

Mary Queequeesue's Love Story

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Mary Queequeesue's Love Story

Level V Book 5

**Developed by the Flathead Culture Committee
of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes**

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A Pend d'Oreille Story
Told by Pete Beaverhead

Mary Queequeesue was telling on herself about when she was still a young woman. Mary said, "I got me a husband, a young husband. I was just starting to really like him and was getting used to having him around when another woman ran off with him. He got himself another wife, a younger wife. They were married by a priest and I started crying around."



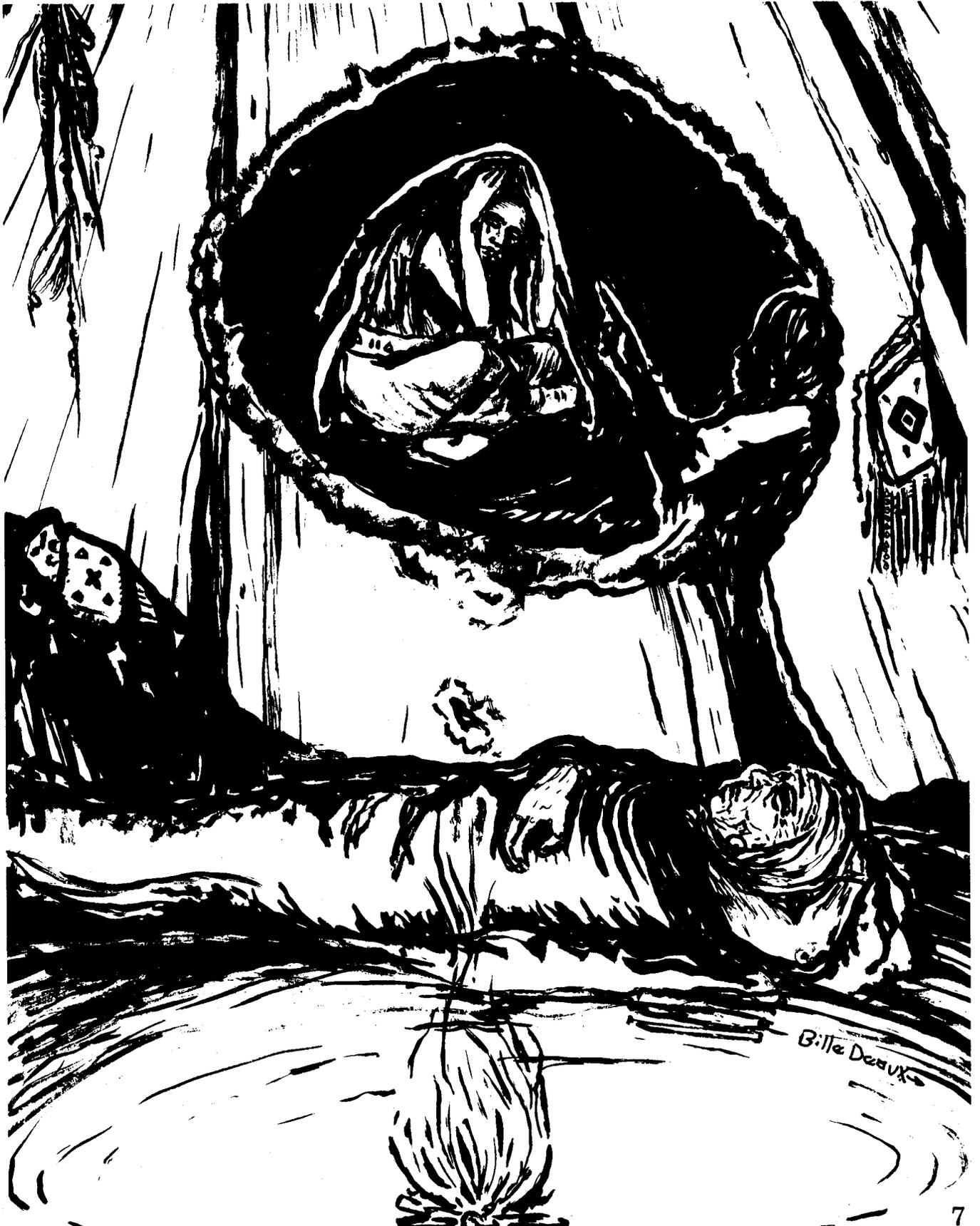
When the Indians moved to the prairies for their summer hunting, Mary went with them. They were already on the plains and Mary was still crying around.

One day early in the morning an old woman came into her tepee and sat down next to her. "I am going to tell you something," she said. "Go ahead and tell me." Mary told her. "You are very lonely for your husband because he ran off and got a younger wife and you have been lonely and crying around. "Yes, I have been." Mary said.



The old woman said, "I wasn't thinking about you but last night when I went to sleep, I had a dream. Someone pointed and said, "Look at her. She is lonely." I looked and it was you. You were sitting there crying. Then I saw your husband with that other woman." "Yes," Mary said, "all of that is true."

Then the old woman told her, "I have medicine for what I've been telling you about. You would have to pay a high price if you want my medicine. You pay me with some good things and I will fix it so you will get your man back. I cannot do it for nothing. I want to be happy too. You will be happy and I will be happy too with the things you give me."



Mary told her mother about this and her mother said that she would help her. "Here," Mary's mother said, "is a woman's dress."

It was a real nice dress, a real nice buckskin blanket, a pair of moccasins and some other things that she laid down in front of the woman to see.

"You already know what the horses look like." she told the old woman. "When my man comes back, these are things I am going to give you. You can take all of these here now and when the man comes back, you may take the horses. Will all of this make you happy? Is it enough?"



Bille Deaux

The old woman looked all of these things over and said, "These things are good. They make me happy. Thank you. Thank you. You make me happy. Now we can make your man come back."

"Early tomorrow morning," the old woman told Mary, "I'll come and get you and we will go down to the water so you can bathe. But today you fix two little dolls, one man and one woman. Fix a buckskin dress for the woman. Make a little boat out of tree bark. Tomorrow morning we will go down to the water and fix it. I'll have my medicine with me "



Billie Deau X

Early the next morning before the sun came up the old woman came in and asked Mary if she was ready. Mary said, "Yes." "Okay, let's go." the old woman told Mary.

They went down to the water and when they got there the old woman said, "Take off your clothes. We are going to bathe."

They bathed and the old woman told Mary, "Go get the little dolls and the boat that you made."

Mary went after them. They walked back into the water up to their knees.

"Okay, now put the two dolls on the boat. That man doll is your husband and the woman doll is the one he ran off with. This is my medicine." She fixed her medicine. After she did that she told Mary, "Take the male doll back. Let the woman in the boat go because that is the woman that ran off with your husband."



Bill & Bazook

Mary let go and the woman doll floated down the stream. "My medicine will reach your husband today," the old woman said. "My medicine is strong. Four days from today your husband will be back."

They were a long way from Mary's husband and the other woman.

"He will try hard to get here in four days," the old woman said. "If he doesn't get back to you in four days he will die. There is not anything we can do to revive him, if he doesn't make it. When we get back to your tepee comb your hair. Put rouge on and if you have scents, put some on you and your bed and pillow so you and your bed will smell good."



Tomorrow morning come down here by yourself and bathe. Then go back to your tepee and fix yourself up again. This is what you are to do for the next four days. Do this when you are alone.

Because your husband is so far away," the woman added, "I don't know if he will make it back to you in time but he won't like that other woman anymore and he will leave her.

If he gets back, don't pay any attention to him right away. Make him beg you. Give him a rough time."



One day went by, then two and three. Finally sometime early on the fourth day, just past midnight, Mary was still awake when she heard a horse coming. Her husband must have stopped at other camps and asked which one was hers. He came up to the tepee and stopped. He came in. When he came in he looked around. There was a moon so Mary could see him clearly.



Bille Deaux

He came over to her and said, "Is that you, Mary?"

She hollered, "I'm Mary. What you going to do about it. I don't want to see your face. Get out here."

He said, "No, don't talk like that. I'm lonely. I missed you. That's why I came back to you. I left that other woman. I don't like her. She is no good."

Mary told him, "You are no good just like that woman. Go on and get out of here."

He started to cry and Mary thought, "I'd better quit. He might really get mad and leave me again." Mary grabbed him and hugged him.



The stayed together for a long time after that until one day Mary told him that he could leave if he wanted to. She was getting old. That was when they split up for good and she married Queequeesue.

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 Sq³a'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



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