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Version 9, told by Maggy Jim

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The Narrator

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Maggy Jim is a fine-looking older Southern Tutchone with a regal bearing who now lives at Haines Junction or Mile 1016 on the Alaska Highway. She was born about 1879 in Neskatahin or Old Dalton Post, and she recognized most of the Indians whom Glave had sketched there in 1890. She is a high-ranking member of the Wolf moiety, belonging to the sib grouping which the Southern Tutchone most often designate by the Tlingit term *cAnkukedi*. She is also sometimes identified with a Southern Tutchone group who once lived along the flanks of the St. Elias mountains and who are known as the *ɬalt'uwAt'can* (Hill People).

Her life has been a rich one, although marred by tragedy, as is true of many Indian lives. At least two of her husbands were high-ranking men of Crow sibs. She is now a widow living

with one of her daughters, married to a white man.

Maggy strikes one as being rather reserved. She spends most of her time in her small bedroom sitting Indian-fashion, with her legs stretched straight in front of her, sewing endless pairs of fine moccasins and mukluks. Visits to her are low keyed and entail long silences characteristic of the old Tutchone social pattern. She told the story at my request only after I had flattered her in her ability to speak English. At first she murmured so low that I could barely hear her, but she picked up sound and confidence as she went along. This was the first long story she ever attempted to tell me, and she is correct that her English is limited. However we were alone in the house, which did not often happen, and she could not ask a daughter to interpret.

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The Story

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They were hunting berries. Lots of people too were walking around. A young girl lost her berries. She picked them up. Three times one lady did that. Why does she want to throw away the berries?

The others wanted to go home. She said, "I'll come back quick, as soon as I pick up the berries."

That's the time a nice-looking man came to her. He was a nice-looking man, that one.

"Do you want to come with me? Do you want to come with me? "

She says, "No."

"Come with me! "

"Yes."

Oh, she stays a long time with him after she goes with him. He's a nice-

looking man—Indian. That time, they walk around, walk around a long way. They go on the mountain and stay there. They eat gophers. They sleep.

And in the morning she wakes. He is holding her that way. [Maggy pantomimes the bear hugging the girl in his arms.] It's a bear. She can't move at all. She sleeps; she sleeps. The bear sleeps too.

The bear comes back to Indian again. He gets up.

"Don't scare me! " that girl tells him. "Don't scare me! "

Oh, in the fall time they go around.

"Which place are we going to stay? Which place do you want? "

Well, her brothers hunt in there. That's the place she tells the bear she

Appendix: The Story and the Narrators

wants to go.

"Right here! "

They stay there. They have a hole. They stay inside. Oh yes, she has two kids, yes. [This was not in answer to a question, just an apparent after-thought.]

That's the time he shows her, "Somebody walks around here. That's why you want to be here! "

[Maggy was silent for about four minutes while she put her beads away.]

Well, the brothers go hunting. They go hunting. The dog is coming; he's coming.

Her brother's dog is coming now. The bear goes outside. They kill him down there.

Q. Do you mean the bear killed the dog?

A. No, that lady holds the dog. He comes in and she puts him here. [Maggy pantomimes the girl putting the dog down behind herself.] She knows that dog. It's her brother's dog.

Her brothers kill the bear.

Well, she sends the dog back. She says to her brothers:

"That's your brother-in-law you killed. [Keep?] your brother-in-law's head."

Well, they want to kill her too, that girl. But the youngest brother doesn't want it. Just in time he helps her.

"Why do you want to kill her?" [he asks].

That's when she tells him, "You tell mama to bring my clothes." She tells her brother that.

Well, they skin the bear. They go back home.

They say, "A bear has married that girl who has been missing a long time. She is talking in there [i.e., in the bear den]. She wants her mother to come back and bring her clothes. Take her clothes."

She goes out and she walks.

"I have two kids here. You give me clothes for them too."

The mother takes the little children's clothes.

She walks around. She has one little boy and one little girl.

Well, her mother gives her the clothes. She puts on all her clothes. The children dress too. She walks around.

She comes back home.

She stays there a long time. It's fall time. Then I don't know why her youngest brother tells her,

"How do you do it? How do you do it when you walk around in summer time and hunt gopher? "

He wants to see. The youngest brother says he wants to see how.

She says, "No."

That boy wants to see her in a bearskin. He gives her a bearskin, and he wants her to put it on. And he wants her to walk around.

"Why? I don't want to do that! "

She has started already to turn to bear, you know. She is going to turn to bear now. She kills her younger brother.

"I'm going now. I want to go! "

The young kids turn to bear too. Already they walk on the mountain side. They go now.

Q. Why did her brother say that?

A. I don't know *why* he says that. She walks, and she never comes back.

A. to Q. My mama told me that story. It happened down among coast Indians, I think.