

# Fort Hall Stories

The Indian Reading Series



RJELYN TETON

Prototype

*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

## Bear Hat

# Coyote and the Cowboys

Series IV

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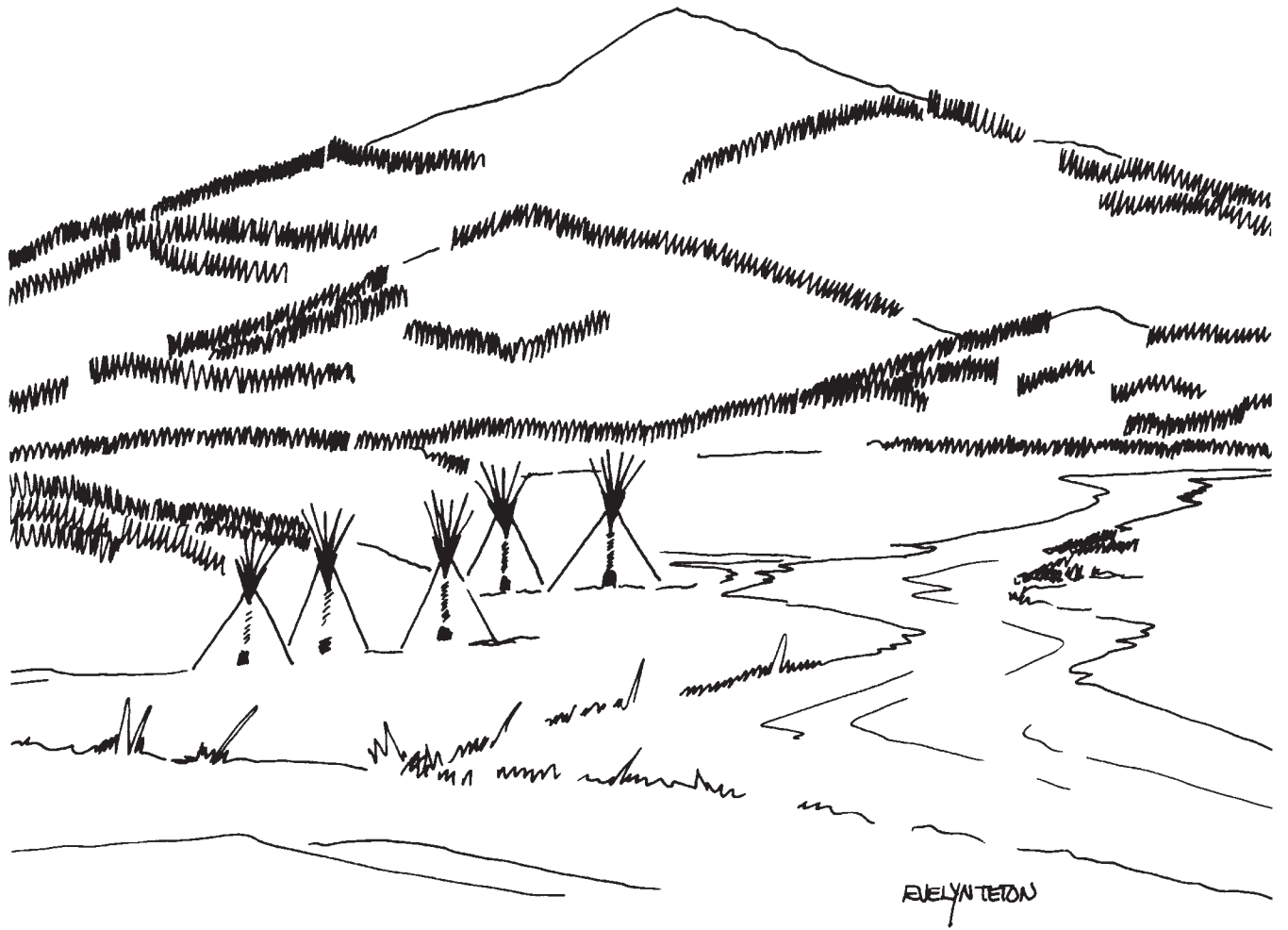
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# Bear Hat

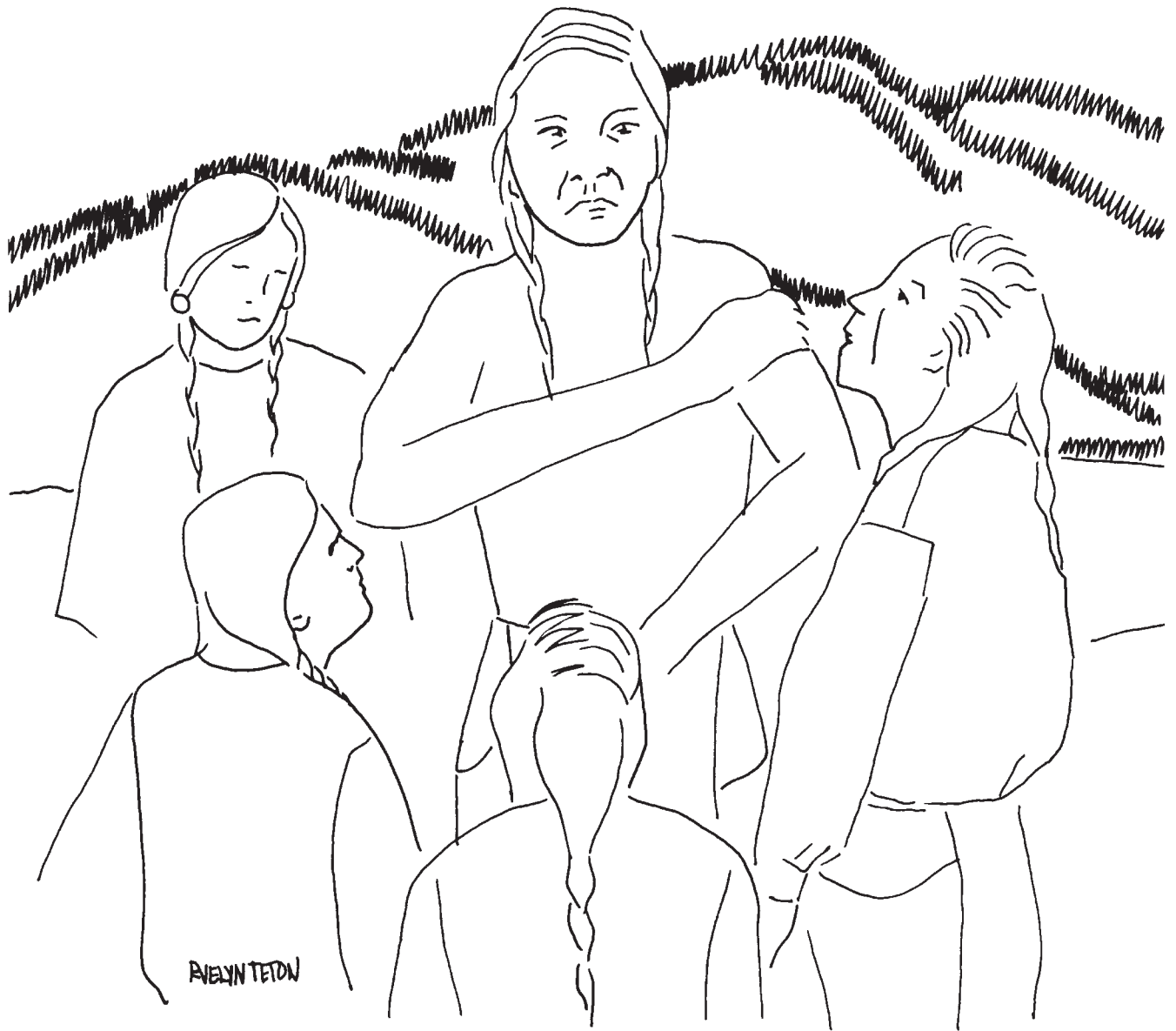
Series IV

Told by Cora George





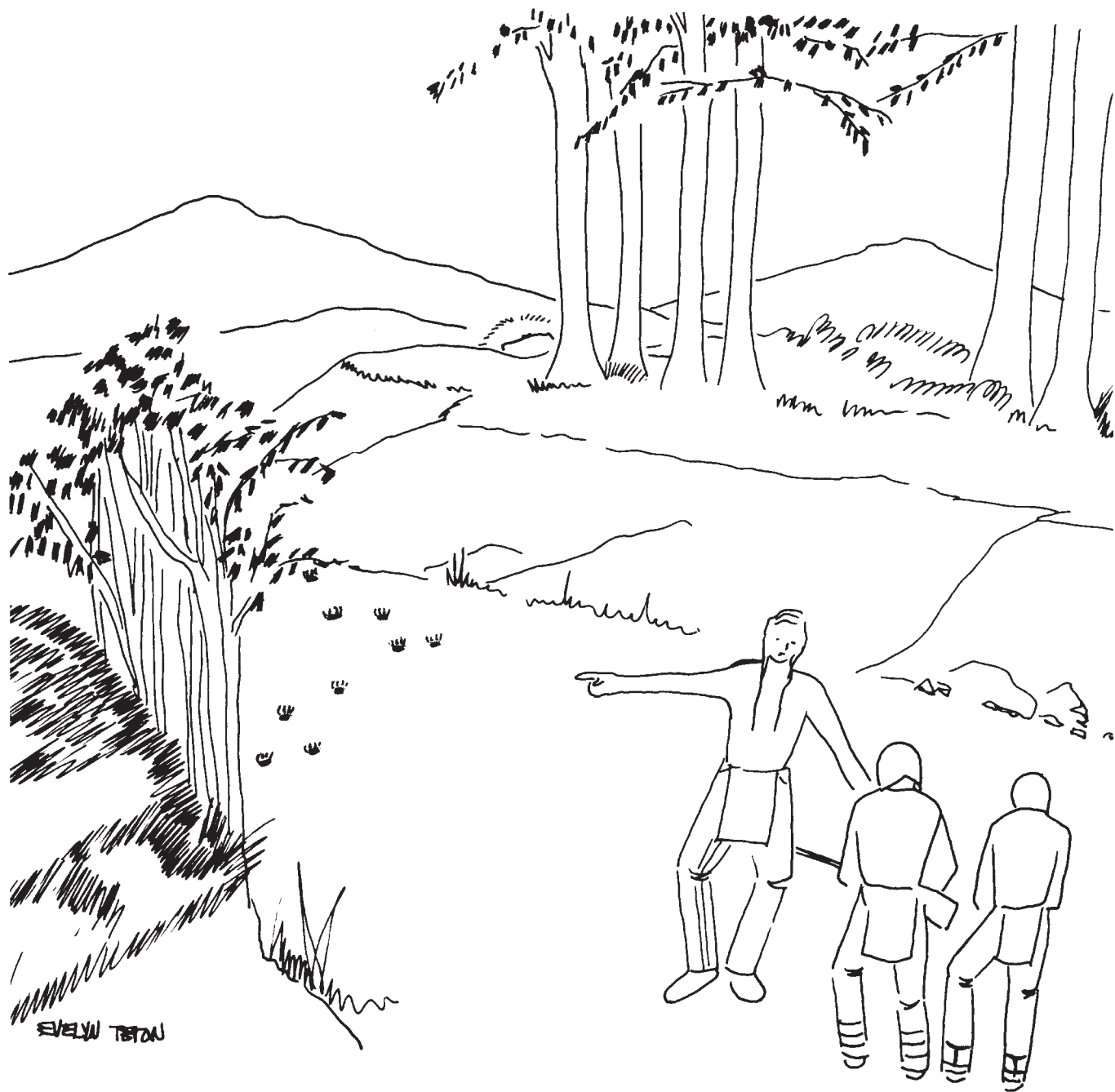
This is a true story of how Bee-bu-bah-gent got his name, Bear Hat. It happened several years ago in the mountains of Challis, Idaho.



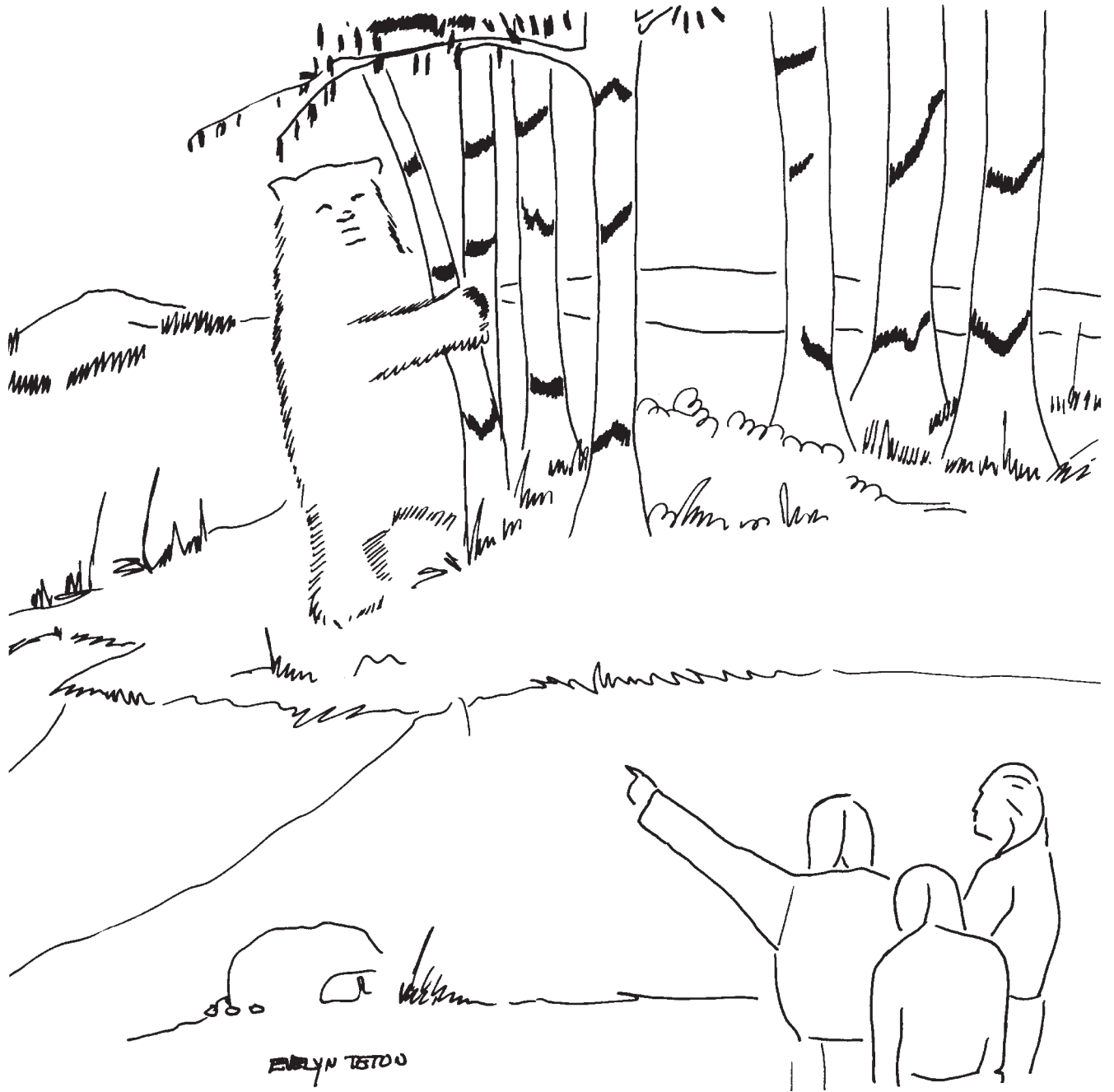
It was Fall, and several families were at Challis hunting deer and elk for their Winter food. News had been spread from one camp to the other about a grizzly bear that had been wounded.

Bee-bu-bah-gent said, "Grizzly bears are not usually mean, but when they are hurt, they become furious animals." Bee-bu-bah-gent, Cawson and Bright Beads decided to go look for the grizzly bear before he hurt or killed someone.





They searched all over the mountain side until they found the grizzly's fresh tracks near some willows in a little gully.



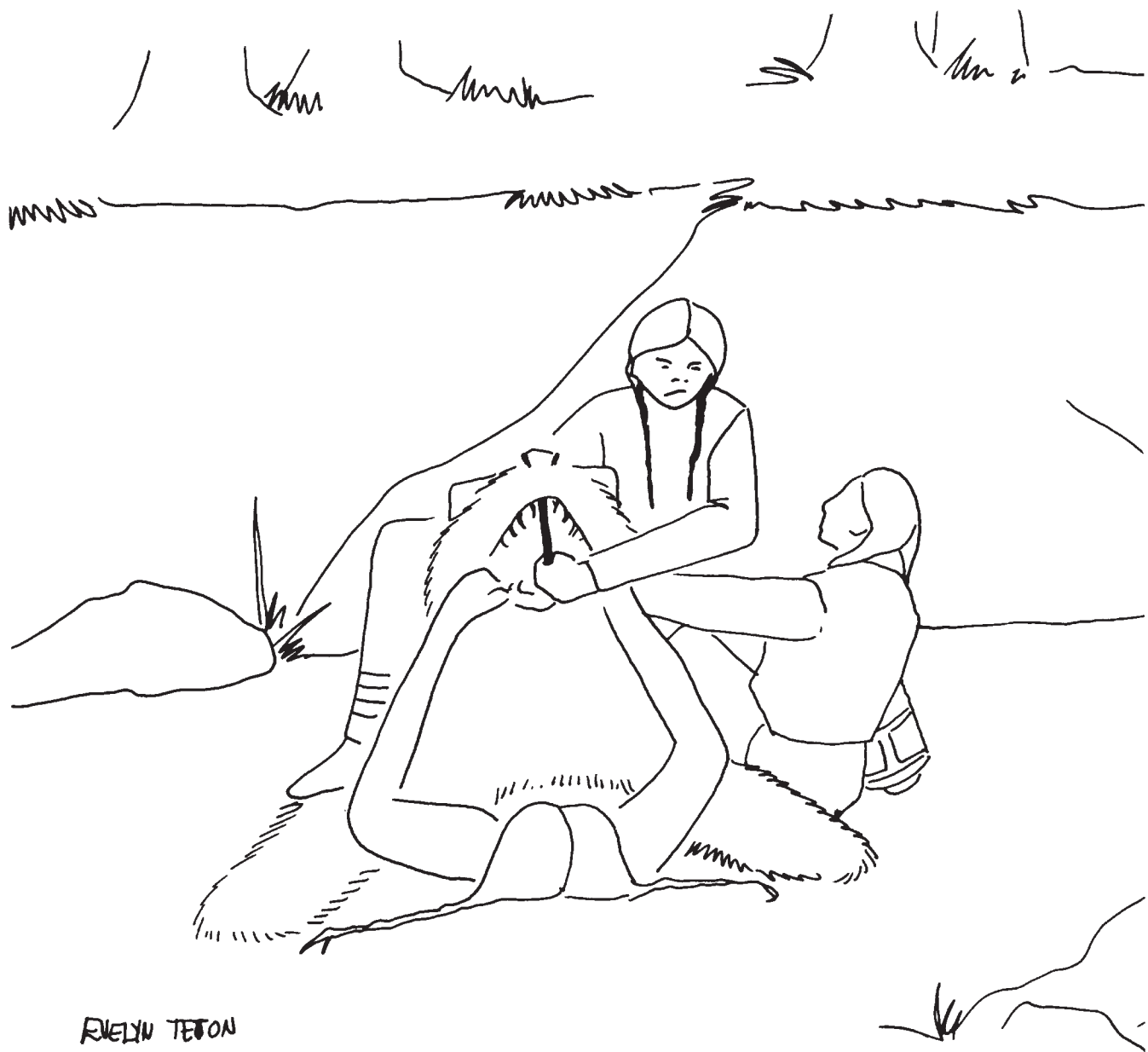
As soon as the bear sensed the men getting close, he stood up on his haunches. The grizzly started shaking the branches of the small trees around him. Cawson was frightened and afraid that the grizzly bear would attack the men.



Cawson wounded the bear.



It was Bee-bu-bah-gent who ended up wrestling with the wounded angry bear. He got a hold of the grizzly by the mouth, just in back of his teeth. They wrestled for quite awhile this way. After a few minutes of vigorous struggling, both the grizzly and Bee-bu-bah-gent were getting tired.



RUELYN TETON

Bee-bu-bah-gent told Cawson and Bright Beads, "Get a stick and put it in the bear's mouth to prop it open. That way the grizzly can't bite!" It worked for a little while, then dislodged, going into the bear's throat.



At this instant, the mighty grizzly bit into Bee-bu-bah-gent's leg. He wailed out in pain, but the bear wouldn't let go. Again, Cawson and Bright Beads jumped on the great grizzly's back. They were trying to get him to loosen his grip on Bee-bu-bah-gent's leg.

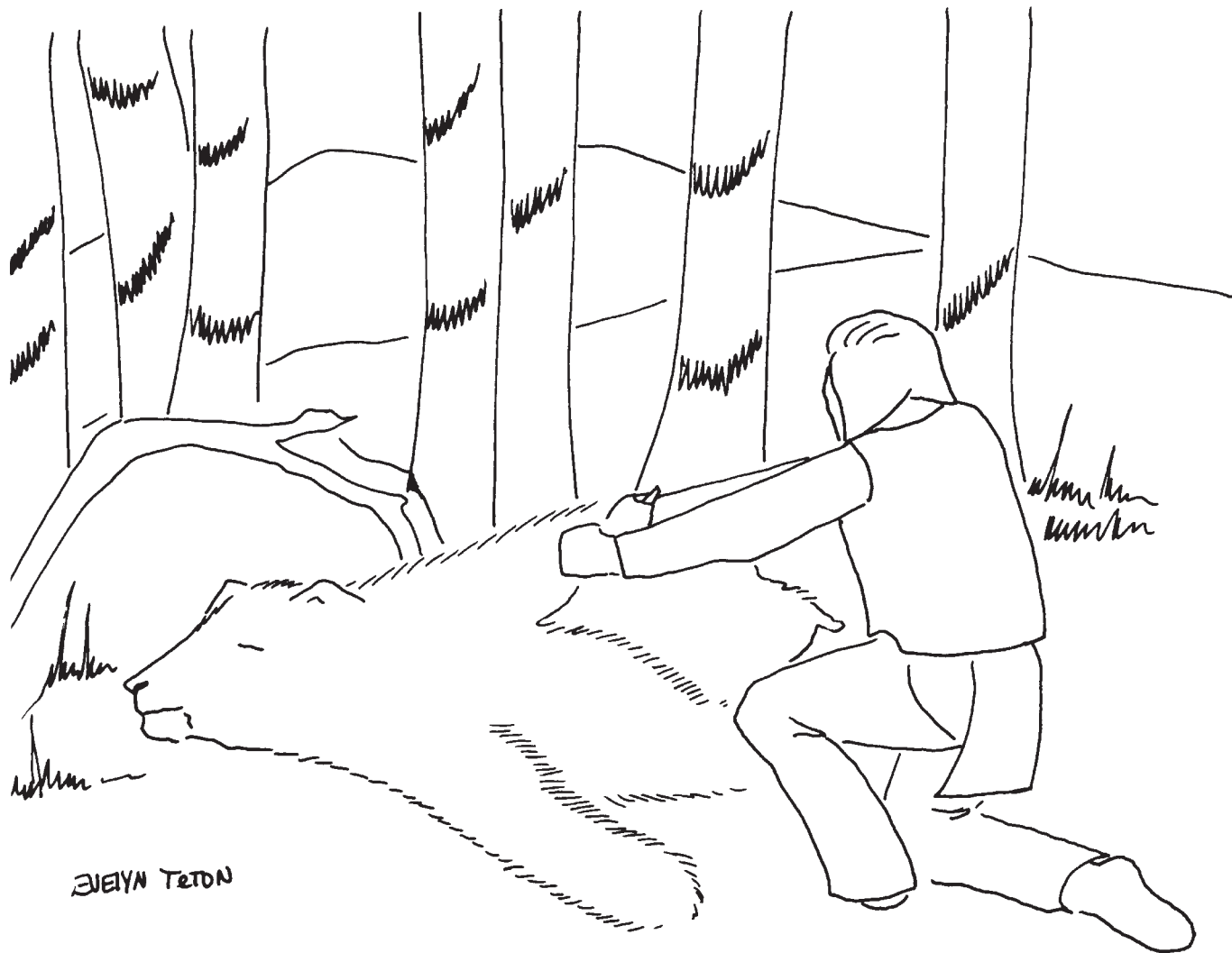


After more struggling, the bear became weak and started choking. The stick was piercing the bear's windpipe. He let go of the leg, howling and falling into the trees. He clawed a tree trunk, then fell on his face, never to move again.

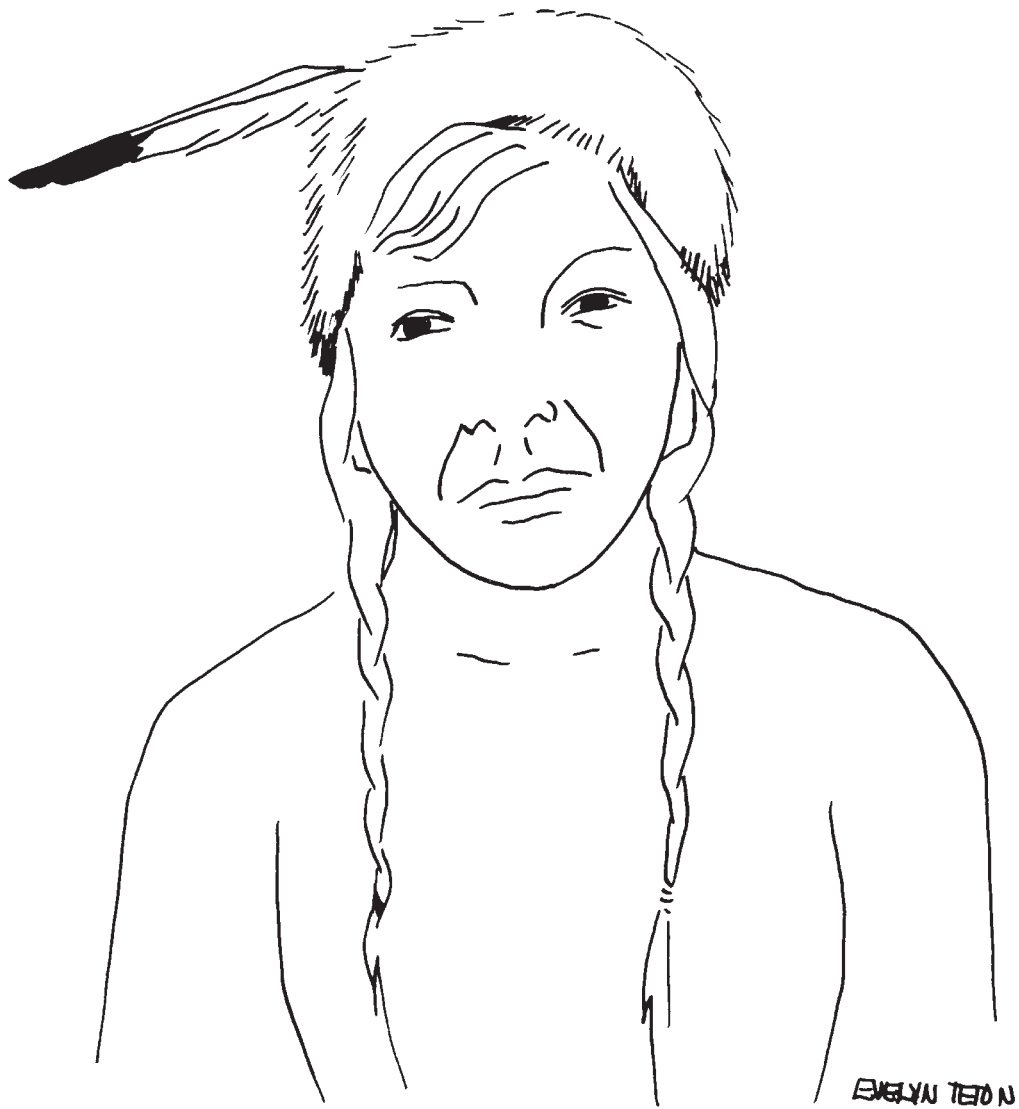


Bee-bu-bah-gent was taken back to camp by the men. One of the wives doctored his leg with strong Indian medicine.





The next day Bee-bu-bah-gent went back to where the bear lay dead. He cut a piece of the bear hide big enough to make a nice Bear Hat.



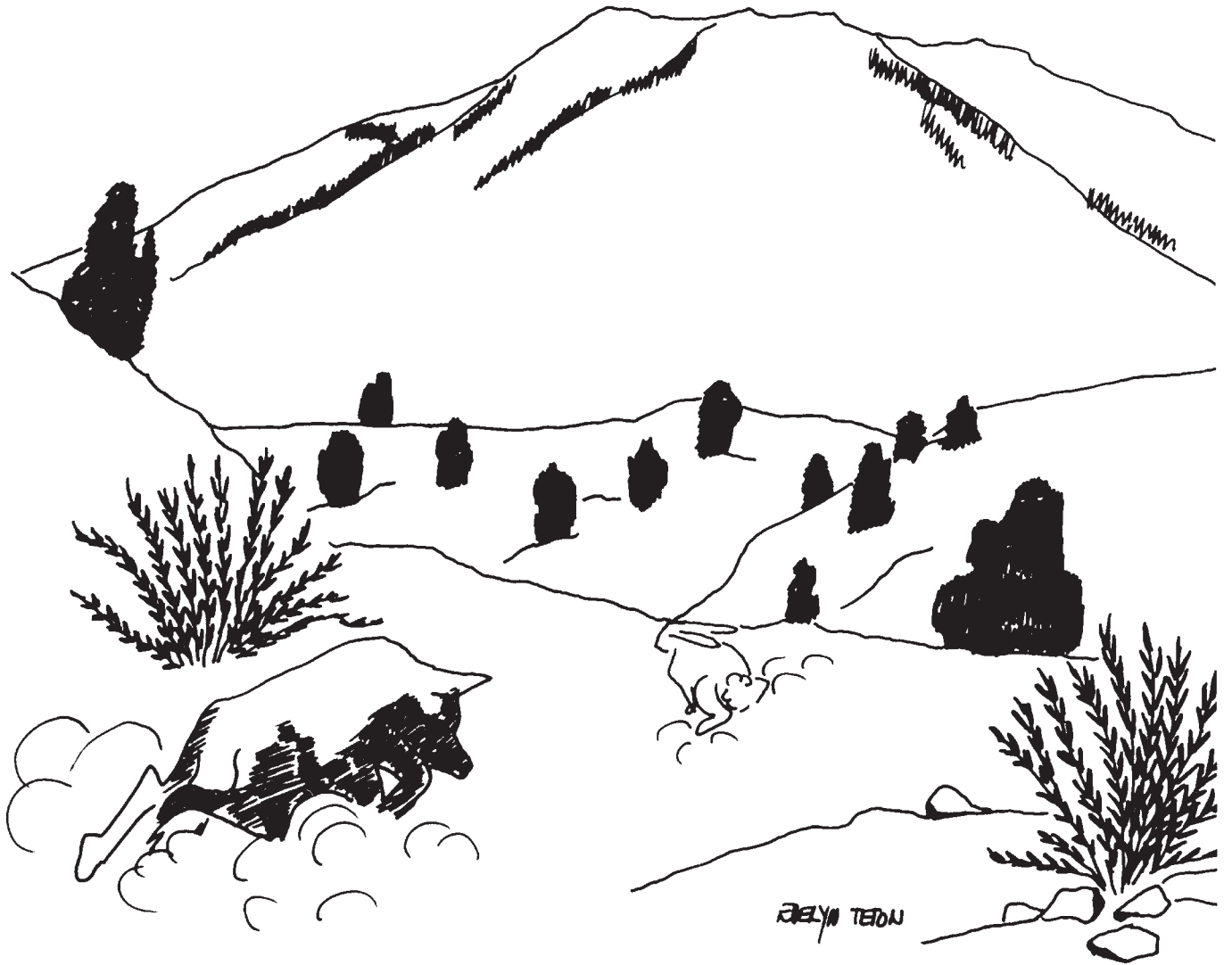
From that day on, Bee-bu-bah-gent was known as “Bear Hat.”

# Coyote and the Cowboys

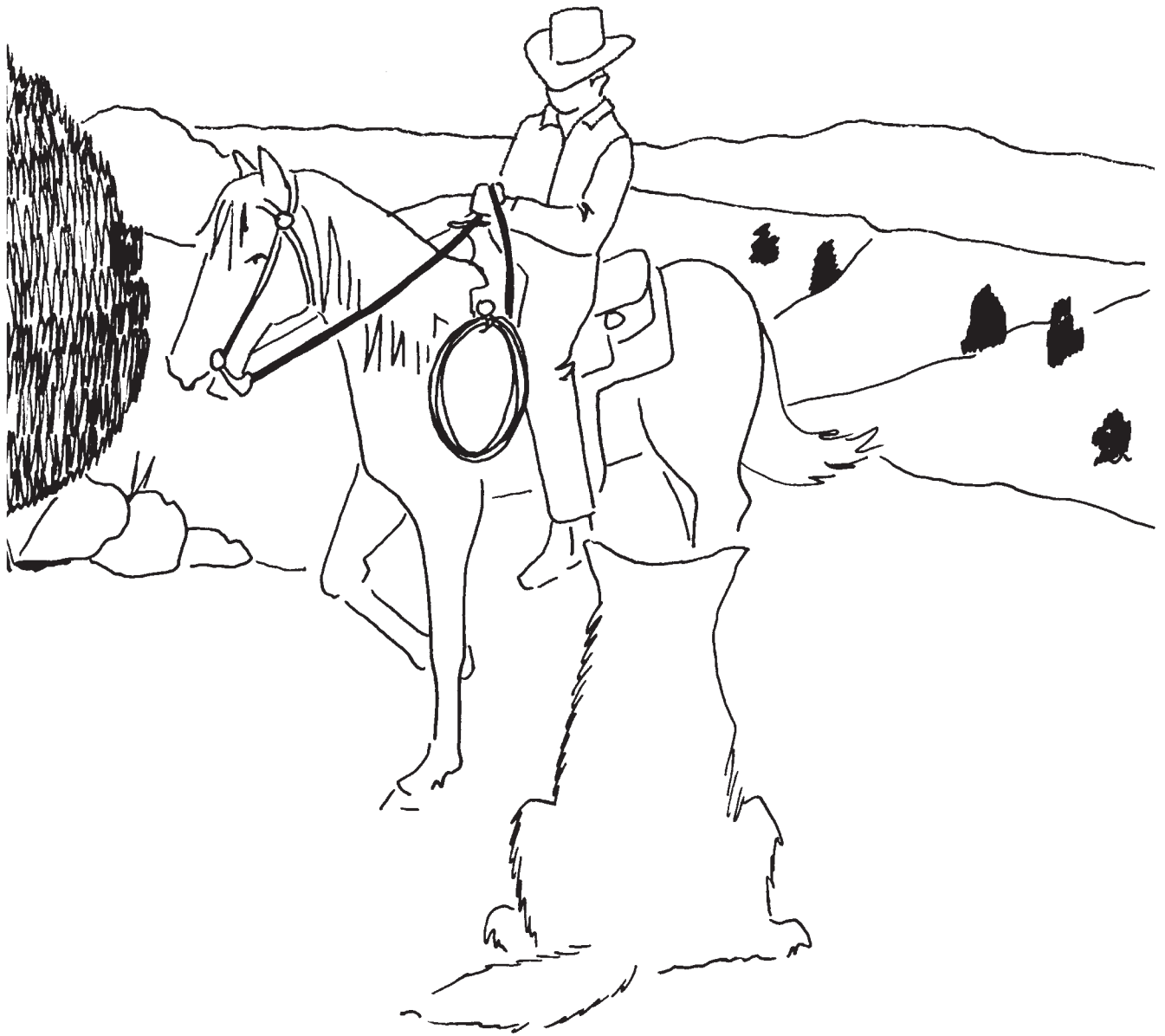
Series IV

Told by Andrew Punkin





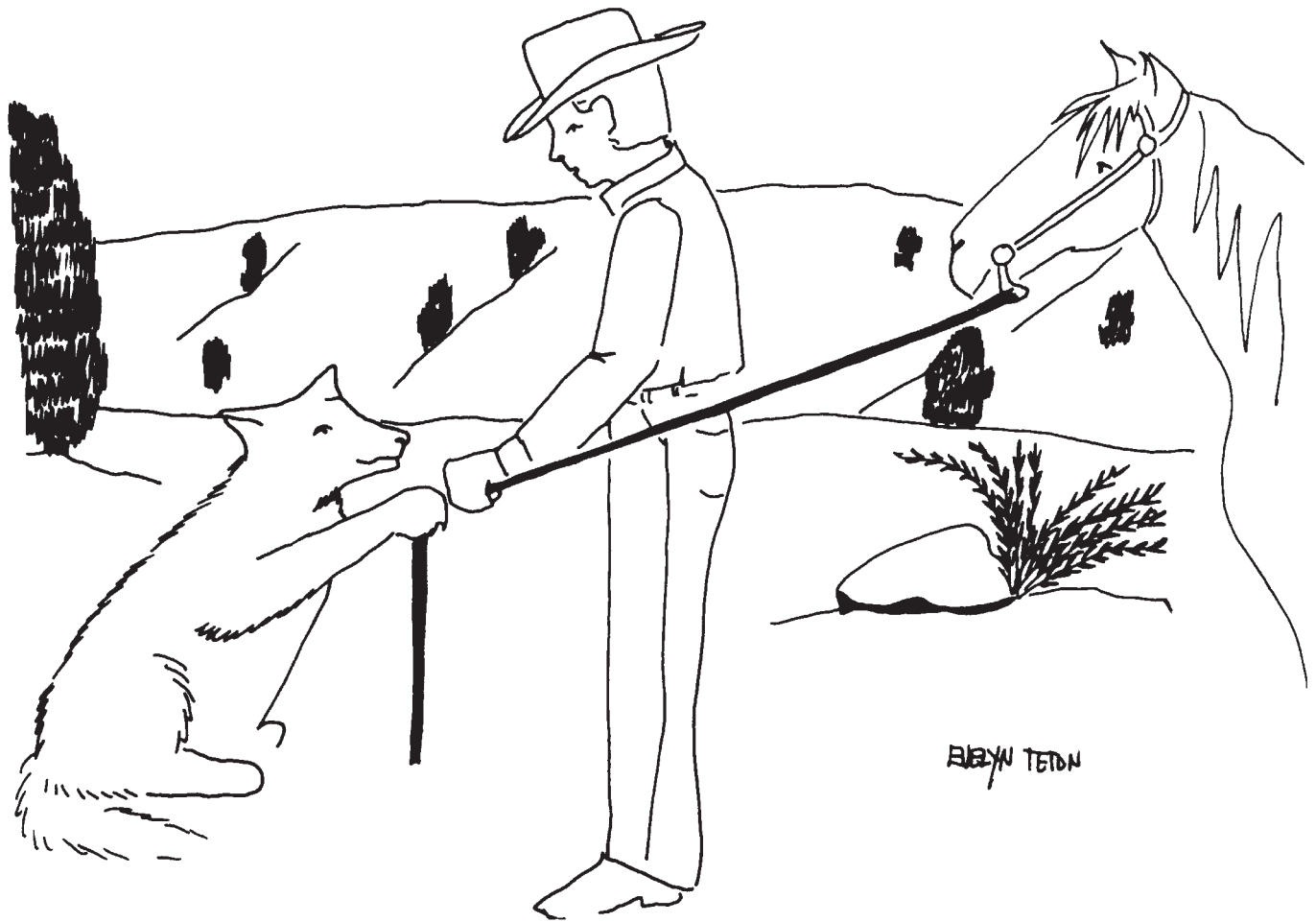
On Mt. Putman there are a lot of cedars and buck bush where coyotes can have a barrel of fun chasing smaller animals around.



Well, one nice day Mr. Coyote was sniffing around when a cowboy came upon him. The cowboy just happened to be on that same hillside looking for stray cows. This cowboy had heard several stories about what a sly, trickster this old coyote was.

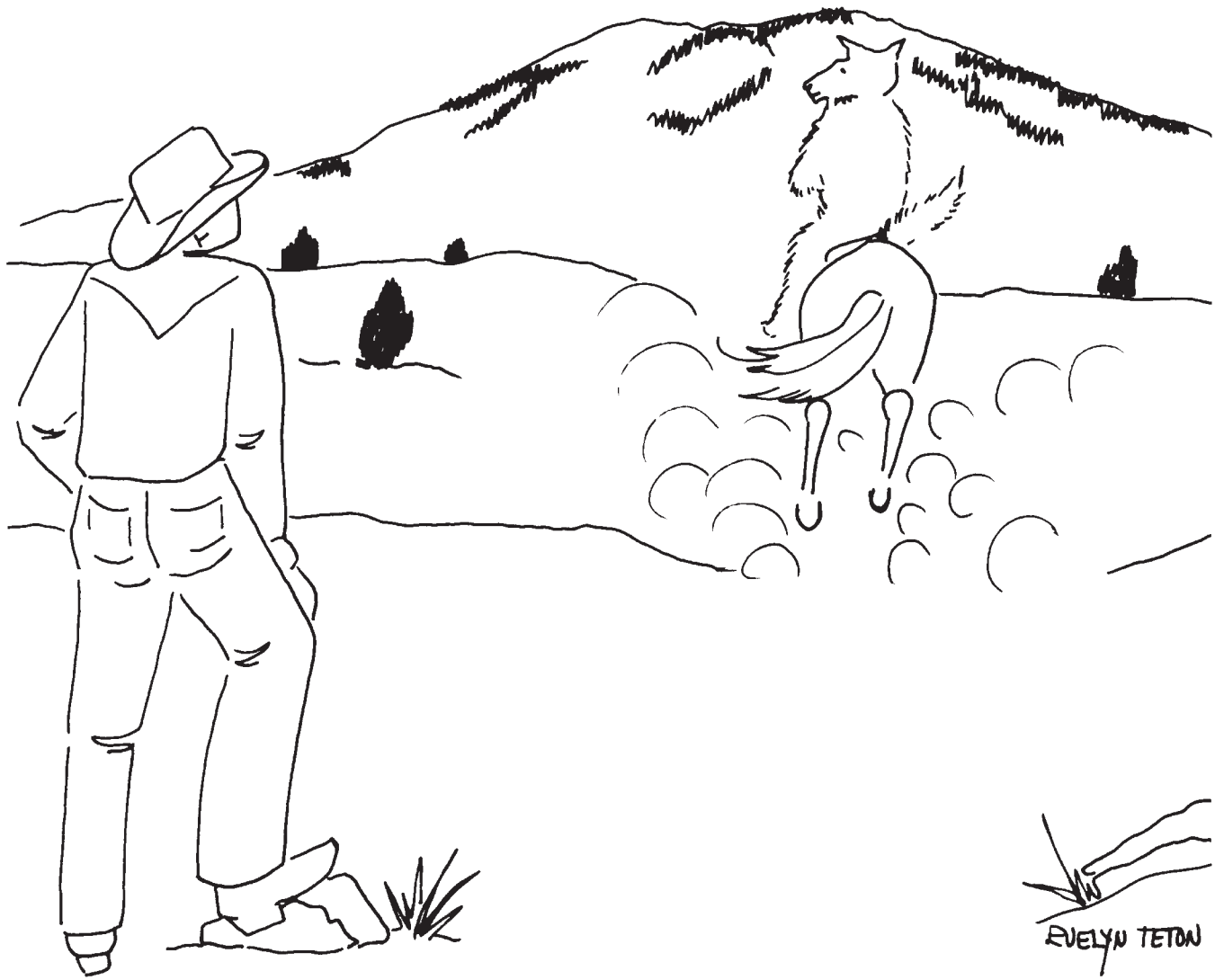


So, he rode up to Mr. Coyote and said, “I heard you are the slyest and the trickiest of all animals. How would you like to have a contest with me? Let’s prove who is the trickiest?” Coyote said in a mournful voice, “Oh dear, oh dear, I left my power to outsmart people at home. If only there was a fast way to go get it, then we could have a contest.”



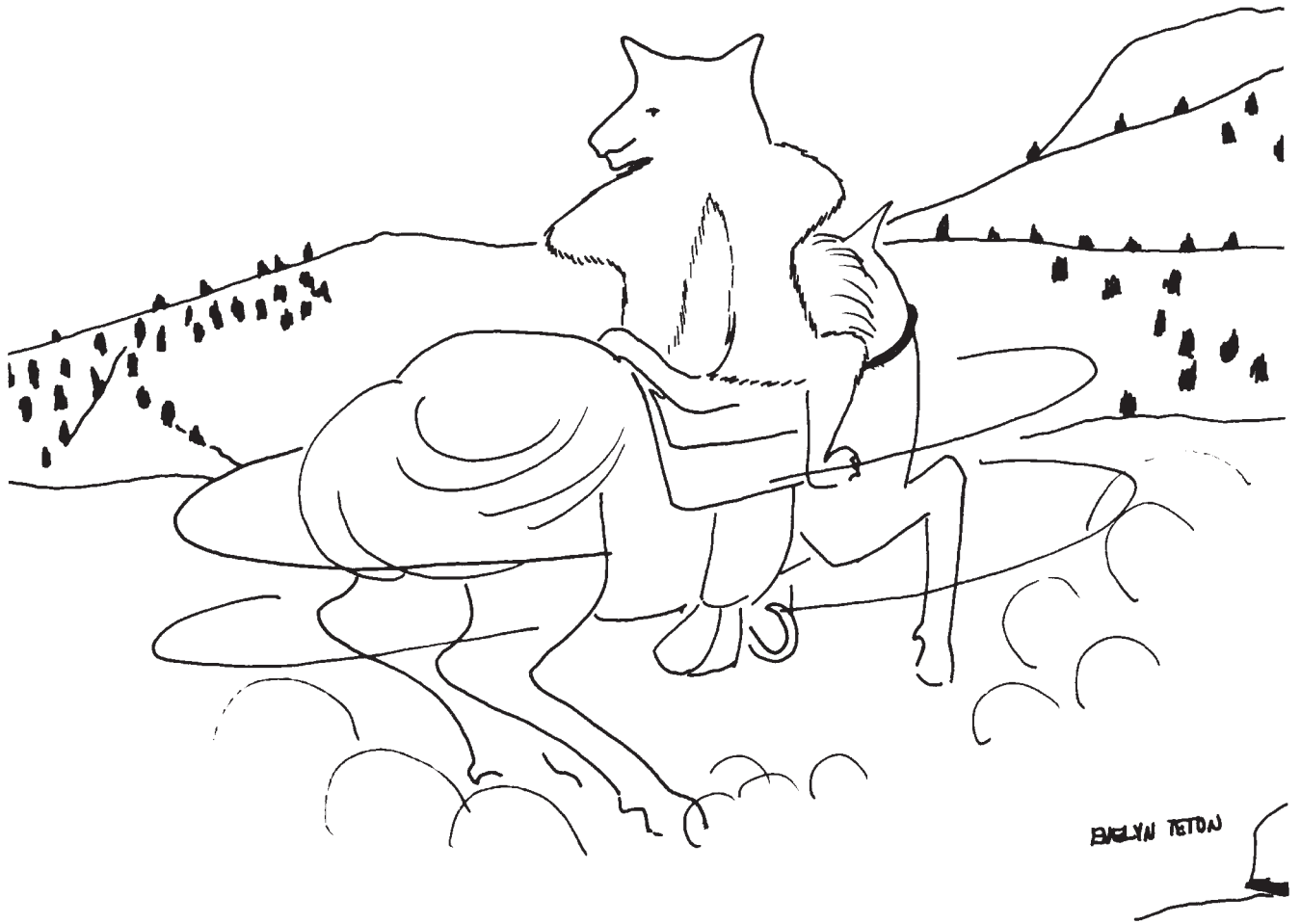
After a few minutes Coyote said to the cowboy, “If you let me use your horse, I could hurry home to get my special power.” Finally, the cowboy agreed to let coyote use his horse. He climbed off and handed the reins to coyote.



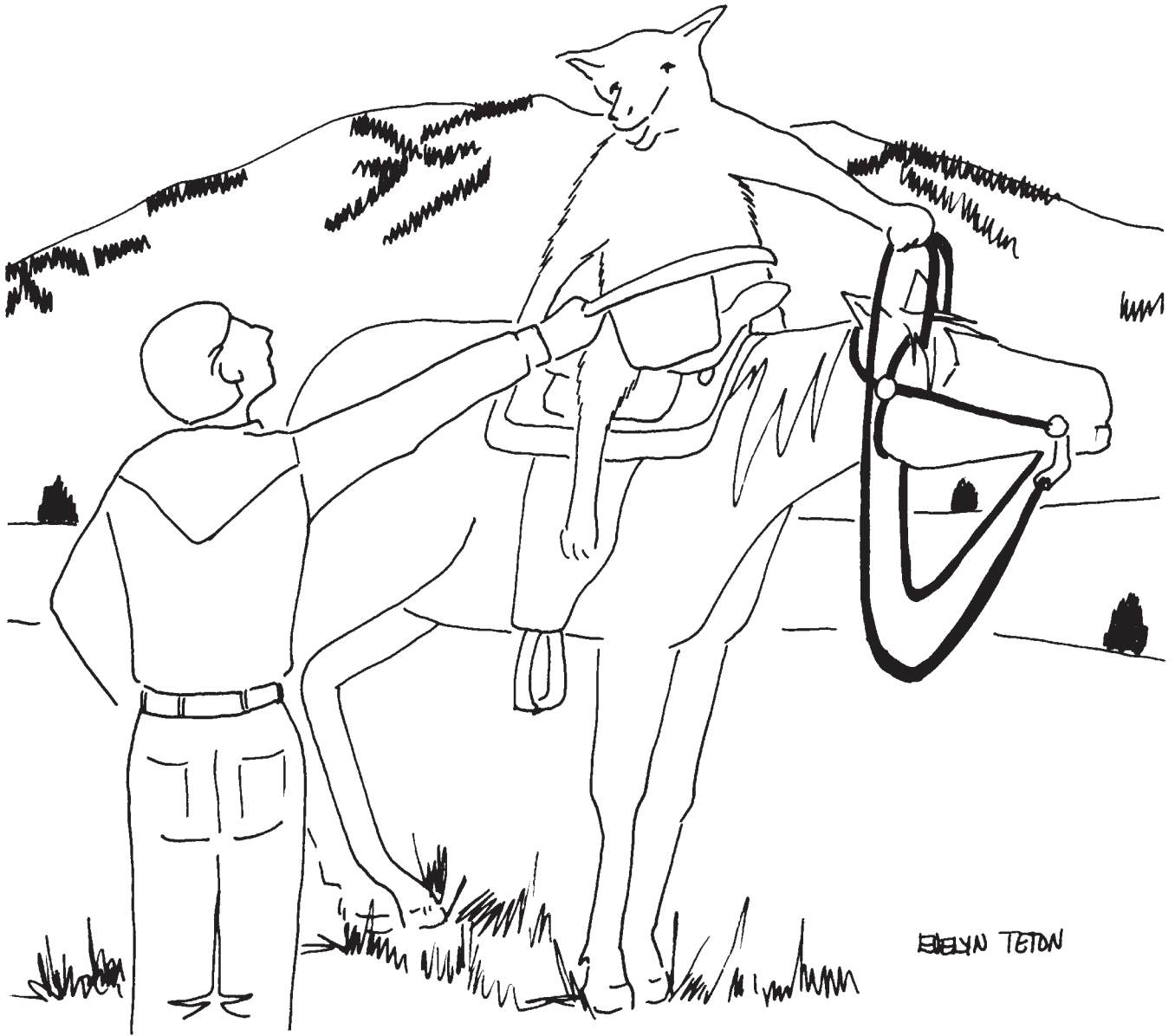


EVELYN TETON

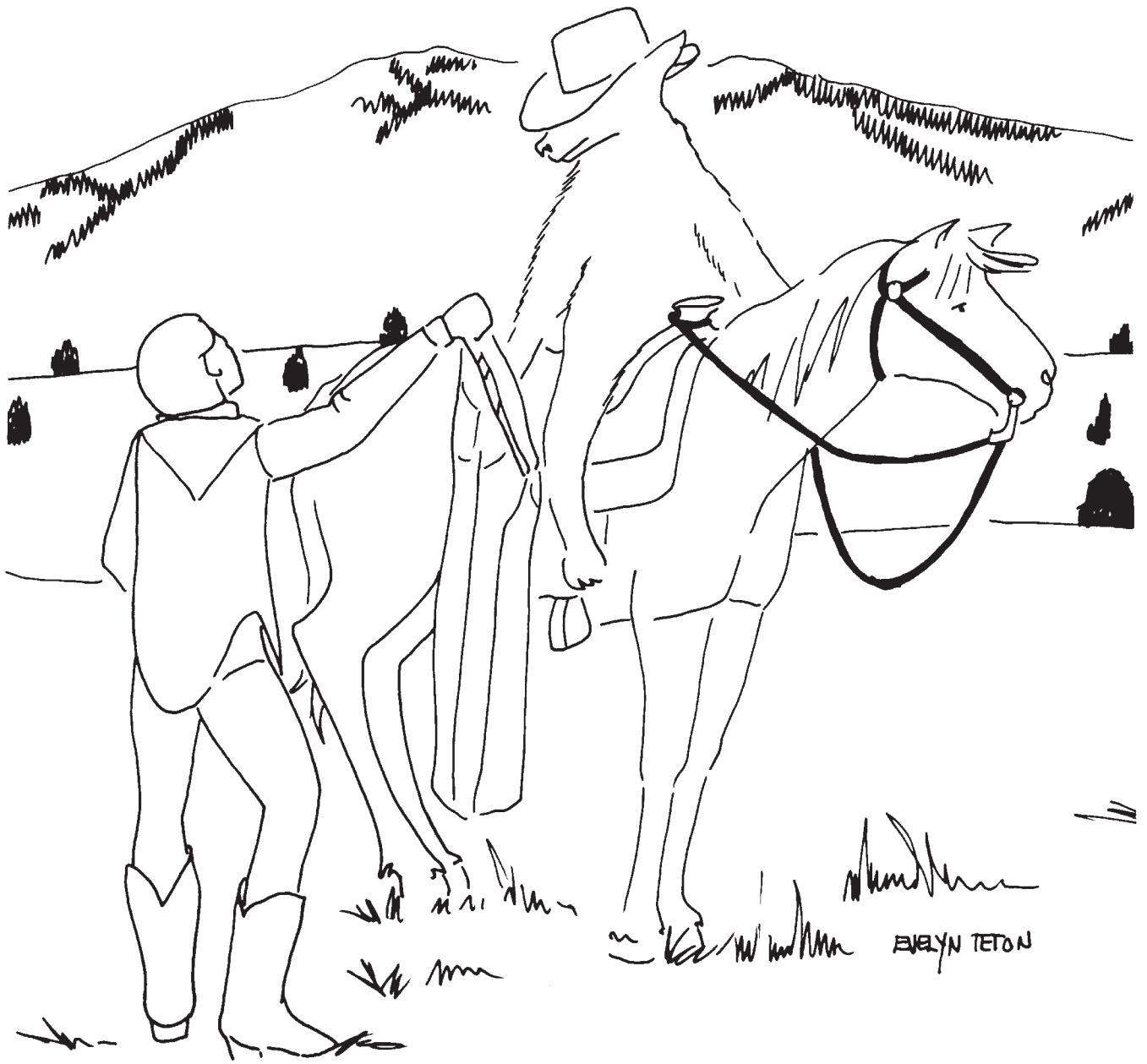
Coyote jumped on the horse and took off.



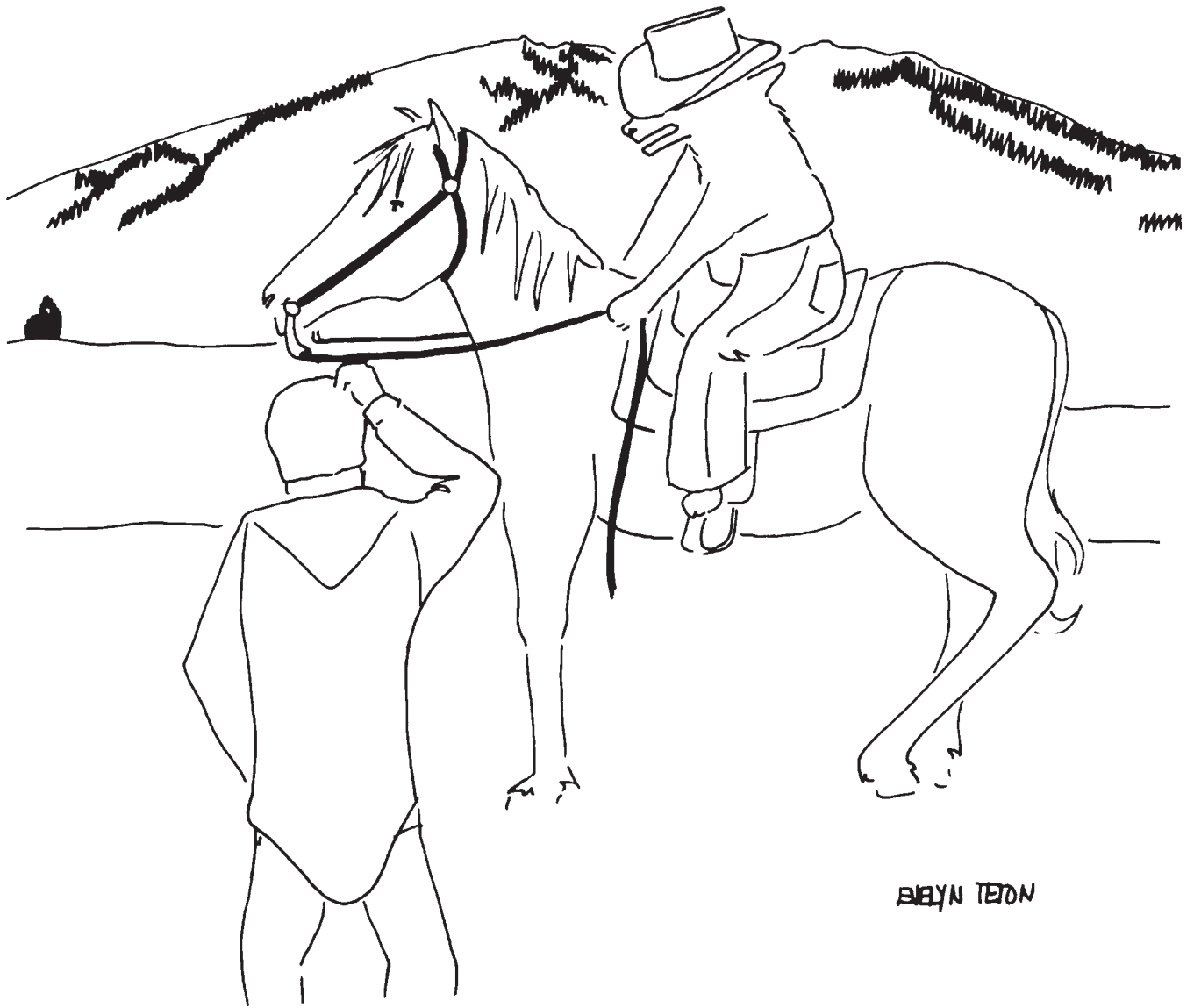
He got a short distance from the cowboy and then yanked on the horse's reins. He did this on the opposite side of the horse, so the cowboy couldn't see what was happening. The horse whirled around and stopped.



Coyote said, "Maybe the horse would go if I wore your cowboy hat." So the cowboy took off his hat and handed it to the coyote. Coyote took off again, and after a short distance yanked the reins causing the horse to whirl and stop.

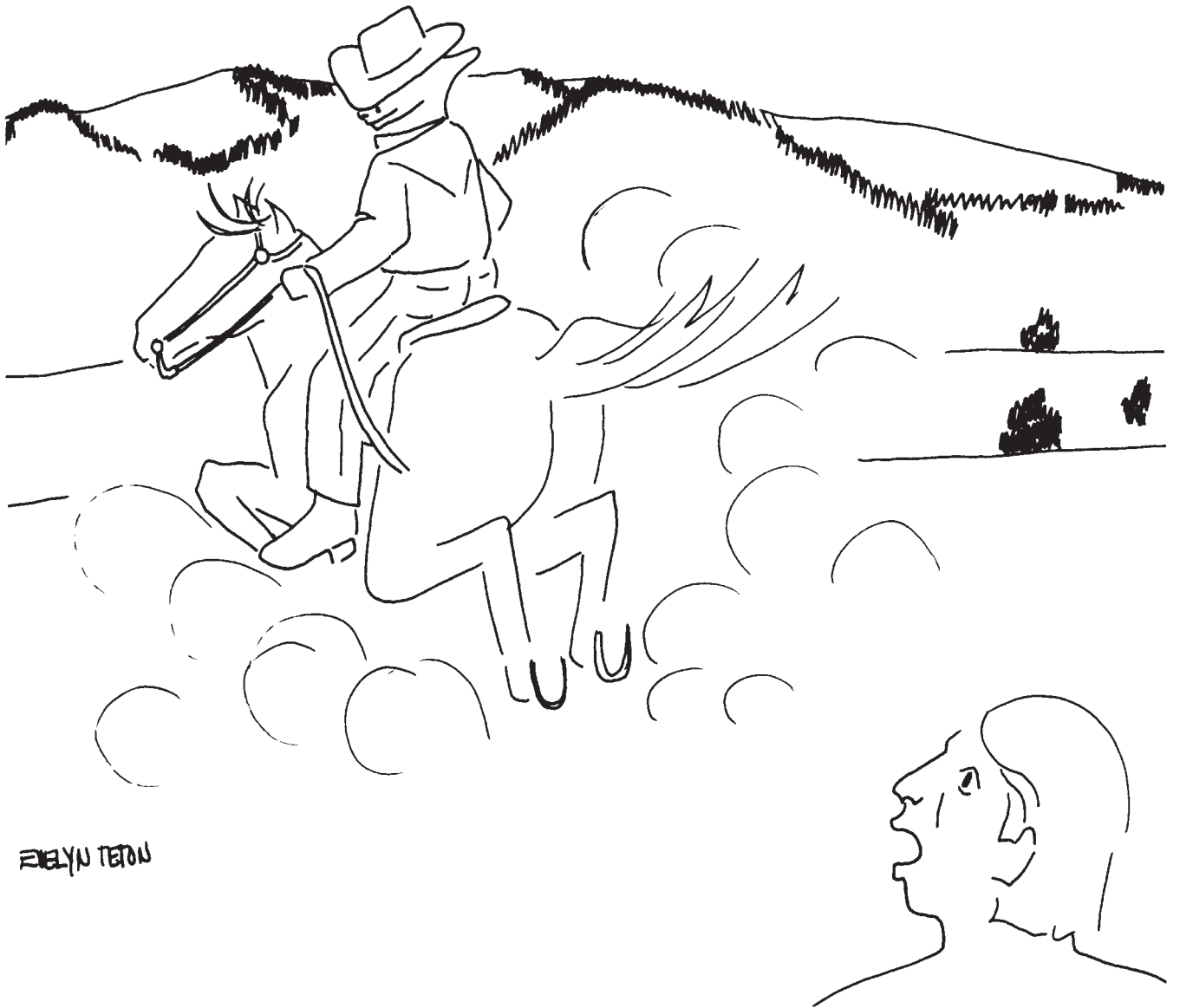


Coyote told the cowboy, "If I wore your levi pants, maybe the horse will go." The cowboy didn't know what to think. He really wanted a contest with coyote to see who could outsmart the other. So, he took off his levi pants and gave them to the coyote.



BILLYN TEDON

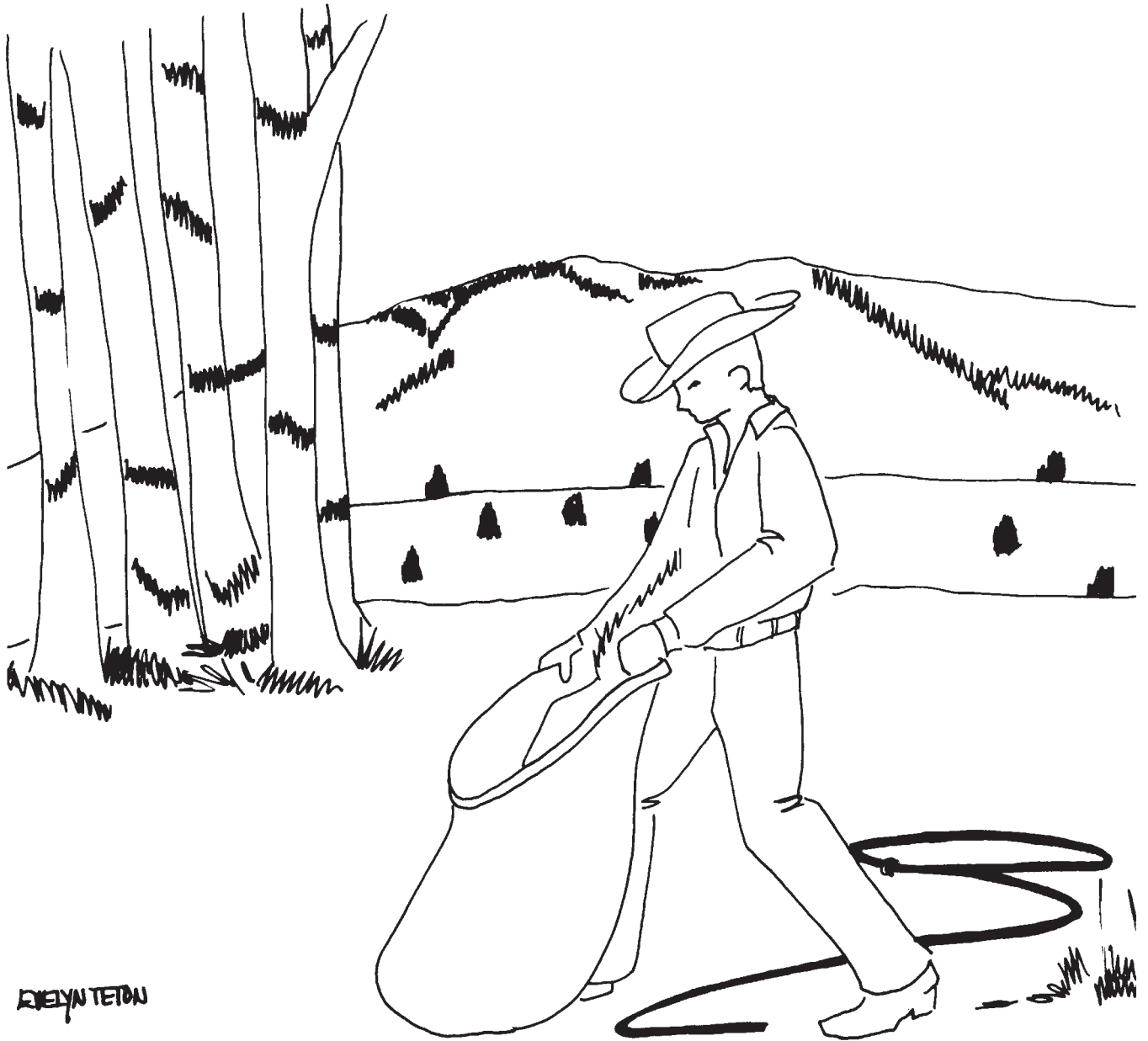
Once again coyote set off to get power. As he rode away for the third time, he yanked the reins and stopped the horse. Coyote said, "If you give me your shirt, the horse will surely think I am you. Then he will go for me." The cowboy scratched his head wondering what was wrong with his horse. He said, "I guess it's worth a try," and he gave coyote his shirt. Now old Mr. Coyote was up to something. The cowboy wanted the contest so bad that he went along with the coyote.



After Coyote talked the cowboy out of his boots, he took off like a gust of wind. Looking back over his shoulders, he called out, "I'm slyer, and trickier than you. I fooled you, I have your clothes and your horse."

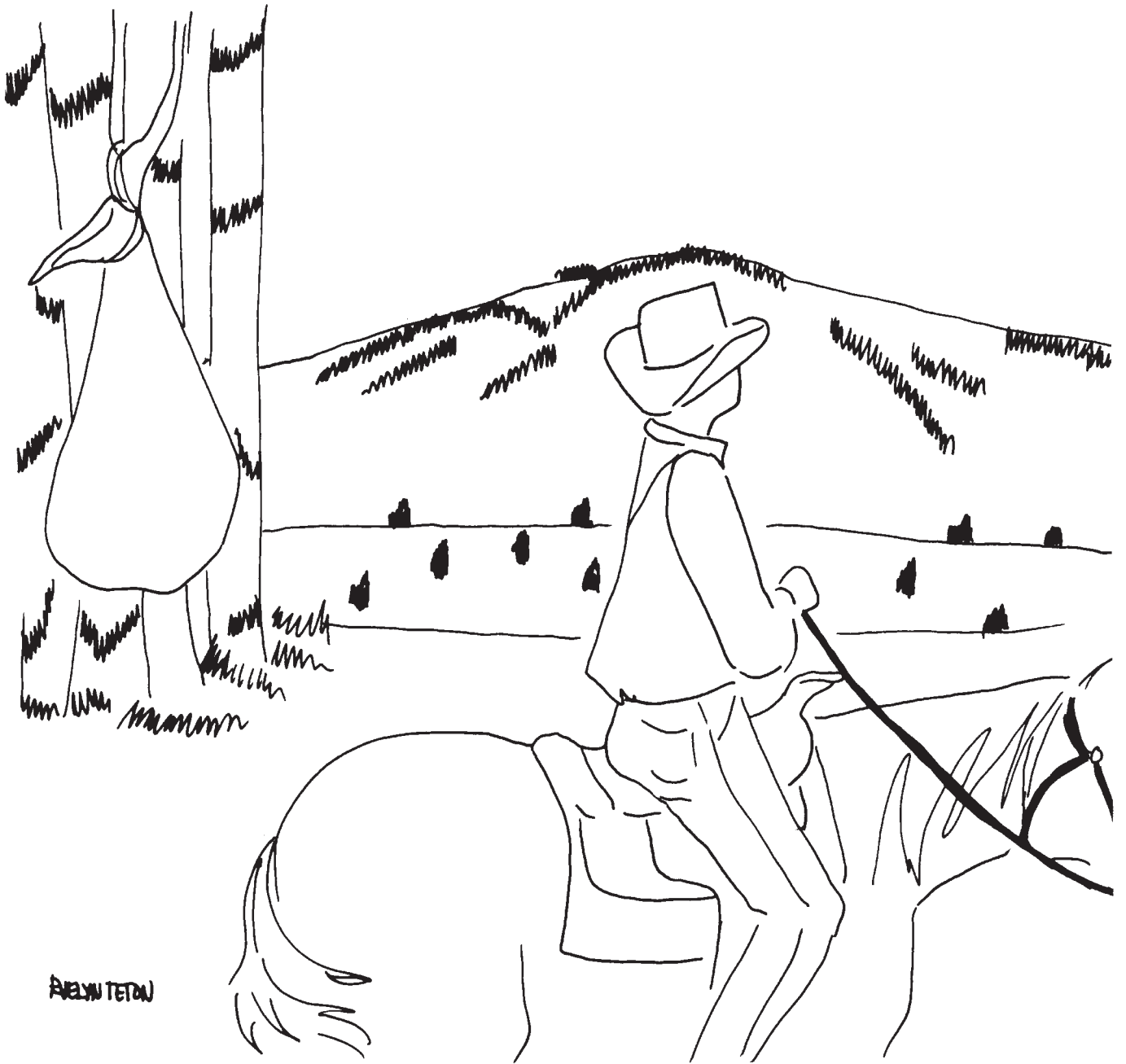


Now this left the cowboy really mad. To make it worse, he had no clothes or horse. That old coyote had out-tricked him. So, he set out to try and catch that coyote afoot.



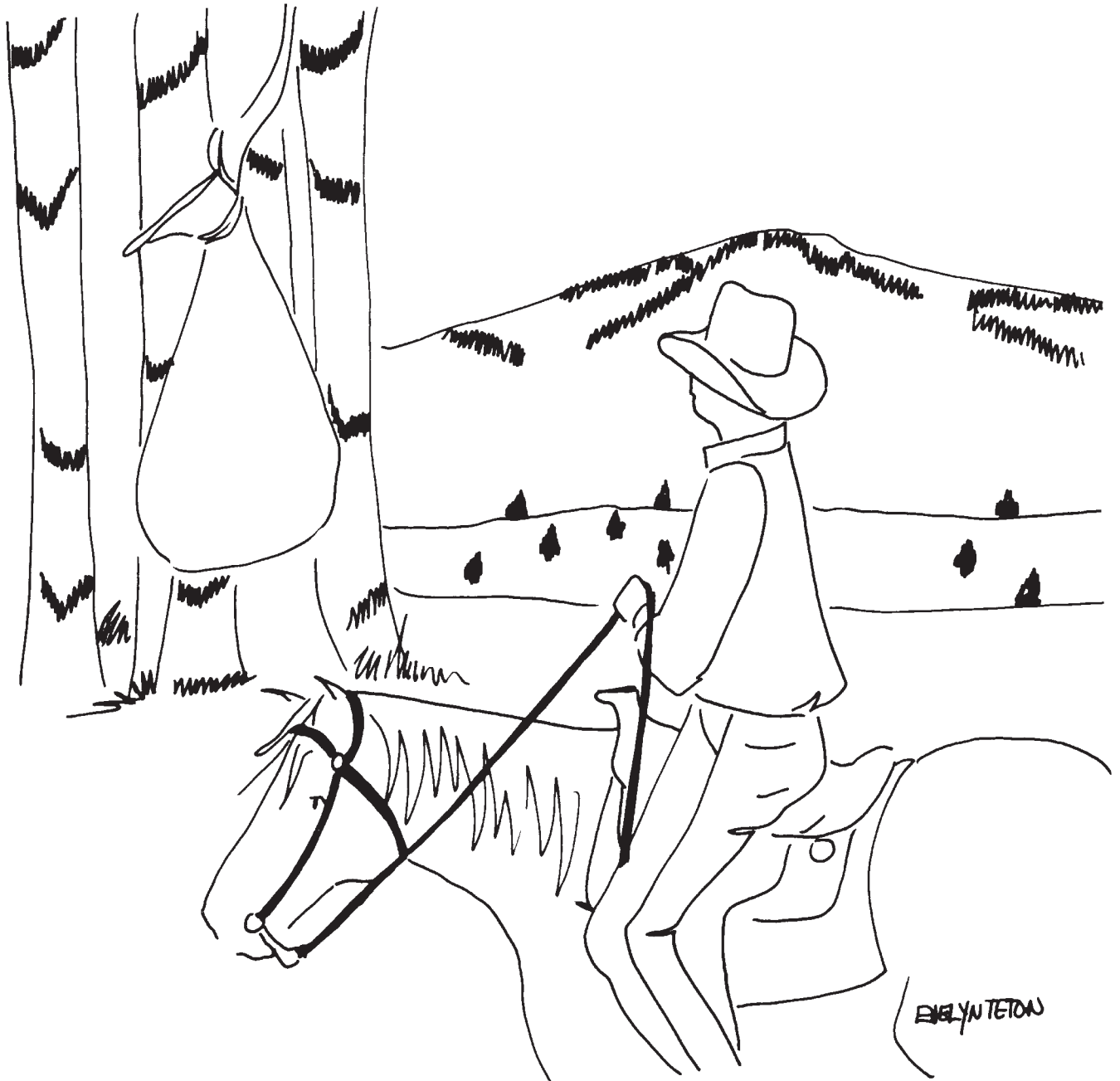
After a few days, he accidentally stumbled upon the coyote. He was still so mad at coyote, that he roped him, stuffed him in a gunny sack, and tied him to a big quaking aspen tree.





ALAN TETON

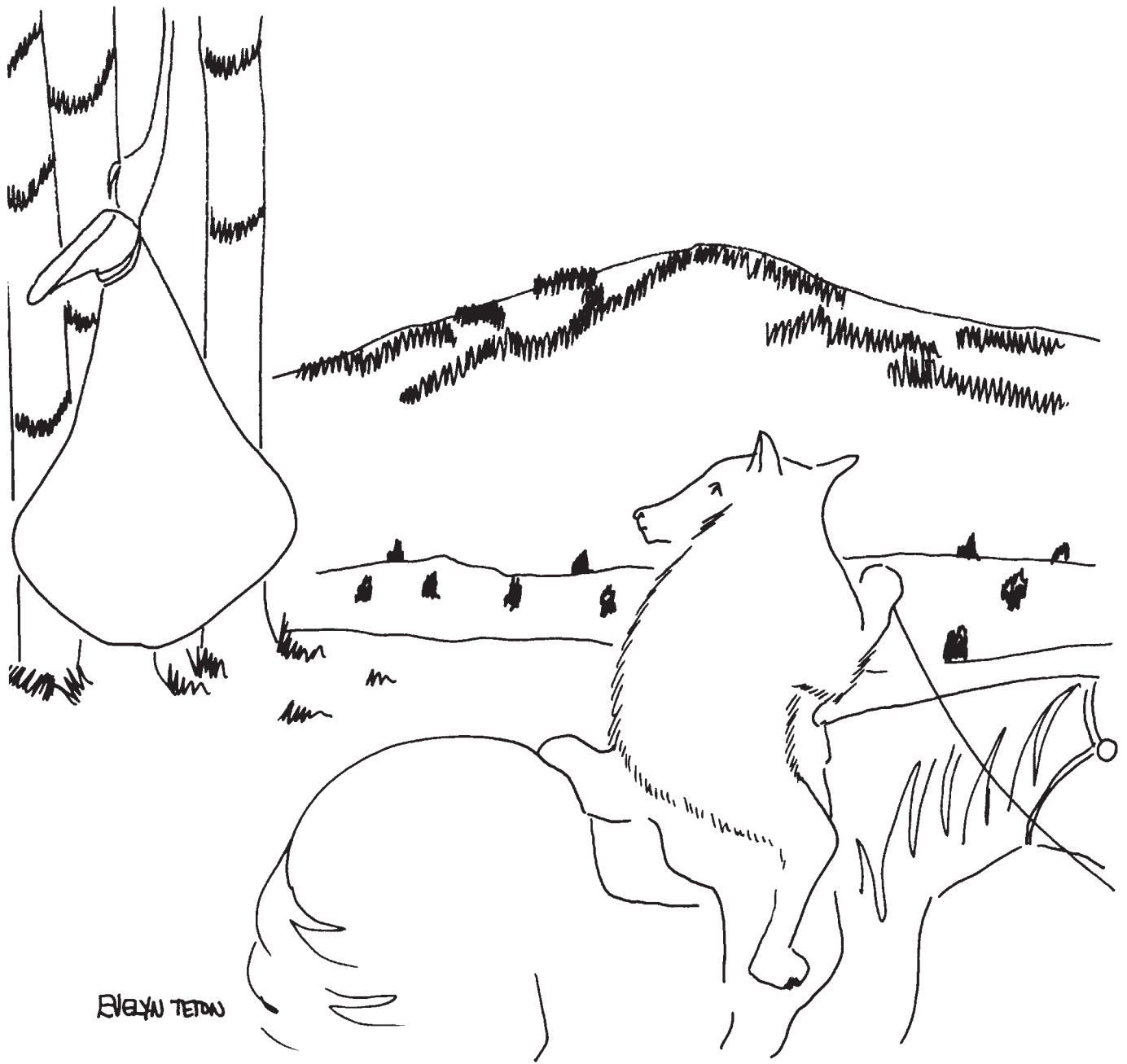
As the cowboy rode off, he told coyote, "I hope you starve to death."



This left coyote in a bad situation. But being very sly and tricky, he just waited for someone else to come along. After a couple of days, sure enough, along came another cowboy looking for stray cows. He noticed the gunny sack hanging in the tree. He rode over to see what it was. As soon as he got near, coyote started telling him a big tale.



He told the cowboy, "I was hung here by someone who promised me to a beautiful woman. He has gone after her. When they return, I will have to marry her." Then he told the cowboy, "But, I have changed my mind. I don't want to get married, even if she is beautiful." The cowboy thought, "This sounds like a good way to get a wife." He had been lonely and was looking for someone to be his companion. This woman was beautiful too! So coyote suggested, "Let's trade places, then you can have the beautiful woman."



It didn't take long to convince the cowboy, and it didn't take long for coyote to get out of that sack. He hung the cowboy up in the tree to take his place. He climbed up on the cowboy's horse. As he rode off, he called back to the cowboy, "You were easier to fool than the first cowboy." Then he rode off over the hillside looking for someone else he could trick.

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 Teepee*  
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*  
Shnelwater 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. *Nap's Journey*  
Blackfoot Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*  
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*  
Blackfoot Tribe



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