Coyote’s Dry Meat Turns Into Live Deer

Told by Pete Beaverhead
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Coyote and Fox had their tepee set up by a large meadow.
Early in the morning they would go out looking for food. They were in need. Food was hard to find. One day Coyote came back near camp. Fox was singing.
He thought this was unusual. That wasn’t Fox’s way. Coyote went in and sat there. Right away he looked at Fox’s lips. His lips were oily. He thought, “He has been eating something greasy.”
"My brother, what made your mouth so oily?"
"No, I don’t have an oily mouth."
"Yes, your mouth is oily from fat."
“It is because you are so crazy that I hid it from you. Over in a clearing I saw a tepee. A lone man was getting a lot of deer. He had a number of dry meat racks full of meat. In his tepee the piles of parfleches with pounded meat were high. He sure was getting a lot. I went out of the trees into a clearing and saw smoke from a meat rack. He had a lot of tepees lined up way over there.”
"Right by the edge of the meadow there was a sweathehouse. That was where the man was making a fire. He was using intestines for wood. The grease was just pouring out. I talked to him but he wouldn't talk to me. I watched him until he turned his face from me. I touched the grease that was pouring out."

"Ah, quit that! You're dirty! Go to my house and eat! There is a lot of dry meat!" he hollered at me.
"I went in and ate until I was full. I went back out. He was already sweating. The sweat house covering was made from a thin layer of skin taken from the inside of a hide."

Coyote told him, "Well then, in the morning you stay home. I'll go this time."
Early in the morning Coyote left. He knew the place now. He got out of the trees. The man was just making a fire at his sweathouse.
“Ah! Good morning! You’re already making fire for a sweat.”

The man didn’t talk to him.

“Did you hear? I am talking to you.”

The man never talked to him. He didn’t even pay attention to him. He was busy with his rocks.
Coyote sneaked up and stepped on the grease. It stuck to his feet. He oiled his hands and raised them to his lips.

"Ha! You’re dirty! Quit that! Go to my tepee and eat!"
"Ha yo! You are right."
Coyote went. There was a lot of food. Finally, he finished eating what he had taken.

"There, that's enough!"

He went back to the sweathouse. He took two big rocks and waited for the man to come out. Just as the man came out, he hit him over the head until he died. He dragged him to some bushes and threw him in.
"Now all of this meat belongs to us," he thought. He went back into the tepee and lay down and sang his song.
Suddenly, he heard something saying, "The deer are running! The deer are running!" Coyote was startled. He sat up. It was coming from where he had thrown the man. He slowly went towards him. He was lying there dead. As soon as Coyote turned his back, the man would holler again, "The deer are running! Wha, wha, wha! I am dead and I can't run again!" Coyote ran back to the tepee.

The man that he had killed was a woodtick. That is what had been killing all the deer.
Suddenly, Coyote heard deer running, lu, lu, lu and snorting. There would be a snap, then the sound of the deer running. What he heard was the dry meat falling off the racks, turning into deer and running away.

He jumped up and ran out. The meat was just about gone. The deer were running all over.

Woodtick was hollering.
Coyote ran back into the tepee, grabbed some parfleches and ran back out. He threw them into the water. Just as soon as they splashed, they would turn into deer and swim across the water.
Coyote ran back into the tepee. One deer came running out knocking him over. The deer ran all around him. He got up, ran and opened the door. Nothing.
The tepee fell down and turned into a deer and took off running. The dry meat racks turned into deer, too and ran off. Soon everything was gone.
He heard the woodtick among them. Soon it was quiet. Everything was gone.

He went over to where he threw the man. He was gone.

Coyote sat there. Soon he got a stomach ache. The meat he had eaten turned back into a deer. Swoosh! It too ran out. His stomach was empty now.
When he got back, his Brother told him, "That is why I was hiding it from you. You are too greedy."

Coyote ended up hungry again.
Booklets available in the Level IV 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, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2. *Snail Women at Sq”a’le*  
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation

3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*  
Muckleshoot Tribe

4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

5. *Coyote*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

6. *How the Summer Season Came*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation

7. *Little Weasel’s Dream*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

8. *Fort Hall Stories*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

9. *The Bear Tepee*  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*  
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

11. *Kootenai Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

12. *Chief Mountain’s Medicine*  
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap Reservation

13. *Coyote the Trickster*  
Burns Paiute Reservation

14. *Running Free*  
Shoalwater Bay

15. *Salish Coyote Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

17. *Napi’s Journey*  
Blackfeet Tribe

18. *Warm Springs Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19. *Tepee Making*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

20. *Baskets and Canoes*  
Skokomish Tribe

21. *Warrior People*  
Blackfeet Tribe