

Pet Crow

Told by Eunice B. Alfrey

Illustrated by LaVern Alfrey

Many years ago, there lived a great chief. One day when the chief was hunting, he found a crow. The crow was hurt with a broken wing. The chief took the crow home and cared for it.



G.A.

When the crow's wing was better, the bird was taught to speak. Soon the crow could talk and understand the language of the tribe. The crow understood everything the chief told him.



E.A.



The chief told the bird to spy on people. These people were enemies of the chief. The crow would go to the enemies' camp and learn all their secrets. When the crow returned home, he would tell the chief all of the secrets.

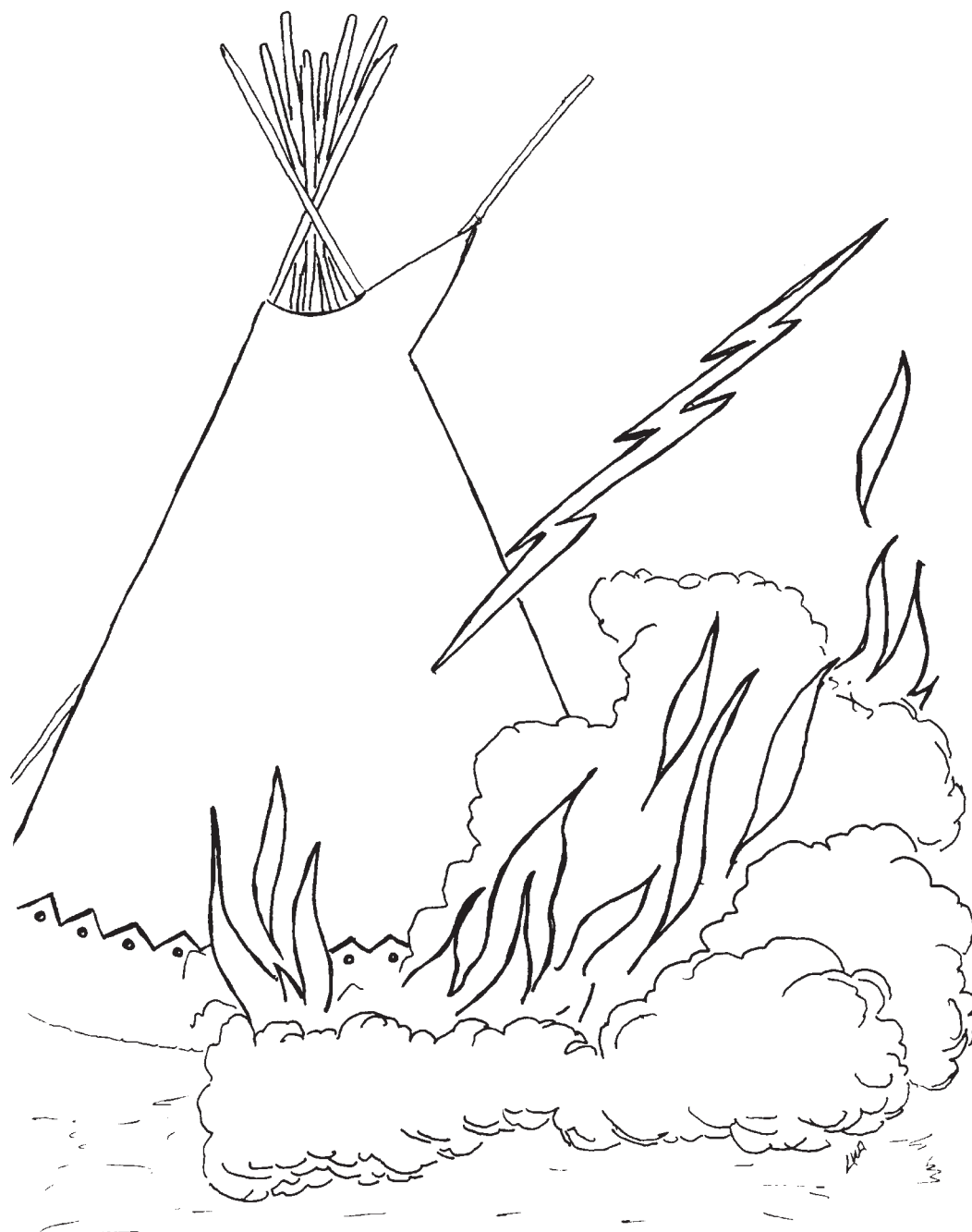
Soon the chief won many battles. All of the chief's enemies were afraid of him.



E. A.

One day the crow returned home with sad news. He told the chief a great medicine man had put a curse on him. The crow said a bolt of lightning would kill him.

All of the people were very sad. They knew something terrible was going to happen.



A storm came and the sky became very dark. Rain fell and thunder and lightning struck everywhere. People ran and hid in their tepees. Even the chief and crow hid in their tepee. Everyone was afraid of the storm.



Early the next morning the people woke up. The storm had stopped. The people heard the crow's lonely cry. They found the chief's burned tepee. The chief had been hit by a lightning bolt.

The people saw that the crow had been burned. They watched the bird fly away and listened to his lonely cries.

Today, some people say the crow is black because he was burned long, long ago.