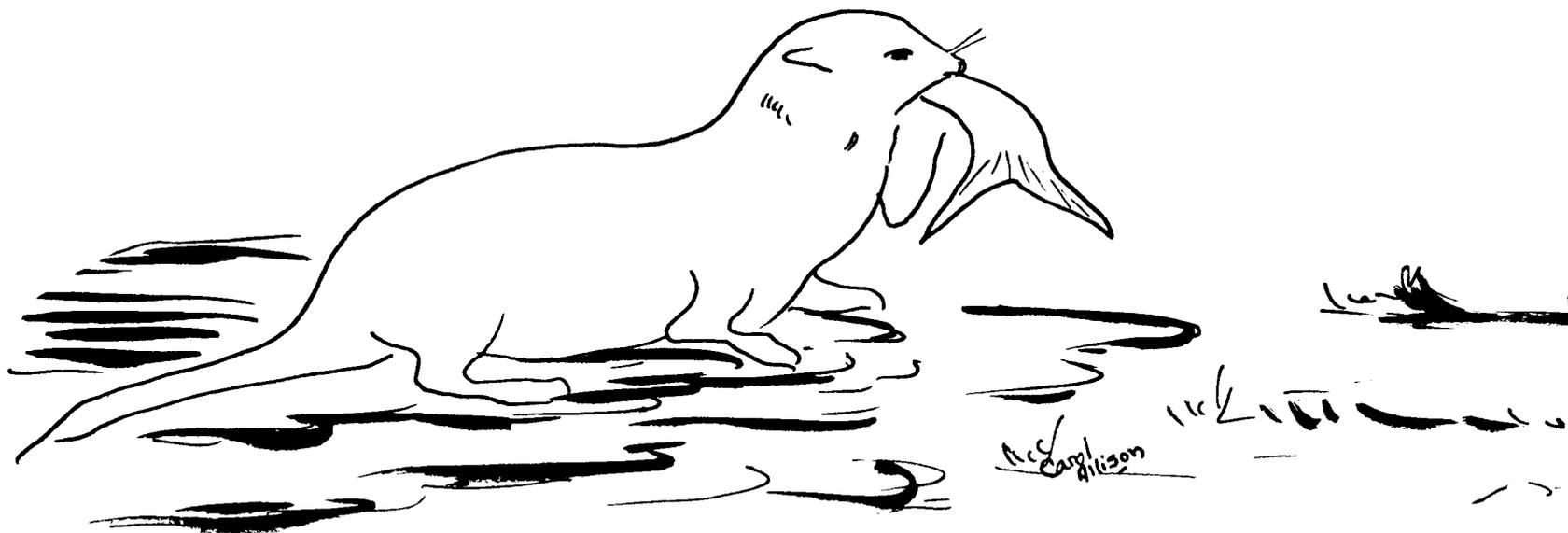
They worked and played together in peace and happiness.

They sat together at council fires.

The animals taught the Indian people many useful lessons.



Otter showed the Indian people
how to catch fish called Pike.
Beaver told them how to build homes that would
keep them warm and dry.
From Bear and Wolf, the Indian people learned
how to follow the forest trails.
Panther showed the people where to hide.



Horse taught them how to run swiftly.

Fox taught them how to enjoy life and be able to laugh
at themselves.

After the Indian people learned
all the ways of the animals,
the animals became very frightened.

They were afraid that the Indian people would no longer
need their help and would try to make slaves
of the animals.



One harvest moon when all the Indian people were sleeping,
the animals broke the rules of friendship.
Secretly they called a great council fire.



Jealous Wolf spoke first.

“The Indian people are our enemies,” he growled.

“Let us rush into the village and kill them!”

Panther wanted to kill the Indian people, too.



But Bear had another idea.
He wanted to challenge the Indian people to an open war.



“No,” said Beaver.

“We could wait until the winter moon comes
and then tear down their houses at night.
Then they will freeze.”



Old Fox said slyly, "Let us pretend to be friends
and secretly rob their corn fields at night
while they sleep."



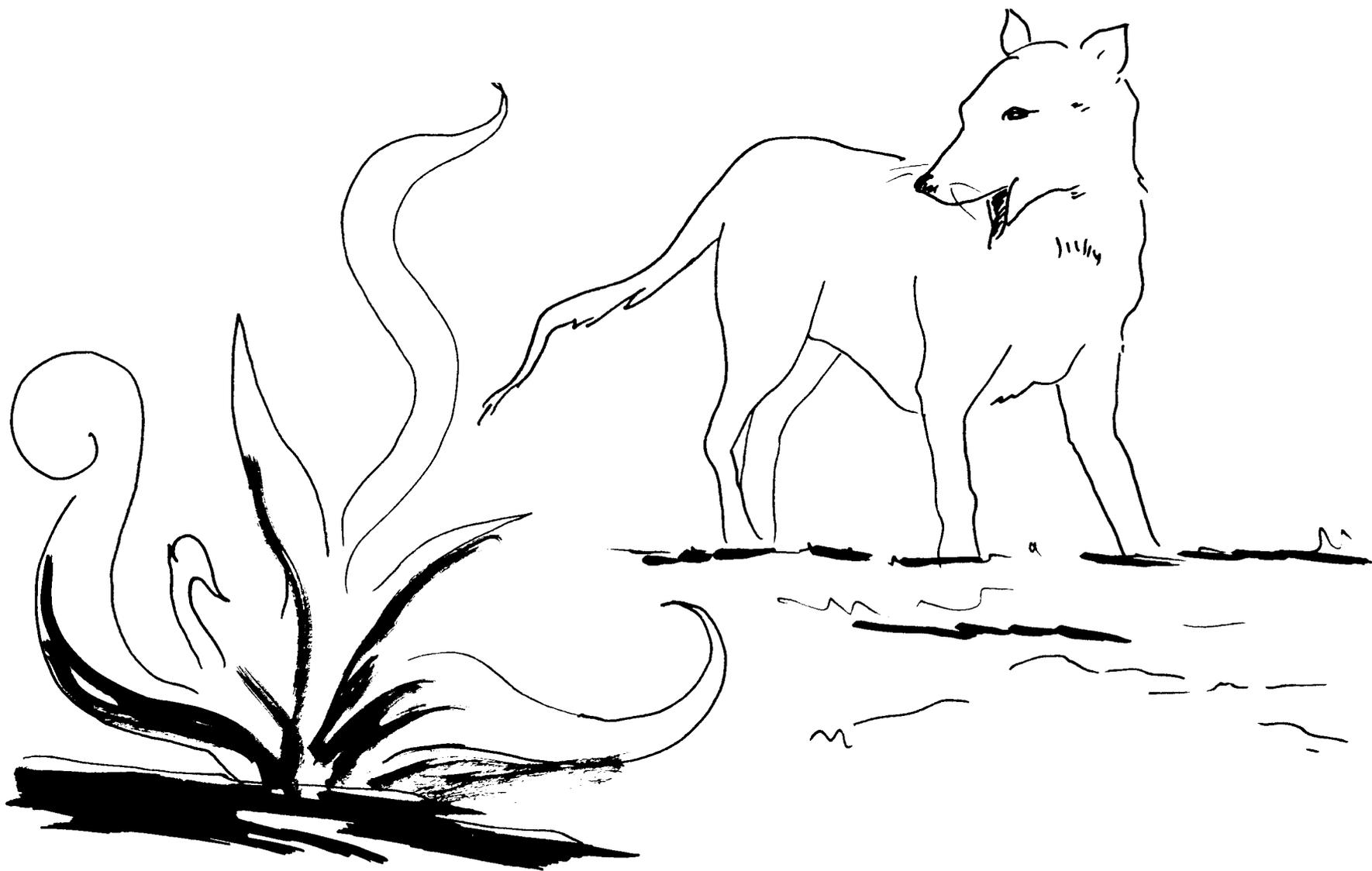
“Men and animals have always been brothers,” said Horse.

“We must not hurt them now.

Why not invite them berry picking and lead them so far away
that they will get lost and never come back.”



Then Dog spoke up bravely.
“Man has always helped us.
If war comes, I will go with man.”
The animals argued and talked louder and louder.
They talked so loudly that their voices
 reached the ears of the Great Spirit.
The heart of the Great Spirit was very sad.



The Great Spirit spoke to the animals.
“You have broken the friendship of the council fires.
As a punishment, you can never again speak with man
as you would a brother.
Because of his heartless plan, Beaver will be hunted
for his fur to keep man warm.
Traps and snares will be set for Fox and Wolf.
Panther will be an enemy and will be killed
by the Indian people.”



The Great Spirit said, "Horse remembered old friendships
so he will still be able to understand man,
but he will not be able to talk with him.
Dog has also broken the law of the council fire,
but because of his friendship to man,
he will always be welcome in the homes of man
and will guard man's children."

And this is why, say the Indian people,
that animals cannot talk today.
But Horse and Dog can understand every word man says,
even though they cannot answer.





VERBENA GREENE

Verbena Greene, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, is the mother of eight children. She attended Warm Springs Boarding School until the 11th grade and later earned her G.E.D. She has served as Local Coordinator for the Warm Springs Curriculum Development Committee and was the Tribal Education Program Liaison for more than seven years. She presently is serving as Culture Resource Person for the Tribes, providing classroom cultural instruction (legends, values, songs, etc.) on a consultant basis to schools and community colleges. She enjoys working with young people and is pleased that students are now forming culture clubs and holding powwows in the school environment.



CAROL ALLISON

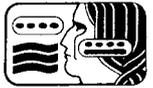
Carol Allison has been closely associated with the Warm Springs Tribes for 16 years. She works in several different media, including water colors, cloth painting (shawls, skirts) and cartooning. In addition to writing and illustrating children's books, she has worked with Warm Springs committees writing down tribal history and culture.

Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

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| 10 <i>The Rainbow</i> The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon | |
| 11 <i>The Time the Whale Came to Jackson's Bay</i> Skokomish Tribe | |

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