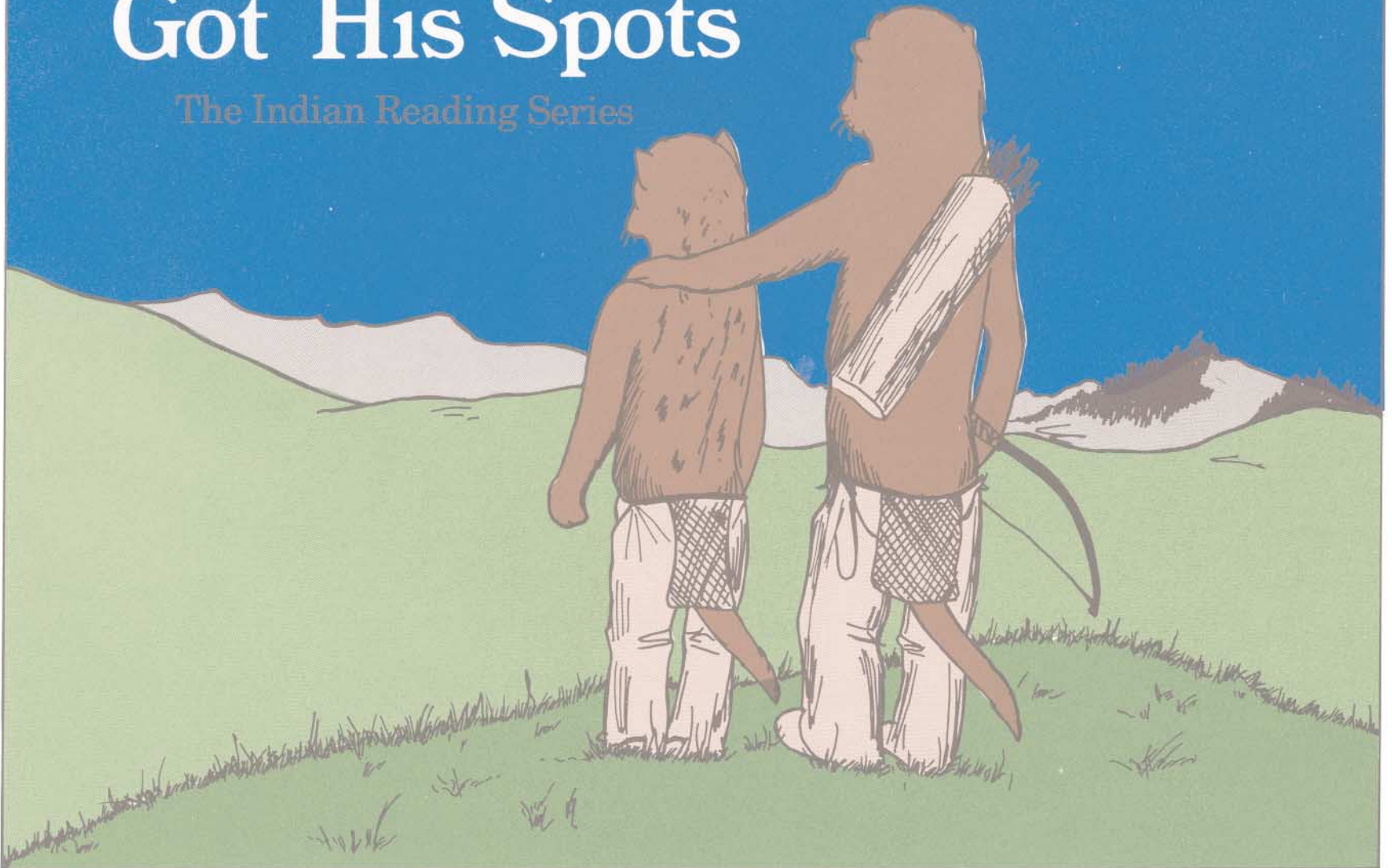


# How Marten Got His Spots

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:  
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

## How Marten Got His Spots

Level III Book 4

Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee  
of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

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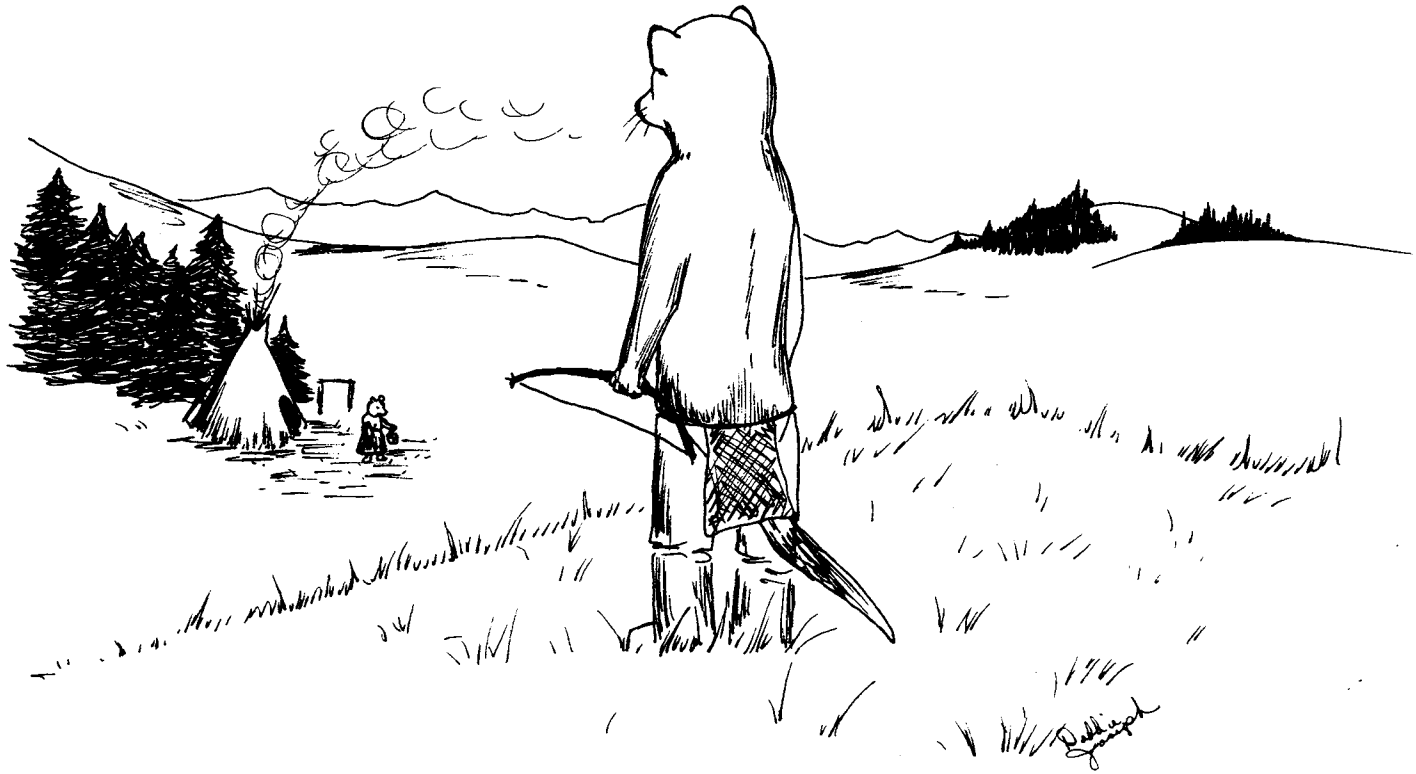
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Marten and Mink were brothers.  
Since Mink was the oldest,  
    he took care of his younger brother, Marten.  
Mink gave strict orders to Marten.  
“Whatever you do, never go over the hill,” he said.  
“Always stay close to home.”

Marten would look up at the hill  
and wonder why he wasn't allowed  
to play on the other side.  
One day his curiosity got the best of him.  
He went to the top of the hill.  
Down in the valley was a tepee.  
Marten wondered who lived there.  
As he got closer, he saw Bear working in the yard.





When Bear went back into the tepee,  
Marten followed her in  
and sat down across from her.  
Bear offered Marten a wooden dish full of pemmican.





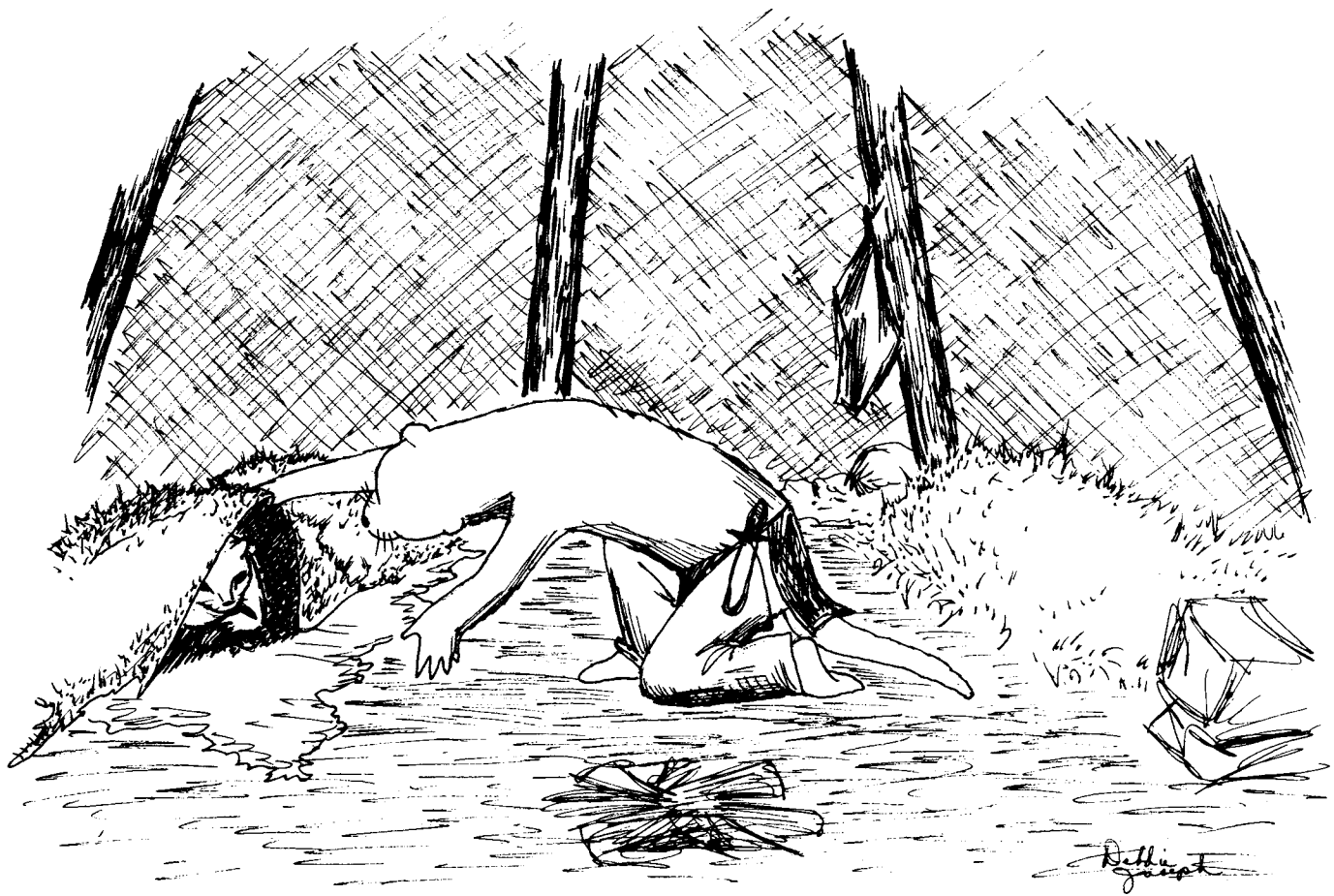
As Marten reached across the fire to take the dish,  
Bear grabbed his arm and pulled him into the fire!

Just in time, he scrambled out of the fire  
before he scorched himself too badly.  
Poor Marten ran all the way home  
and jumped under the covers.



*Signature*

When Mink returned from hunting,  
there was no sign of Marten.  
Mink looked everywhere.  
Finally, he lifted up the blankets  
and found his little brother.  
Martin told Mink he had not listened  
and had gone over the hill.  
He explained what had happened  
and showed his big brother  
the burnt spots on his fur.  
For a few days,  
Mink put medicine on his brother's wounds,  
until only scars remained.





And that's how martens got their spots.

Booklets available in the Level III 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 II sequences.

- |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>Story of the Seasons</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon                                                | 11 <i>How the Milky Way Got into the Sky</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon                                          |
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| 3 <i>The Blacktail Dance</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe                                                                                                      | 13 <i>Medicine Horse</i><br>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the<br>Fort Hall Reservation                                                                           |
| 4 <i>How Marten Got His Spots</i><br>Kootenai Cultural Committee of<br>The Confederated Salish and<br>Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead<br>Reservation | 14 <i>The Good Hunter and Fisherman</i><br>Jamestown-Clallam Tribe                                                                                            |
| 5 <i>Lost in the Fog</i><br>Jamestown-Clallam Tribe                                                                                                  | 15 <i>The Wild Buffalo Ride</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe                                                                                                            |
| 6 <i>How to Be a Friend</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon                                                  | 16 <i>I Am a Rock</i><br>Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural<br>Commission                                                                                    |
| 7 <i>How the Morning and Evening Stars<br/>Came to Be</i><br>Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the<br>Fort Peck Reservation                            | 17 <i>The Man Who Loved Shell Money</i><br>Skokomish Tribe                                                                                                    |
| 8 <i>Raccoon's Black Eyes and Ringed Tail</i><br>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the<br>Fort Hall Reservation                                             | 18 <i>Old Man Napi</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe                                                                                                                     |
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| 10 <i>Coyote and Trout</i><br>Kootenai Cultural Committee of<br>The Confederated Salish and<br>Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead<br>Reservation        | 20 <i>Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep</i><br>Salish Cultural Committee of<br>The Confederated Salish and<br>Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead<br>Reservation |

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