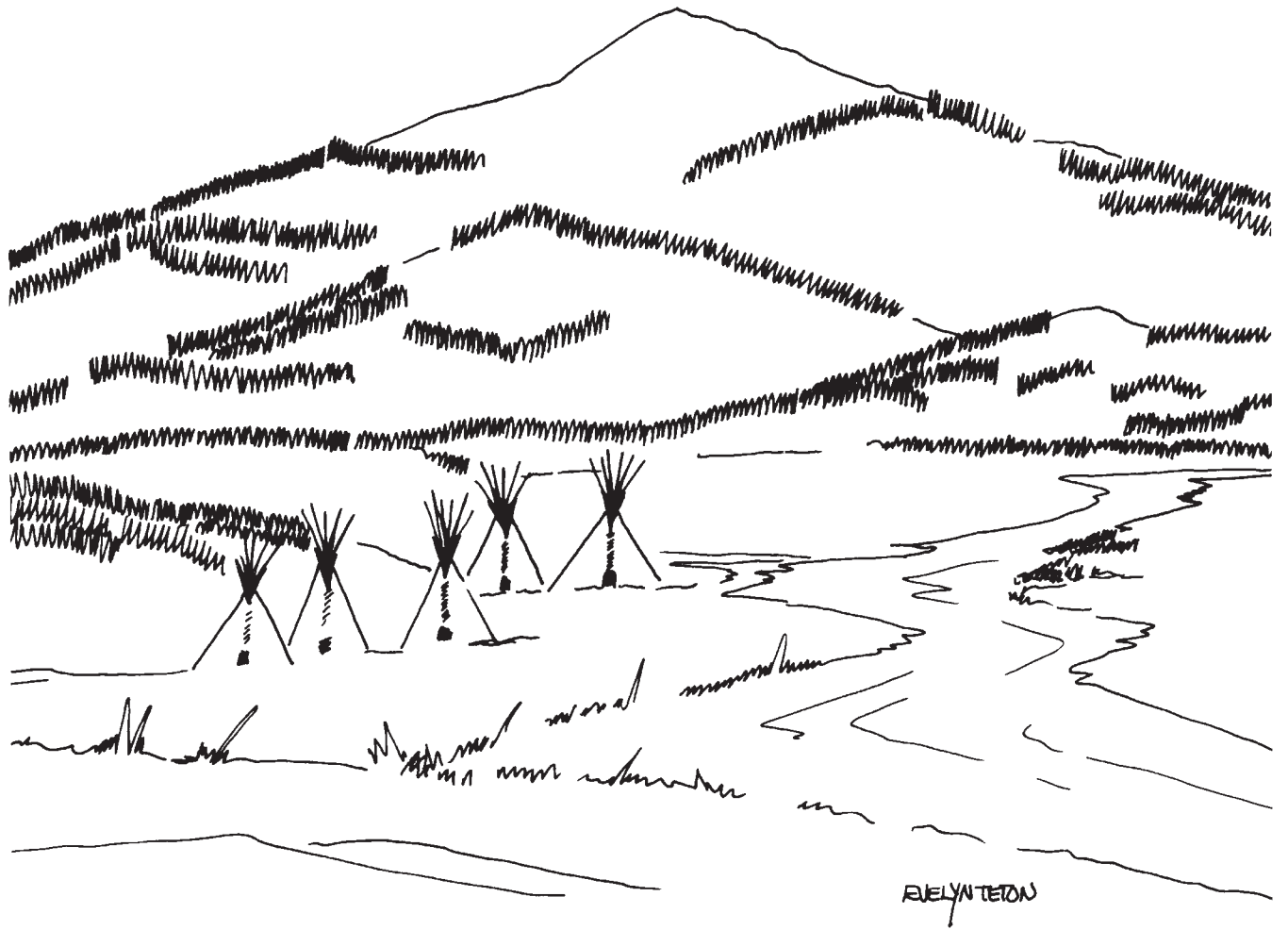


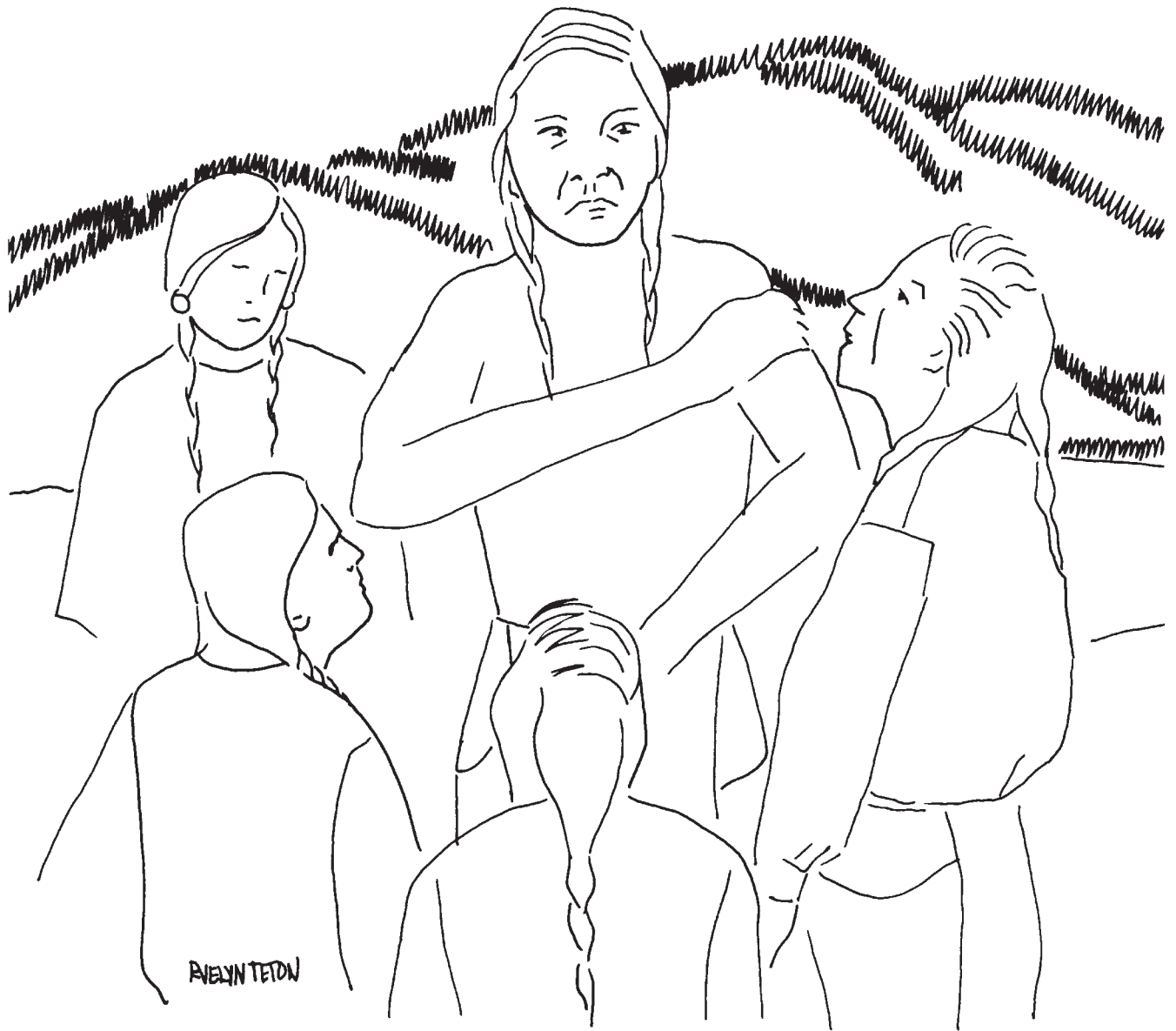
Bear Hat

Series IV

Told by Cora George

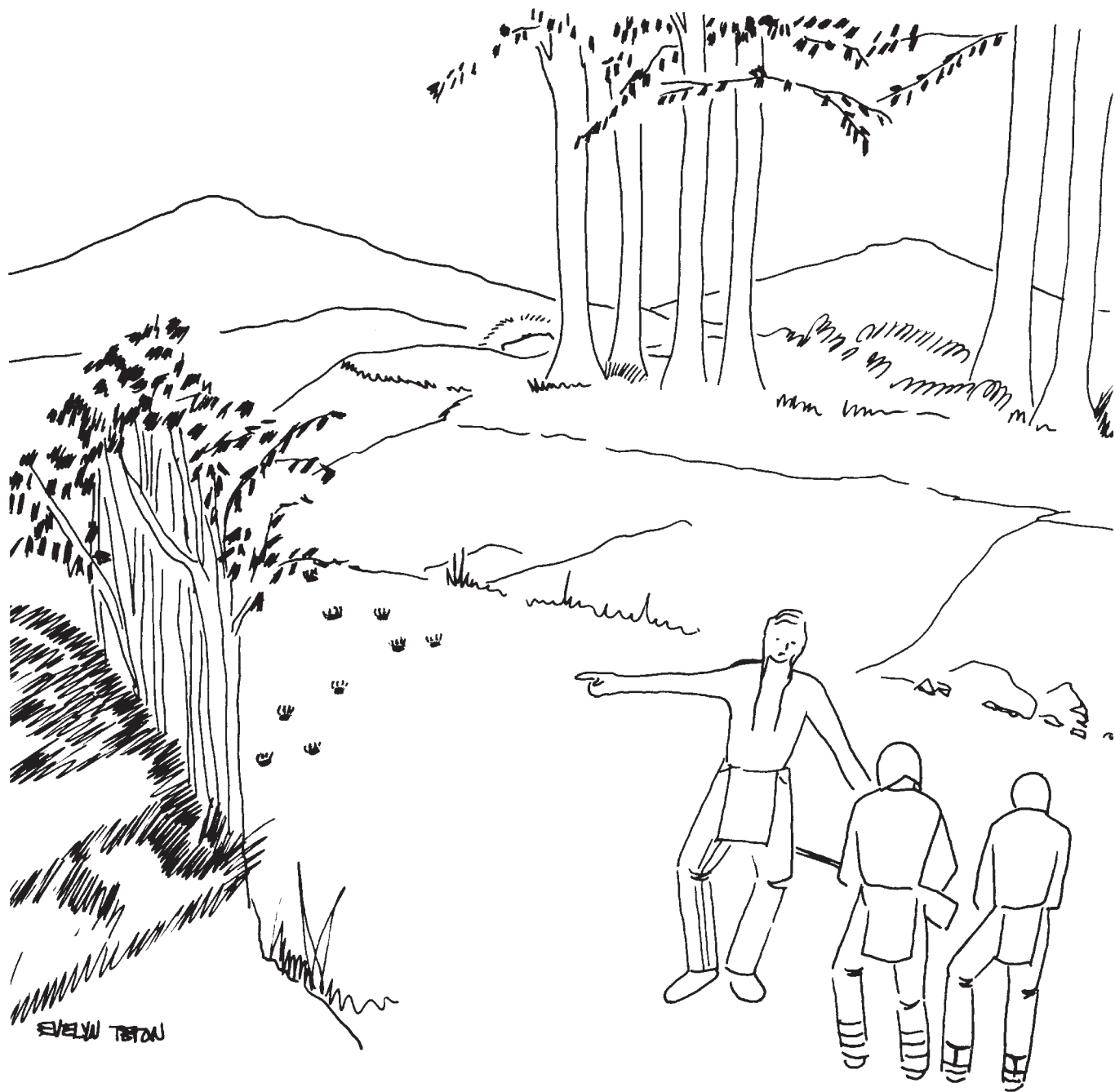


This is a true story of how Bee-bu-bah-gent got his name, Bear Hat. It happened several years ago in the mountains of Challis, Idaho.

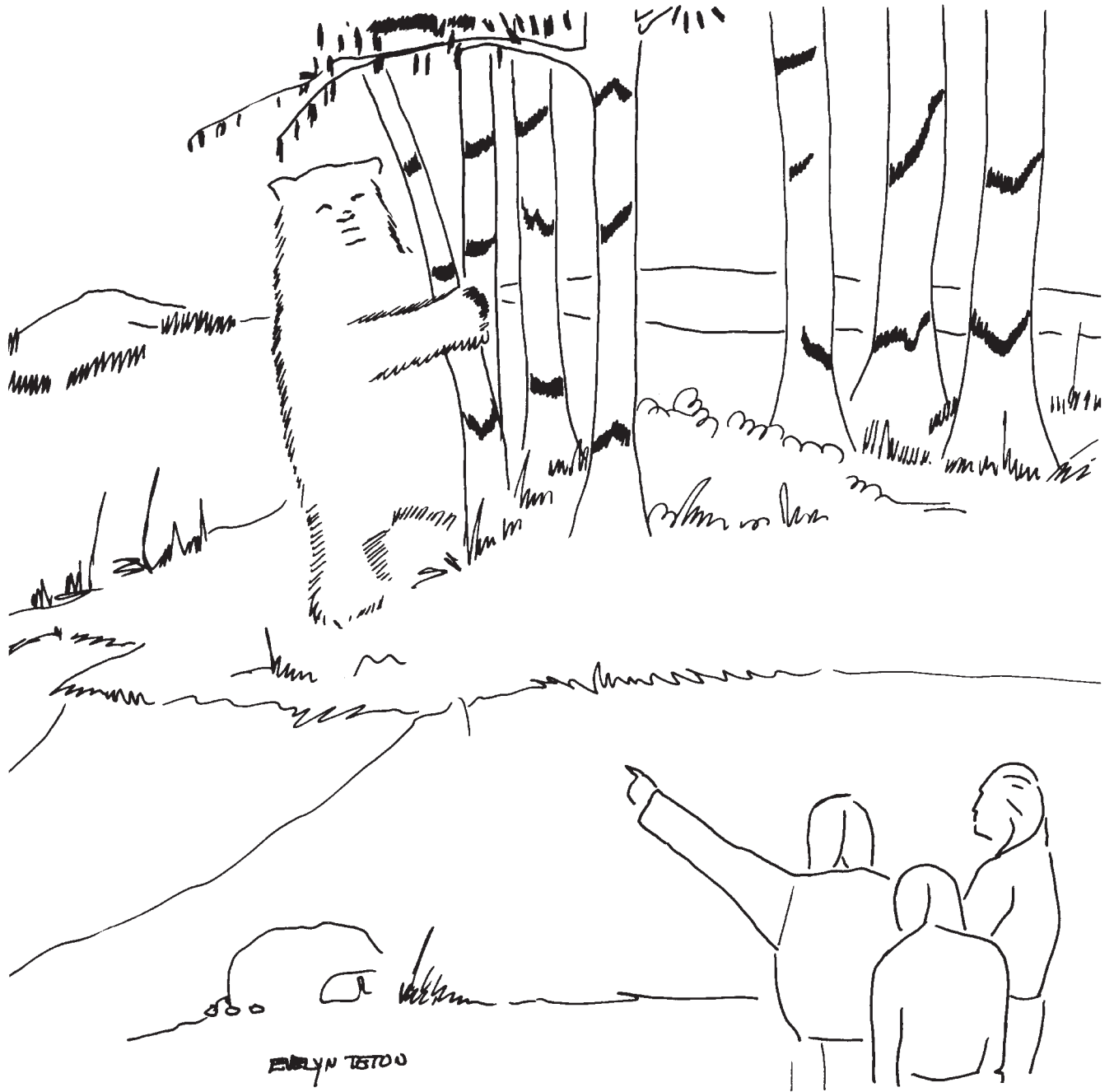


It was Fall, and several families were at Challis hunting deer and elk for their Winter food. News had been spread from one camp to the other about a grizzly bear that had been wounded.

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.



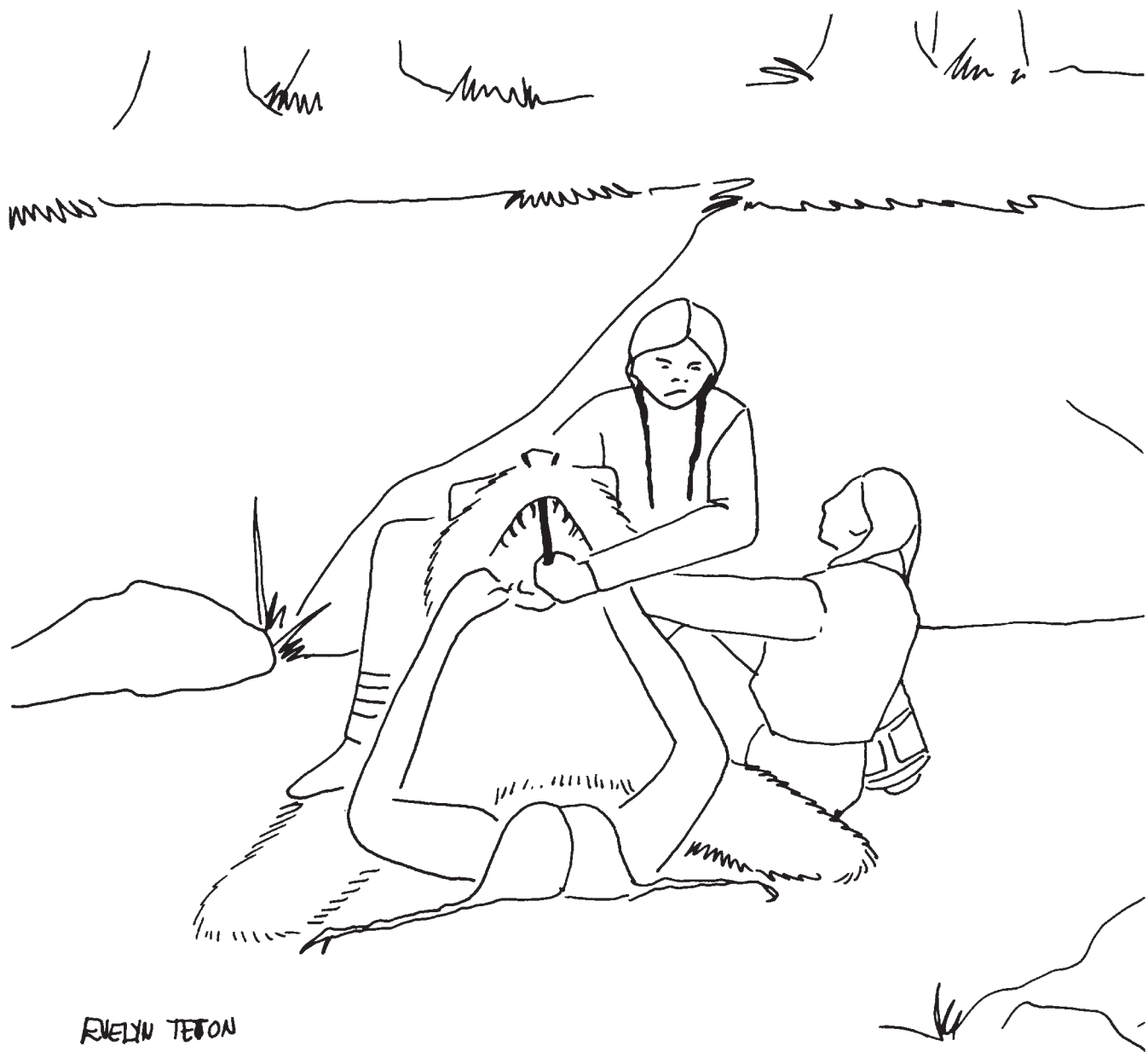
As soon as the bear sensed the men getting close, he stood up on his haunches. The grizzly started shaking the branches of the small trees around him. Cawson was frightened and afraid that the grizzly bear would attack the men.



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.



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.



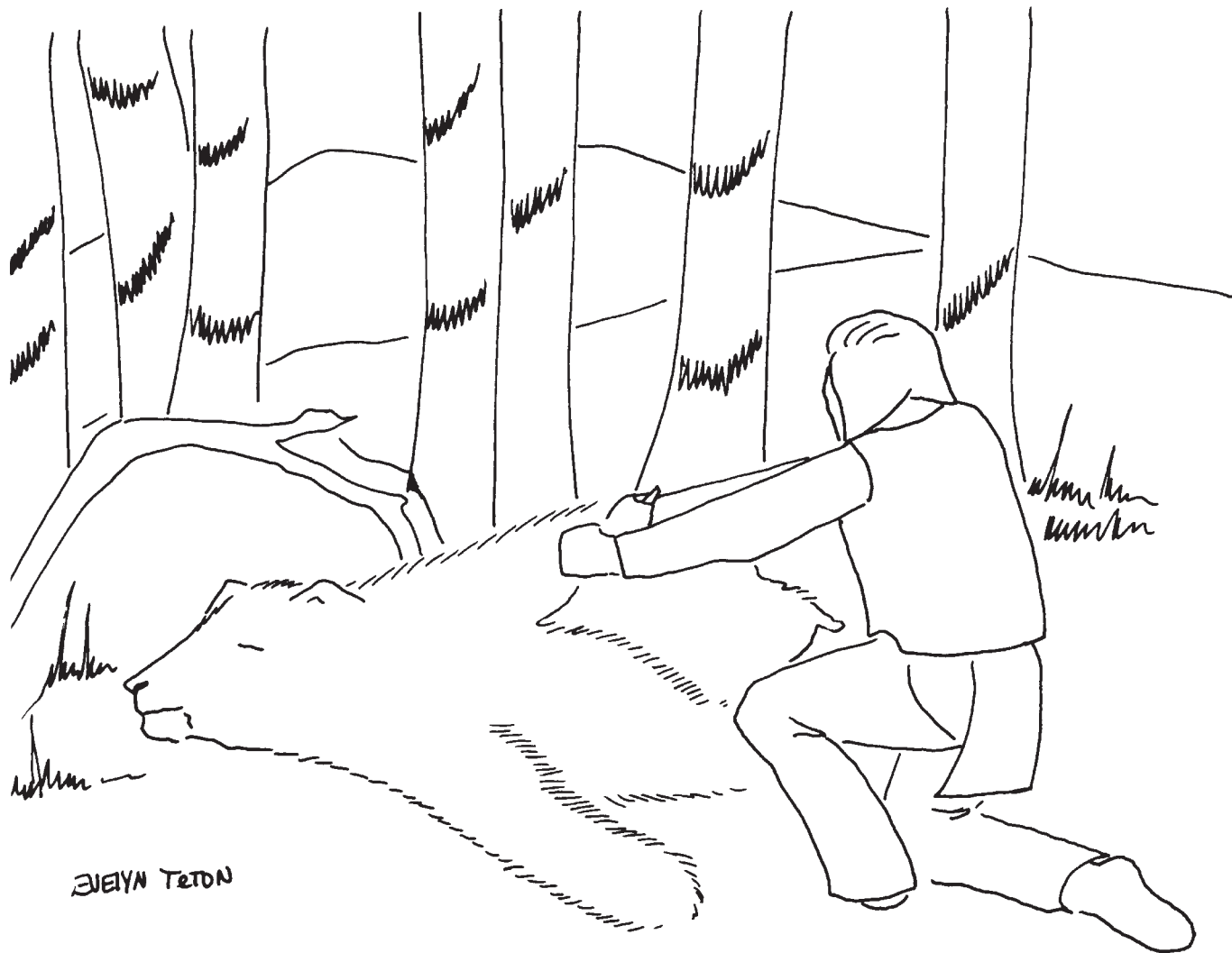
At this instant, the mighty grizzly bit into Bee-bu-bah-gent's leg. He wailed out in pain, but the bear wouldn't let go. Again, Cawson and Bright Beads jumped on the great grizzly's back. They were trying to get him to loosen his grip on Bee-bu-bah-gent's leg.



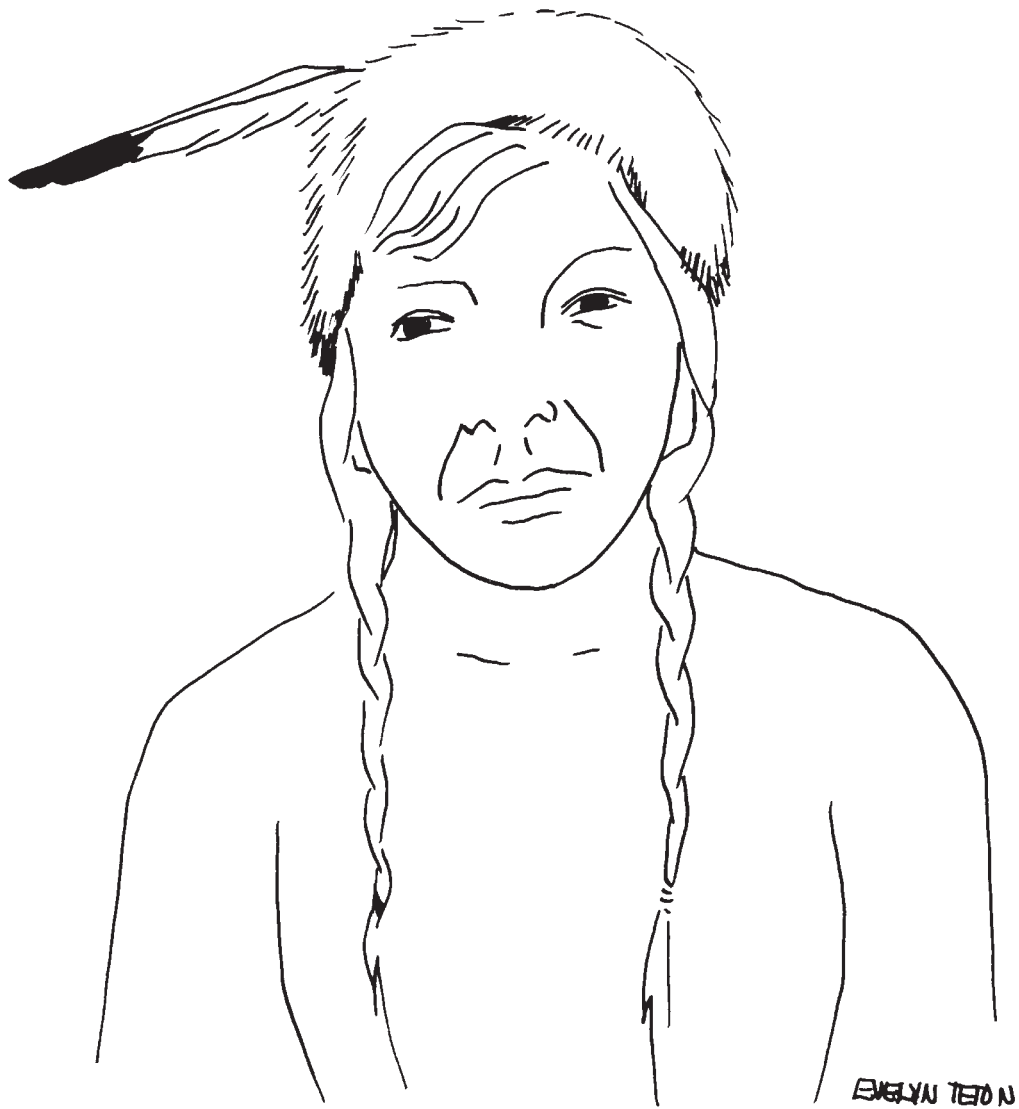
After more struggling, the bear became weak and started choking. The stick was piercing the bear's windpipe. He let go of the leg, howling and falling into the trees. He clawed a tree trunk, then fell on his face, never to move again.



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.”