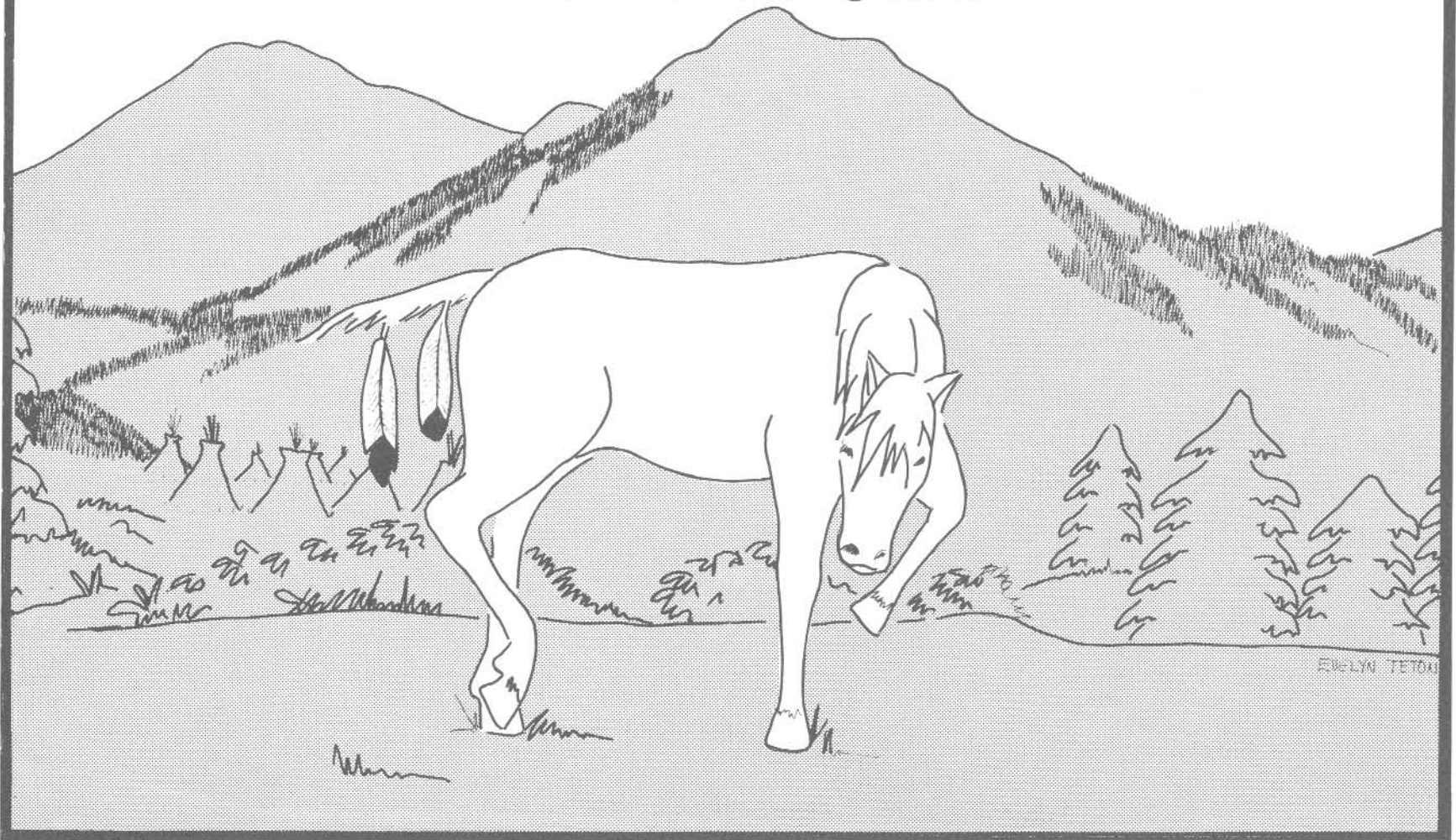


Medicine Horse

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

Medicine Horse

Level III Book 13

By members of the Fort Hall
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Shoshone horsemen say that the Indian Medicine Horse,
with its short, almost hairless tail,
makes a fine Indian pony.

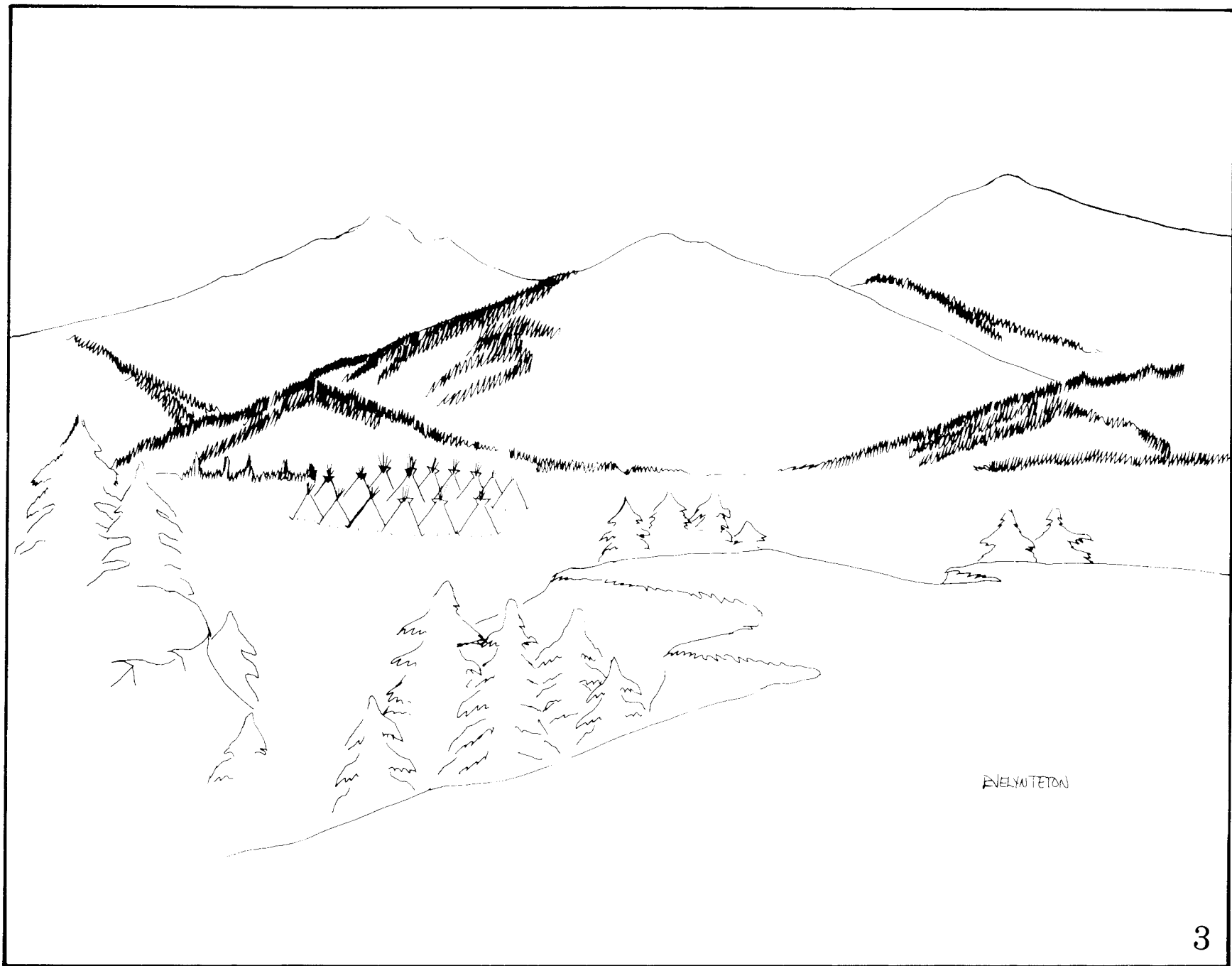
Long ago, our people lived along the foothills
of the great Continental Divide.

This was before the horse had come as a great friend
of our people.

Our people, Ne-wah as the Shoshone called themselves,
had many strange friends.

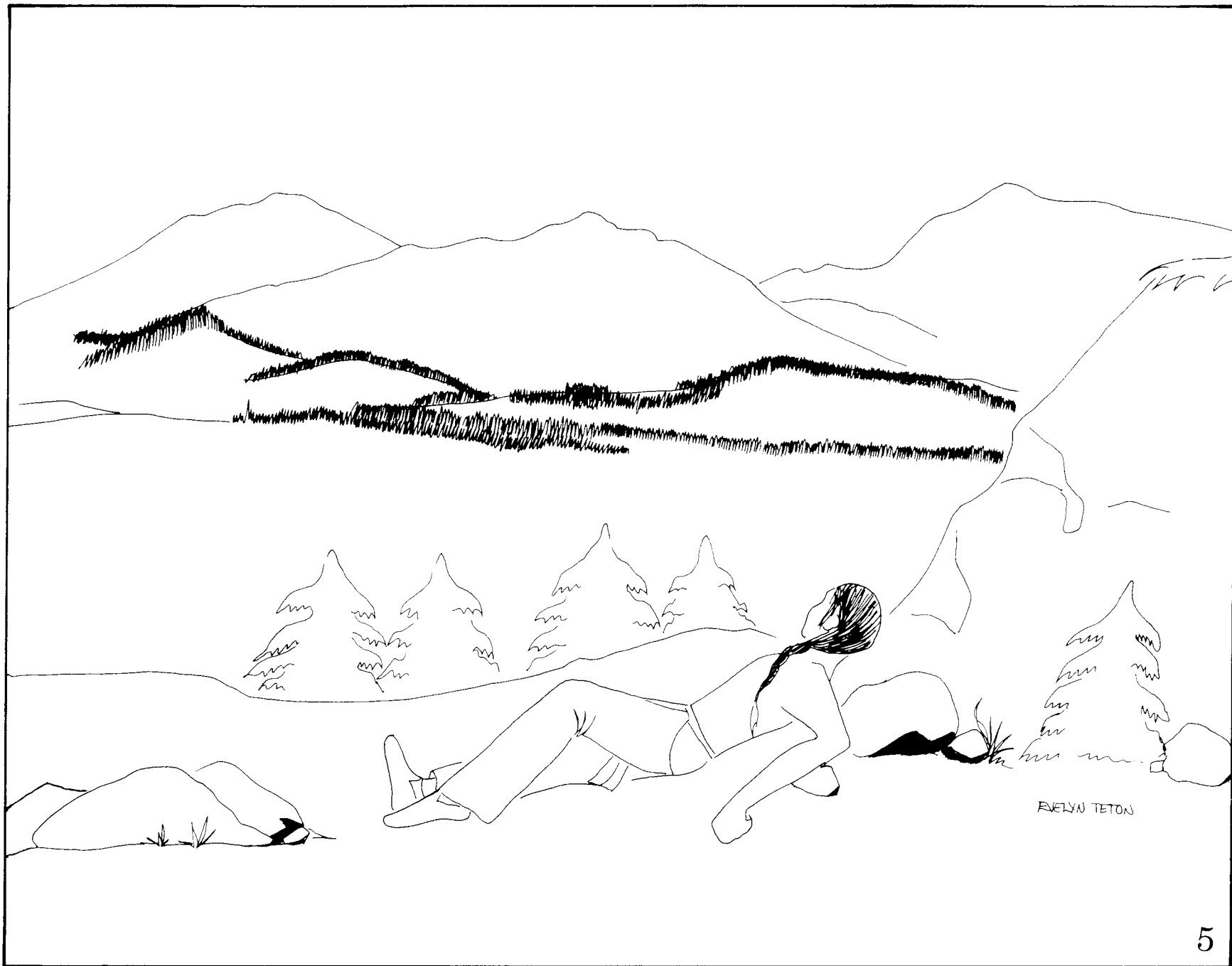
One of these friends was a dwarf-like man
called Nin-num-bee.

It was said that when you passed through the mountains,
it was a very good idea to leave him a gift
so that bad luck would not come to you.



EVESYATEON

Once long ago, a young boy went into the mountains.
He fell and was hurt, which made it impossible
to get back to his people's camp.
He suffered quietly.



EVELYN TETON

In the early hours of the morning on the third day,
he felt the nearness of someone.
He looked up and saw the image of the Nin-num-bee.

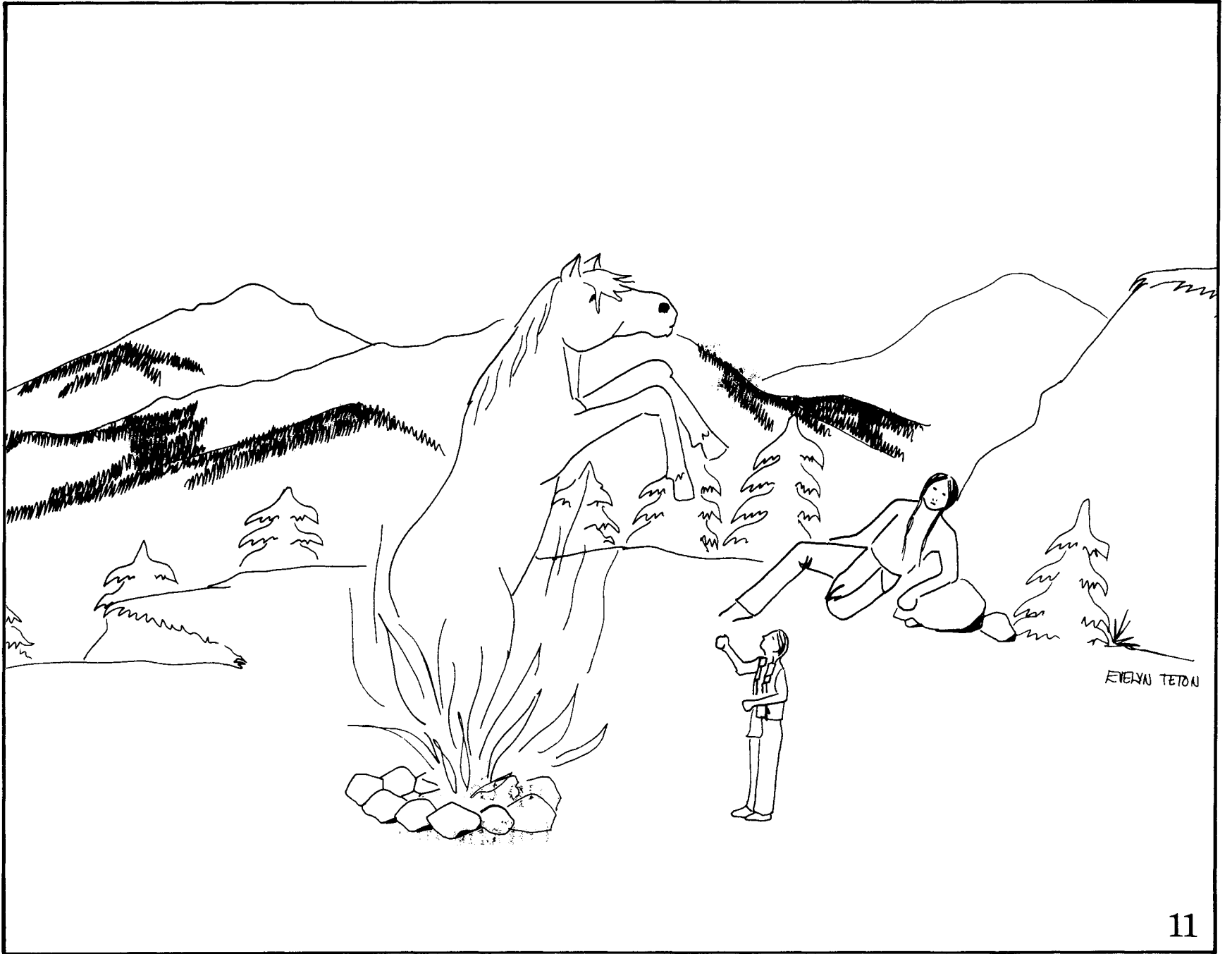


EVERLYN TETON

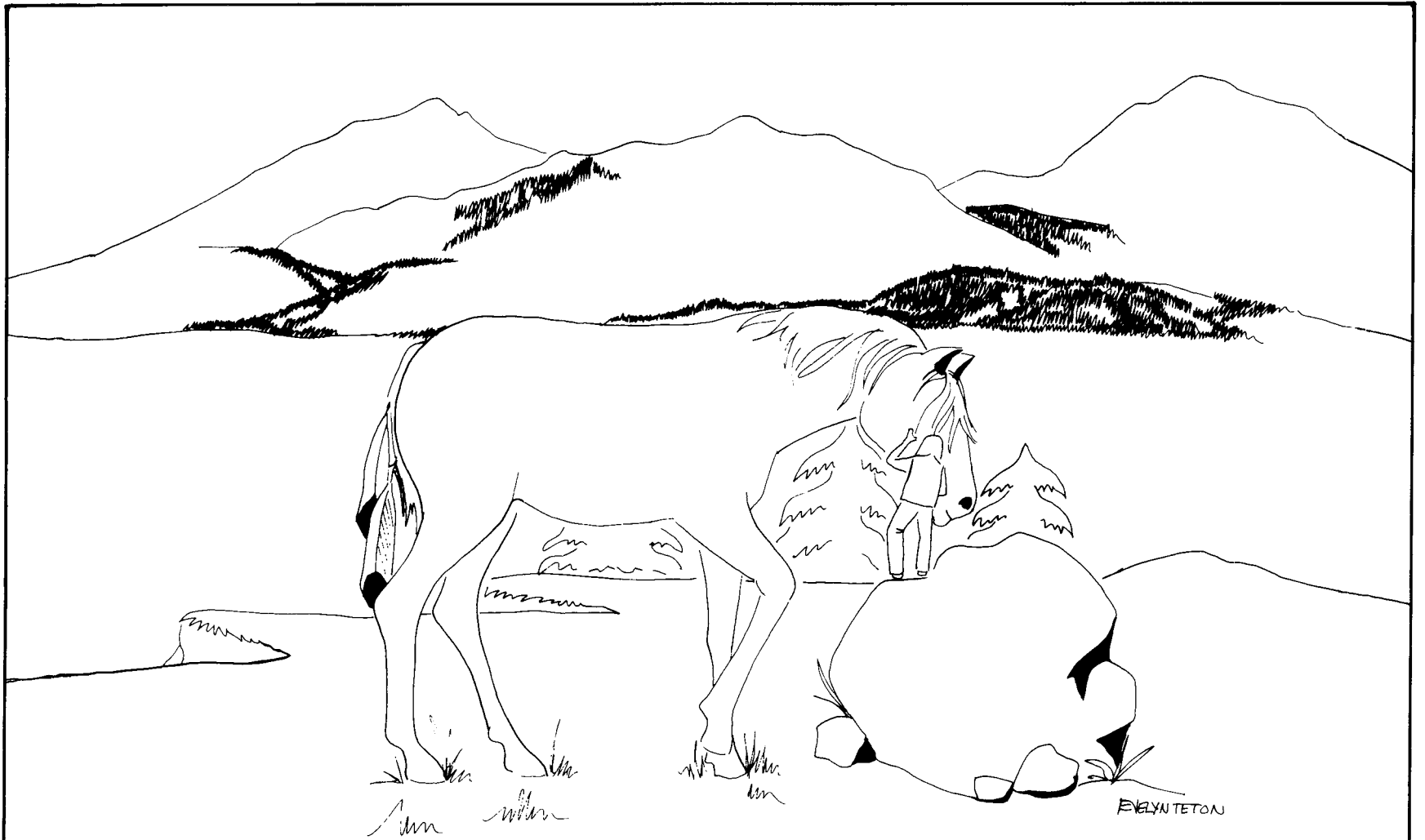
He remained quiet and gave the little man
his cherished hunting knife.
The Nin-num-bee took the knife
and cut off a piece of his hair.
He took the soft feathers from the eagle
who sat upon the cliff's edge,
and gathered several handfuls of crushed cedar.
He then built a fire and made his medicine.



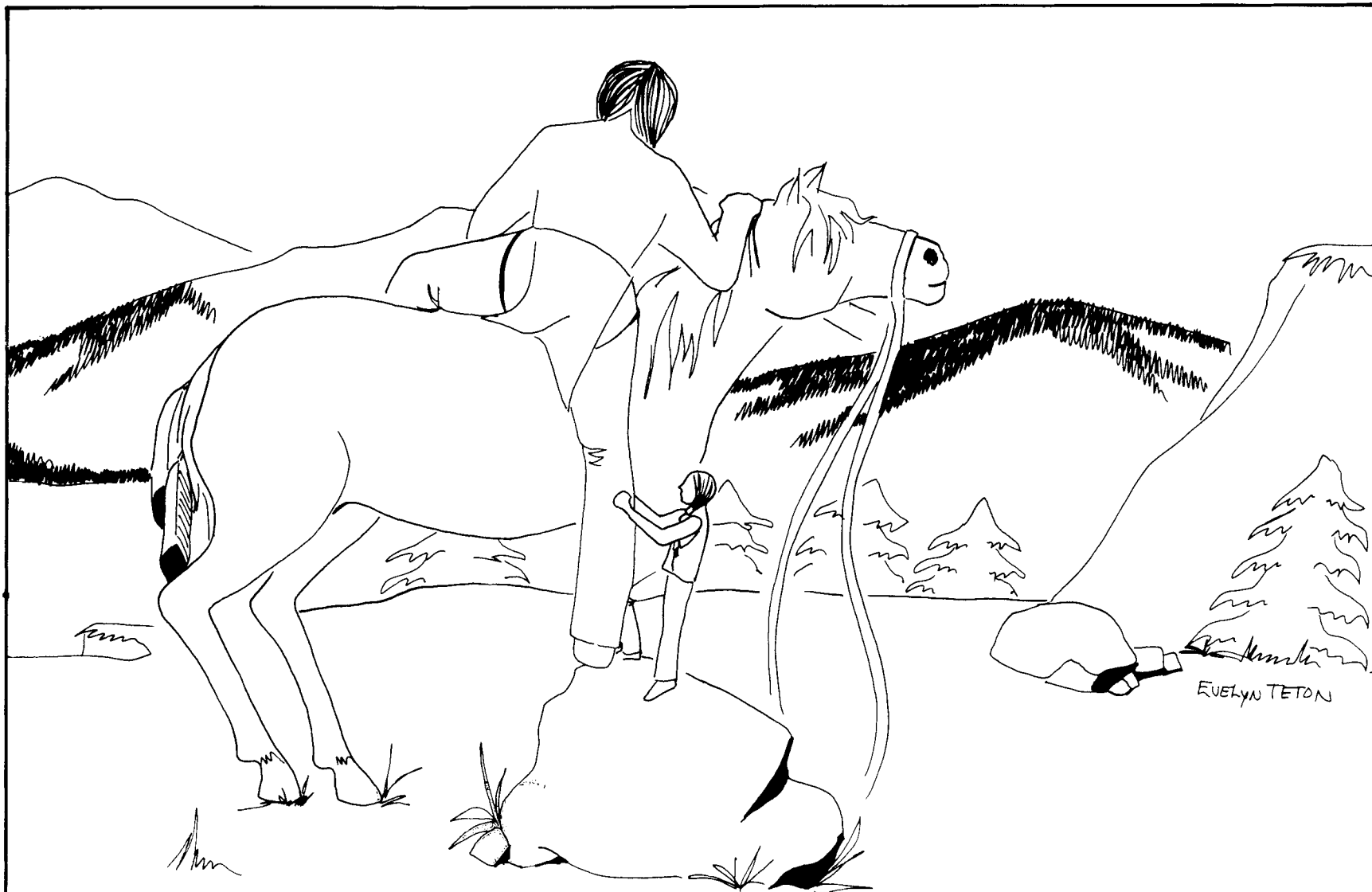
The young Indian boy watched.
An animal the boy had never seen before
came from the smoke.
The great and beautiful animal stood there,
magnificent and powerful.



EYEWU TETON

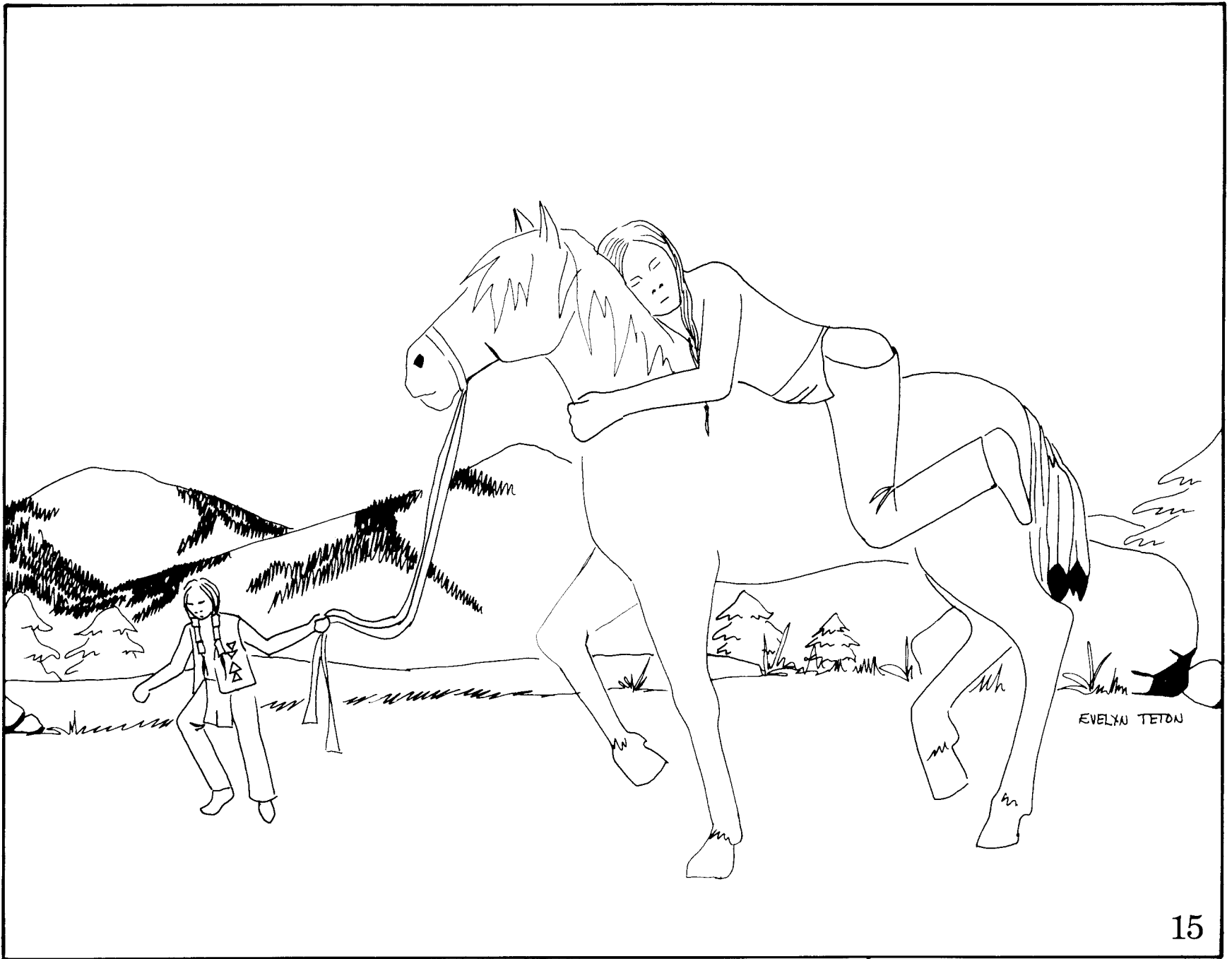


The little dwarf then picked up the eagle feathers
and tied them to the tail of the animal.
He spoke to the animal, but never to the boy.



The Nin-num-bee then placed the boy onto the animal and led him out of the mountains.

He took him close to the boy's camp before pulling him
from the animal's back.
The dogs had begun howling and whining,
so the dwarf-like man left quickly.

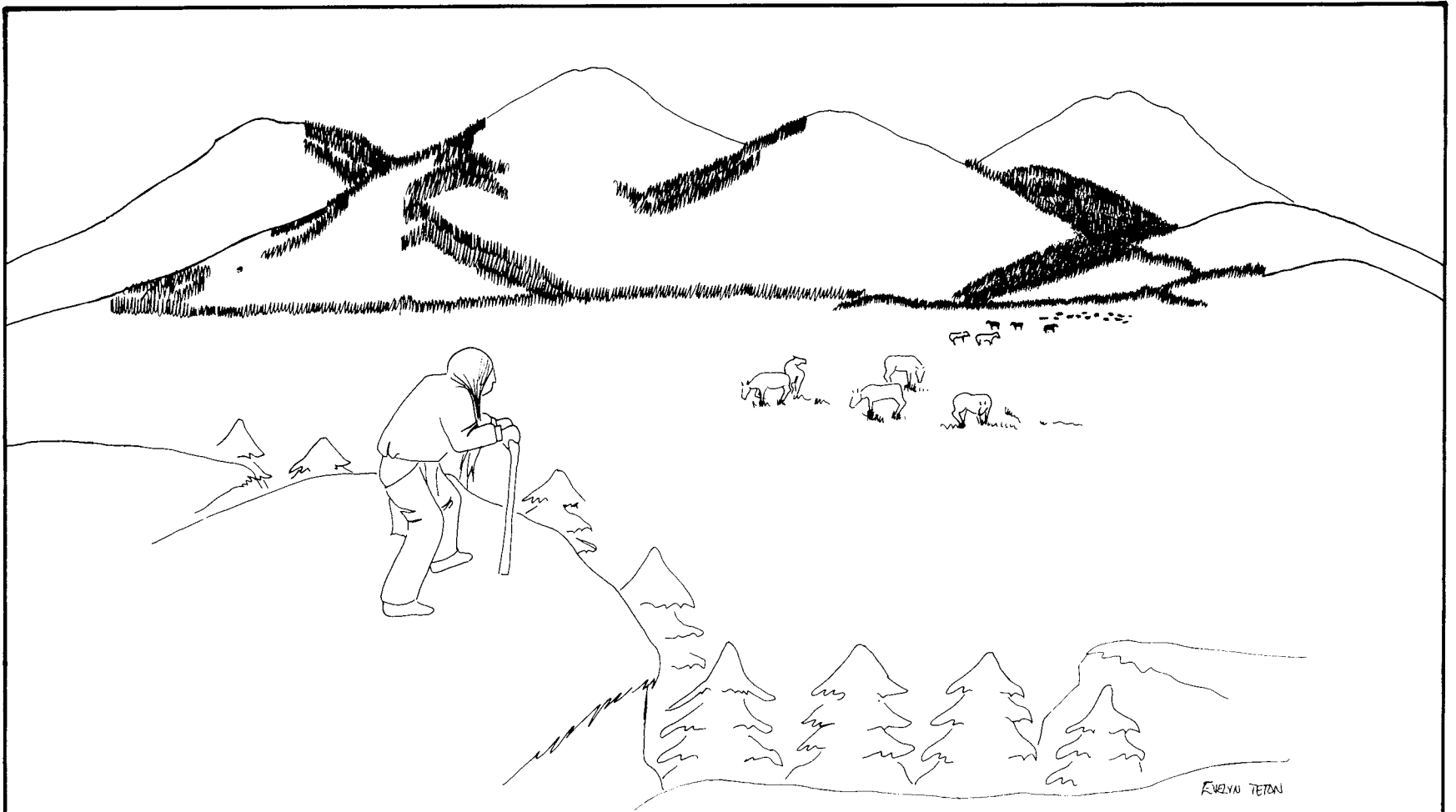


EVELYN TETON

The boy told his people about the visit from the little man
and the strange animal.

Years later, when the boy had become an old man,
his people found herds of the same kind of animal
he had seen years before.





This is why our people have been great horsemen,
and why our people have always said,
“It is good to place the feathers of the great eagle
among the hairs of the Medicine Horse’s short tail.”

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.

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