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The Woman Who Married the Bear



I tell story 'bout little bit *Yaabaa Teeshaay* and bear and this woman,
go out picking berries with his daddy and mother.
Every time he see bear go bathroom, she sees that one,
she holler and scare,
and on, on, on.

Her mother and daddy told her,
“Don’t say that. That’s superstitious.”
But he don’t pay [at]tention to his mother.
And one day he went out to play far, far out.
She don’t know she go across the country
and she gets into bear’s country.
And after he realized, go too far away.
He look, holler for his mother and daddy.
No Daddy; no Mother.

Her daddy and mother can’t find;
and then bear just pretend real handsome lookin’ man.
And he asked her, “Why you cry? Why you come?”
And she tell him,
“Oh, I just don’t like bear.
When I see bear go bathroom, I just holler,

holler my head off.
Scare[d].”

And my mother and my dad tell me not to.
They told me *inji*. That’s superstitious.
but I don’t [pay at]tention.

And then from there, this bear tell ’em,
“You want be my wife?”
And he looked at him twice,
and this man really handsome lookin’.
He can’t turn her [him] down, so he say,
“Yes.”

And then he stay with her all these many years
and then she got first child.

First child.
And he’s out there.
Have a happy baby and this daddy asked,
“What you got?”
“We got a little boy.”

And the bear went out and just hit that little baby and
kill.
And next one he ask, “What you got?”
“Little girl.”
“Treat her good and raise her up good.
She goin’ pick berries for me.”

So the Mother. . . He’s little boy, but the Mother dress
her just like woman.

Next one, boy, next one, boy.
He got three boys.
This woman got three boys.
One day he all grown up.
He all dress like woman.
The father don’t know he got three boys.

And one day, they tell the mother,
“We gotta go out hunt.”
And they all left with women’s clothes and put it in the
bag,
and they all started [to] dress [with] man’s clothes.
And that day no moose, no nothing,
so he got the bear.

That’s their uncle he kill.
On daddy’s side.
And this woman’s Native like us,
and then he all come back.

On top of the hill, he see three boys.
He tell his wife,
“The people goin’ come visit us.”

She say, “No, that’s you son *iin* [family].”
Boy, he’s mad, but too late.
They all come back with bear meat.

And him, he’s very sad.
He don’t feel good about it.

He paint his face.¹
He paint his hand.
But soon as dishes to eat . . .
The bear meat; that's one of he is . . .

and then . . .
He cook, he say, "I'm goin' cook."
The boys cook for their father.
He paint his hand and all they eat
that bear meat.

From there he's not happy.
He start do anything that hurt his wife;
all trouble to [her].
And then Yaabaa Teeshaay come along.
He told his family, "Let's go down on the flat.
Pick berries. Eat berries."

On the flat, he all, *k'ada'ada*,²
each person just go down.
And he put their outfit.
They're eating berries
and Yaabaa Teeshaay have to be there.

That one of them goin' shoot that bear.
He pull her head off. That's mean.
But it's too late so he shoot them all with arrow.

And then, before that,
The father, the creek, he blocked that creek.

¹ This was to indicate that he was going to eat one of his relatives.

² The day before, or yesterday.

He go through lake.

That's that little *Nasai* and *Desnai* that's the one have a
little long lake.
I don't know English how he call it,
but us Native we call *Desnai*.
Other one we call *Nasai*.

He tell, "You drink all that water.
I want get rid with Yaabaa Teeshaay."
I want kill him.
Desnai, she can't drink water so this *Nasai* she drink all
that lake little bit.
Then Yaabaa Teeshaay, he look around and he find
stump.
He hold that stump.
He's inside the water and he go down,
and he break it up where that
bear block it up.

Water all gush up and the creek . . .
Yaabaa Teeshaay float down with that big stump.
He's under that stump and bear can't see.
And bear try every way he can to get.

Bear want to get Yaabaa Teeshaay,
but Yaabaa Teeshaay's pretty smart.
So he just try do anything,
but Yaabaa Teeshaay get away.
And uh, even right down to that creek,
he even had some kind fish net to block fish,
and he break that one with stump.

The Adventures of Yaabaa Teeshaay

Go right through
and *Yaabaa Teeshaay* get away from this animal.

And from there, *Yaabaa Teeshaay* get rest up
and he started search around look for . . .

If he don't do, it's still today maybe out there.
We gonna have it.
That's what *Yaabaa Teeshaay* think.
So *Yaabaa Teeshaay* turn around,
finally he gets two *iin*.
And he try to kill all of.

And he talk with his son, *iin*.
"What you think if I kill you, Dad?"
"It's okay."
"Cause this . . .
We don't know what's gonna happen.

You might as well do."
And then these boys, three boys,
dugged a hole, hided their mother,
cut all kind tree.
Covered their mother so bear don't kill their mother.

Even though *Yaabaa Teeshaay* shoot,
her last strength, he go back to where his wife . . .
He try to kill his wife.
He dig all . . .
everything.

Little ways from his wife, he die, the bear.
That's *Yaabaa Teeshaay* right there, he beat it.