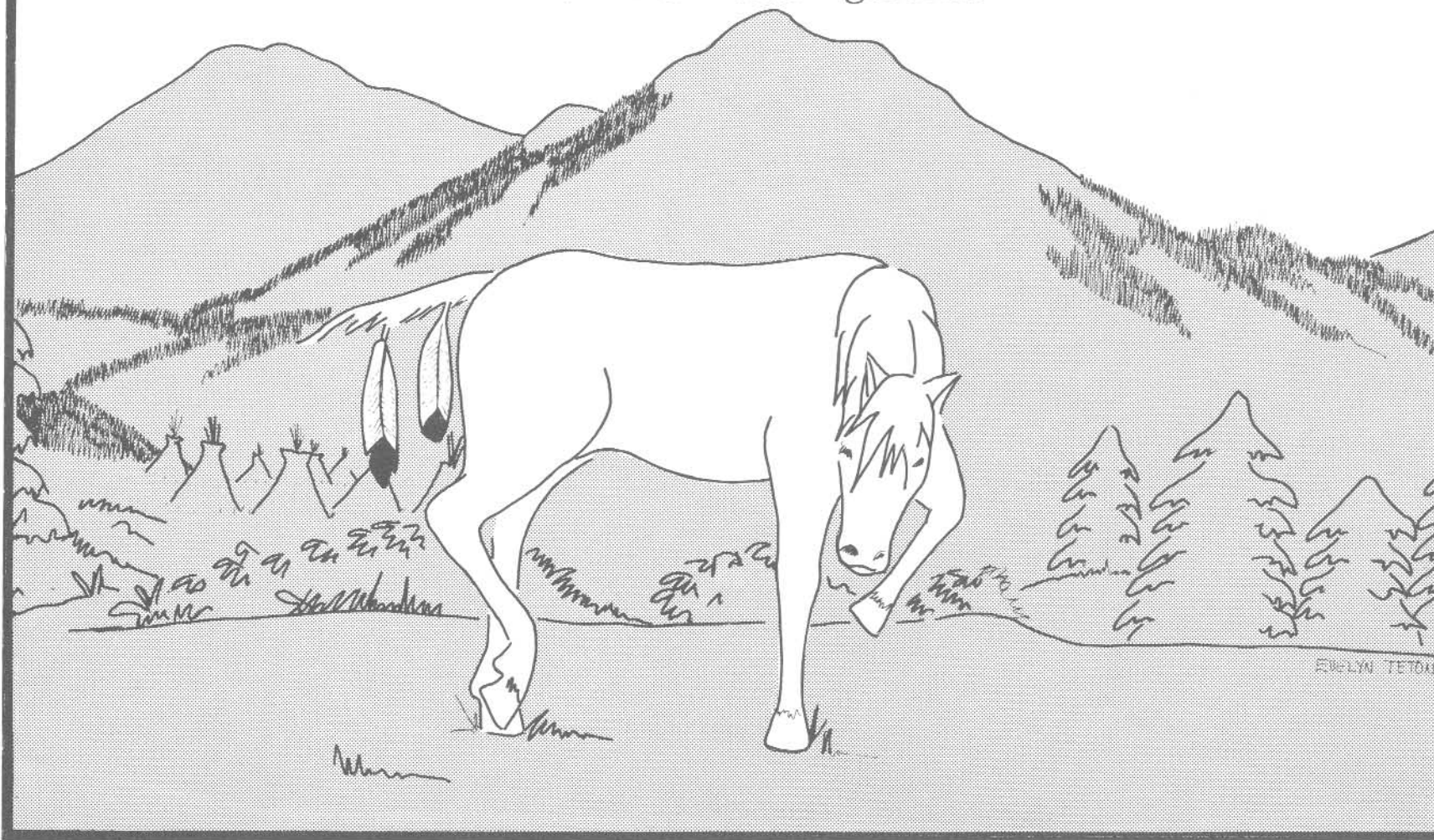


# Medicine Horse

The Indian Reading Series



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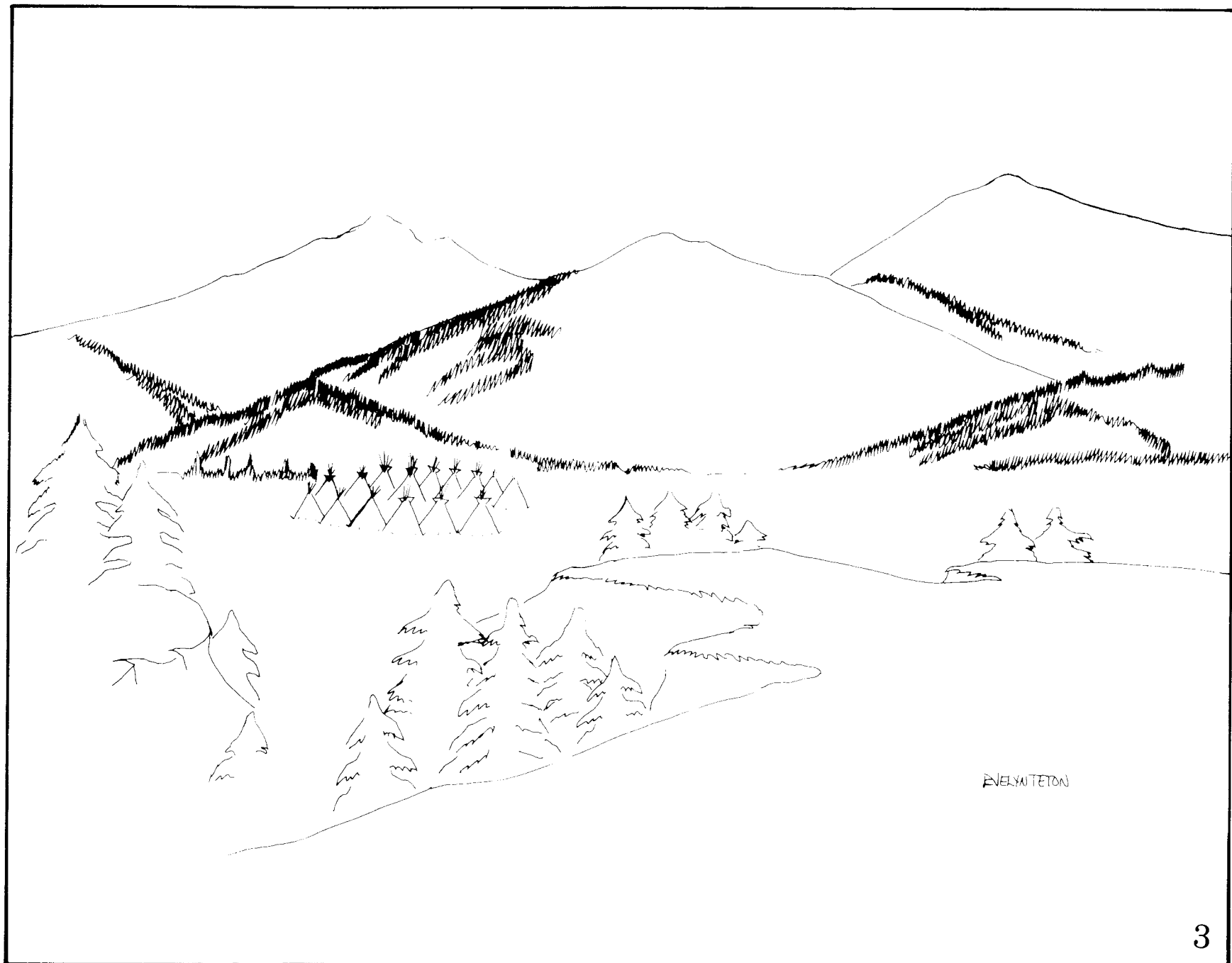
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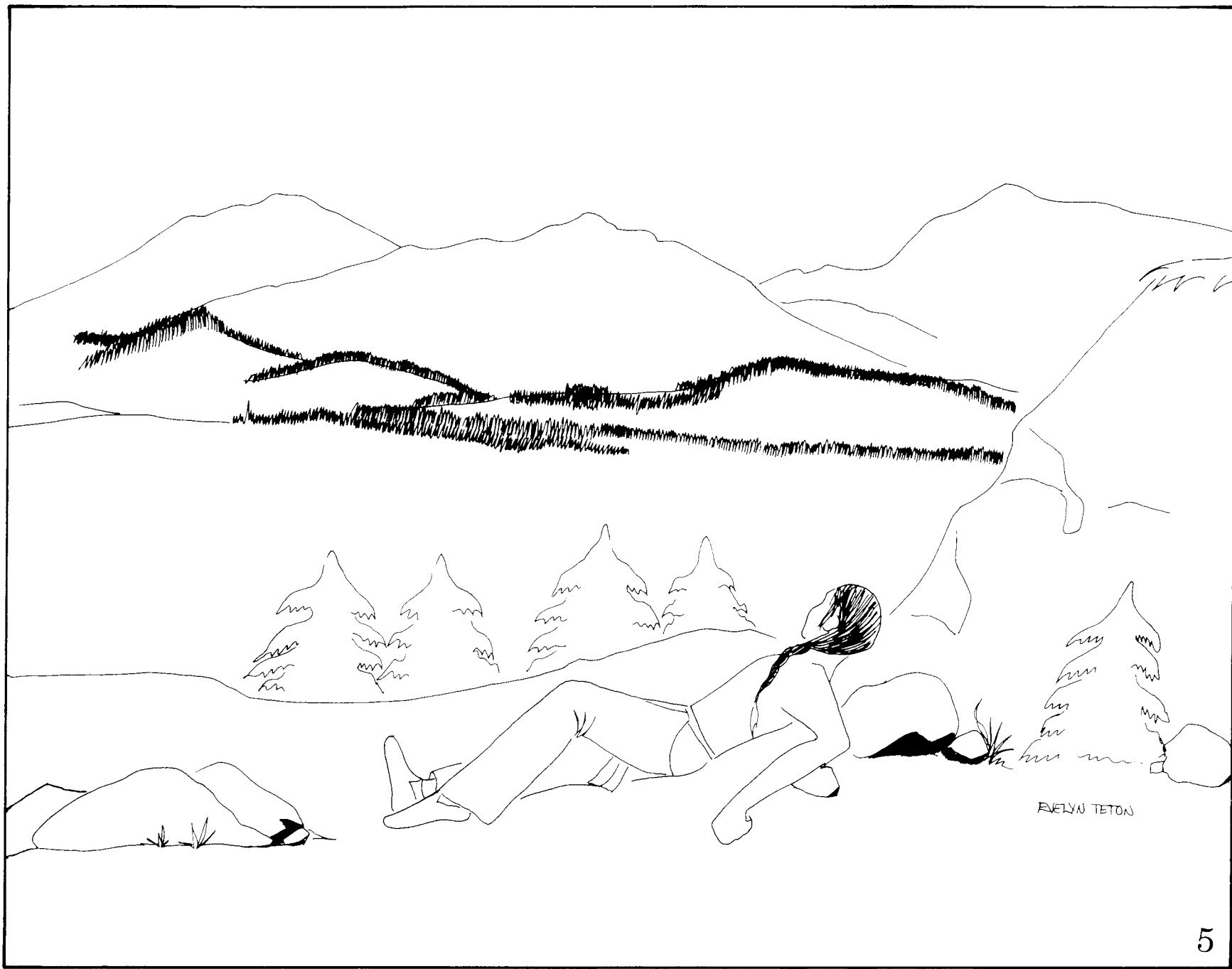
Shoshone horsemen say that the Indian Medicine Horse,  
with its short, almost hairless tail,  
makes a fine Indian pony.

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.



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.





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.

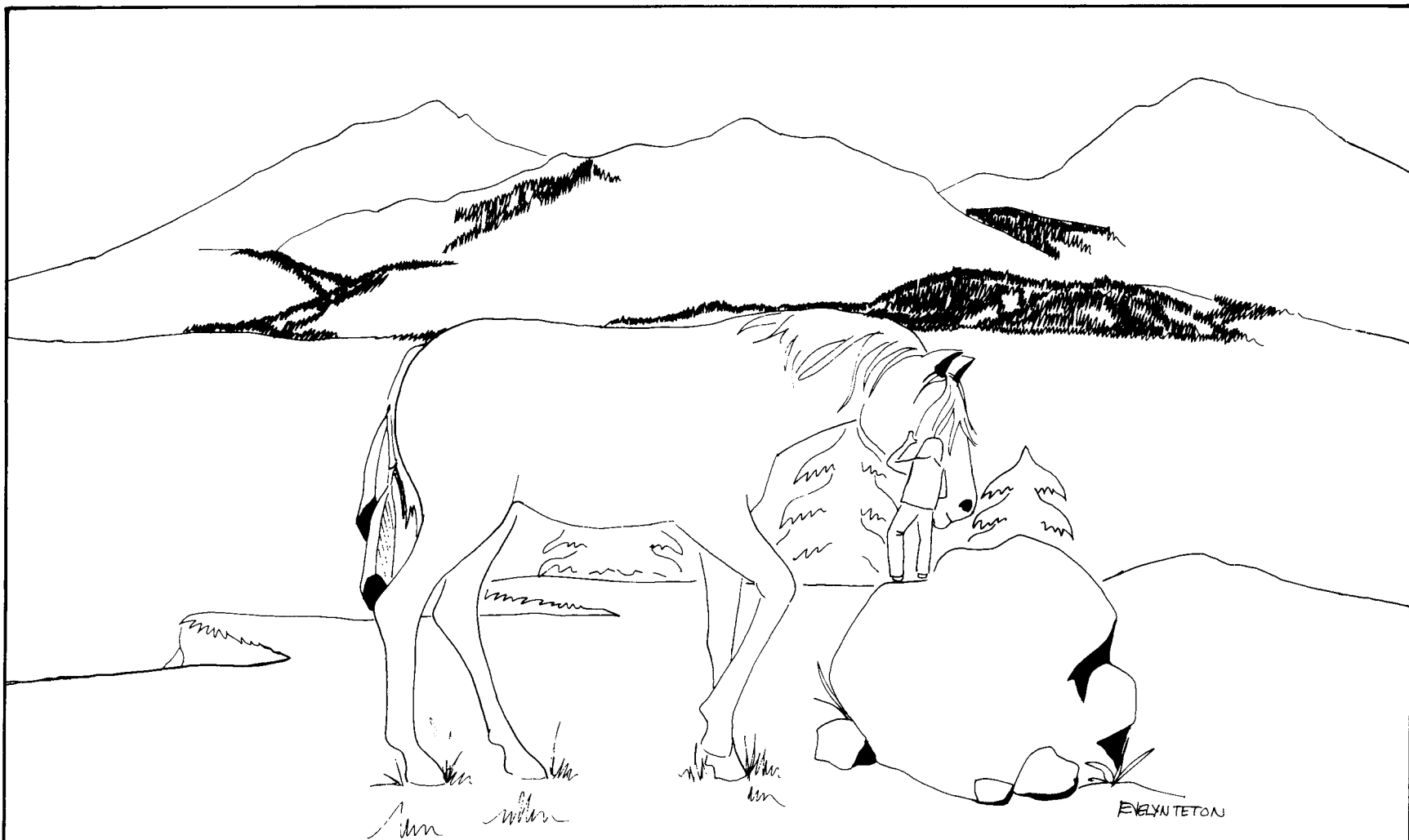


He remained quiet and gave the little man  
his cherished hunting knife.  
The Nin-num-bee took the knife  
and cut off a piece of his hair.  
He took the soft feathers from the eagle  
who sat upon the cliff's edge,  
and gathered several handfuls of crushed cedar.  
He then built a fire and made his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



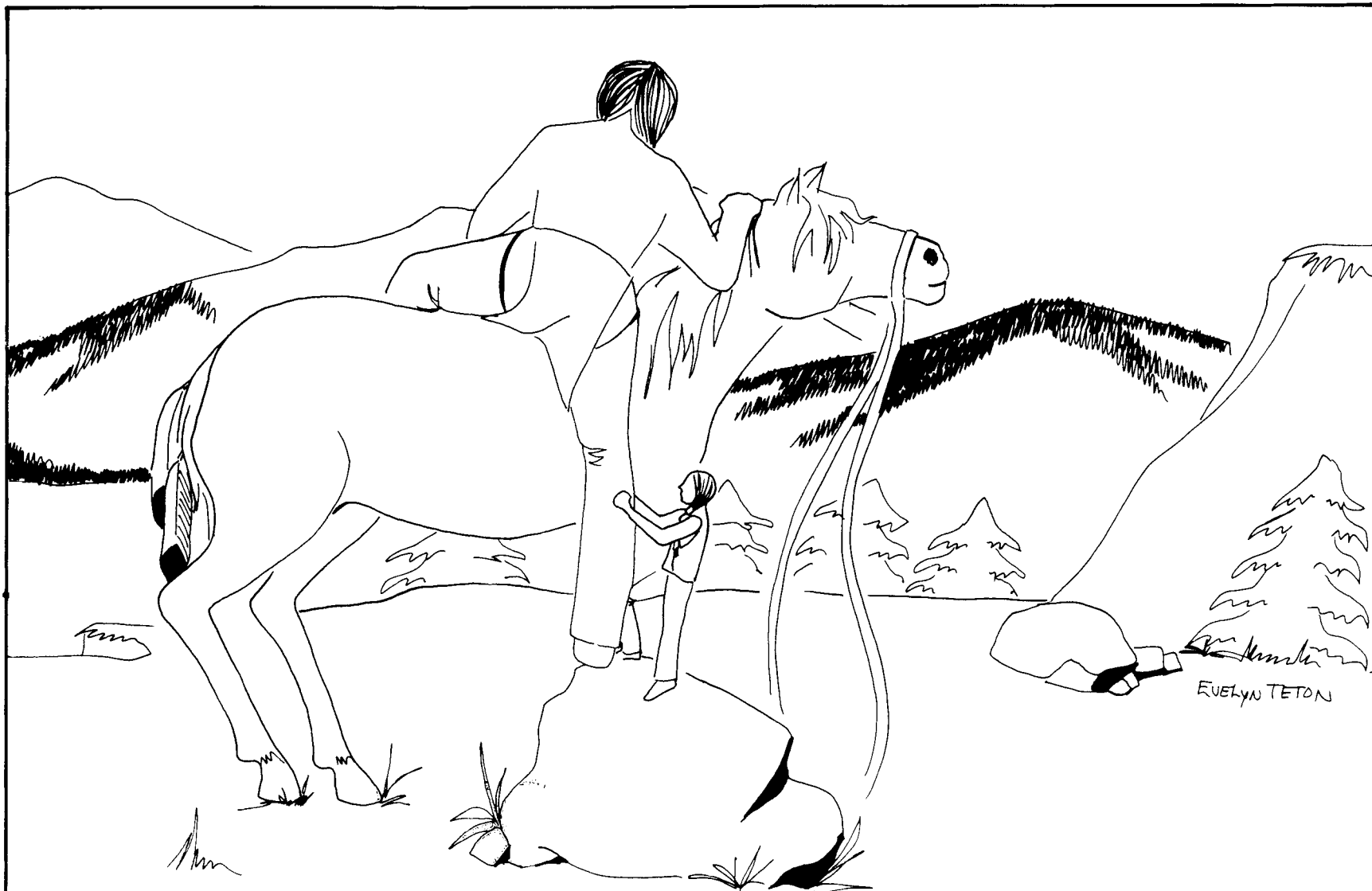
The young Indian boy watched.  
An animal the boy had never seen before  
came from the smoke.  
The great and beautiful animal stood there,  
magnificent and powerful.





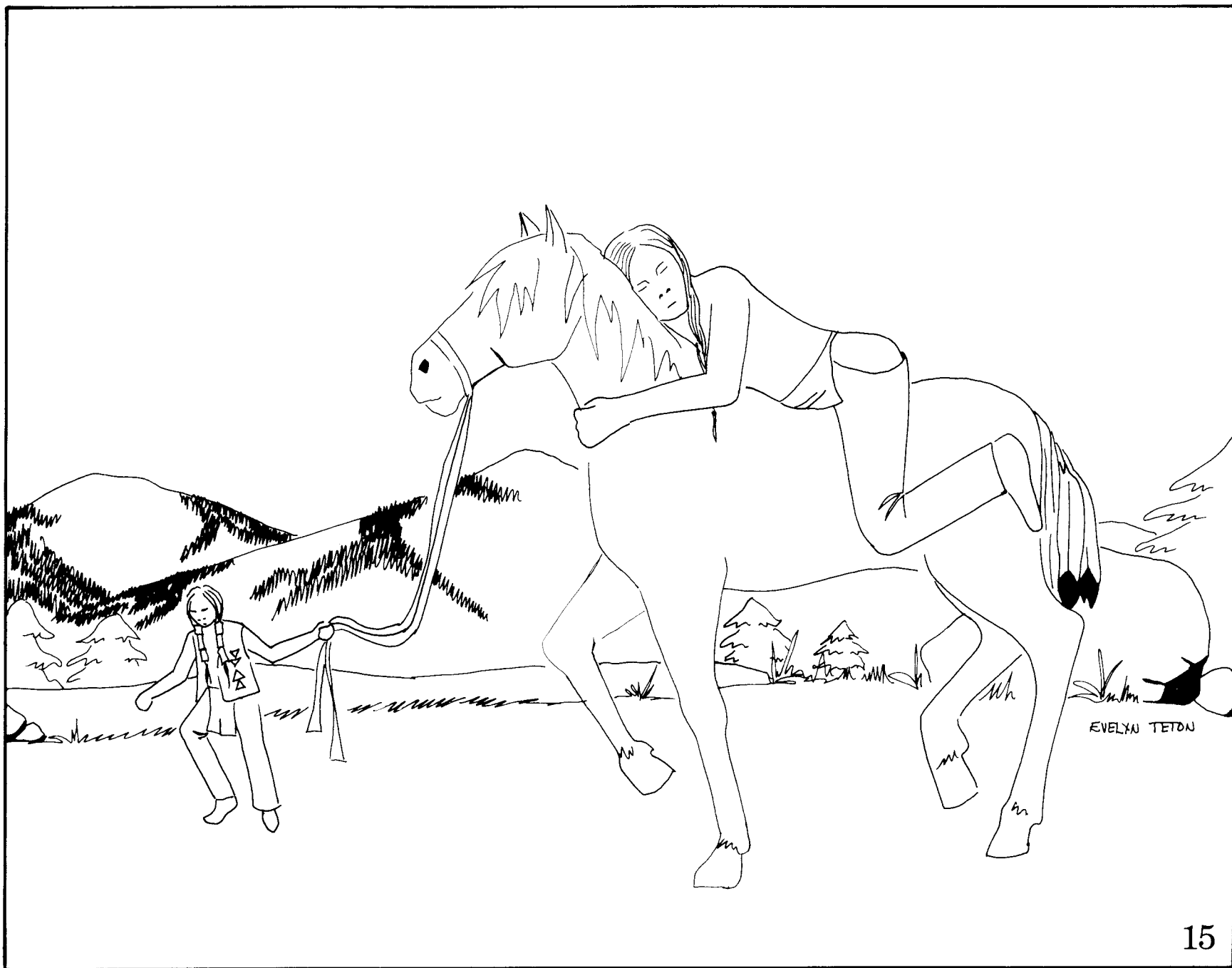
The little dwarf then picked up the eagle feathers  
and tied them to the tail of the animal.  
He spoke to the animal, but never to the boy.





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

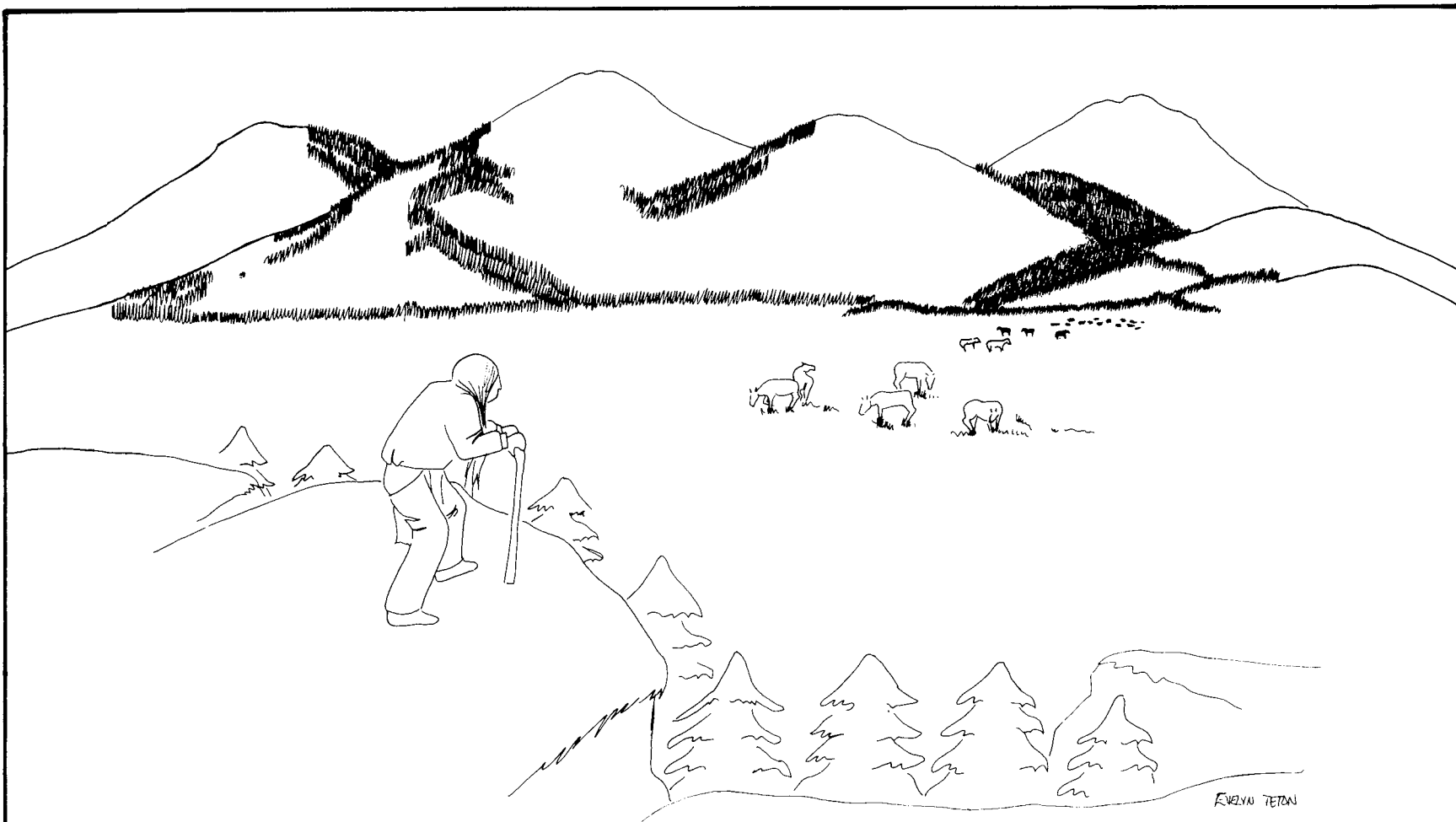
He took him close to the boy's camp before pulling him  
from the animal's back.  
The dogs had begun howling and whining,  
so the dwarf-like man left quickly.



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.

- |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                          |
| 2 <i>The Beginning of the Earth</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon                                          | 12 <i>Inkdomi and the Buffalo</i><br>Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the<br>Fort Peck Reservation                                                             |
| 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>Assiniboiné 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                                                                                                                     |
| 9 <i>Coyote and Old Lady</i><br>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the<br>Fort Hall Reservation                                                              | 19 <i>The Turtle Who Went to War</i><br>Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the<br>Fort Peck Reservation                                                          |
| 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 |

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the *Teacher's Manual*, contact the publisher:

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