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***NAA MS 2826, folder 1***  
***Three Piegan Blackfoot stories in English collected by***  
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June  
23 1910

Told in English by Mrs. Julie White Swan -

The woman who turned into a Bear.

A woman had seven brothers and one <sup>younger sister</sup> made eight beside her self. The seven brothers went to war; the woman was in charge in a big camp. One evening she ~~she~~ told her mother: "I must take a walk". Every evening she told her mother "I am going to take a walk". This old lady told her youngest daughter "you must follow your sister next time ~~you~~ she takes a walk". So the youngest girl followed her sister that evening when she took a walk. Her sister went into a thick thicket-like brush. The youngest sister crawled up to her. She saw a large bear playing with her. The youngest girl got scared and ran home. She told her mother: "Oh Mama! what did I see



down there? I saw <sup>June 23</sup> ~~a~~ 1910 2

big bear." ~~At~~ The old woman told her husband "Your daughter has been with a bear down in the timber." The old man said "We shall go down there and kill him, next time our daughter goes down there." The girl took a walk again that evening.

The old man got a lot of young men to get their guns. They all followed the <sup>young</sup> ~~girl~~ girl down to the brush. They sneaked up; when they looked, the bear was there playing with her. The girl just started home when they all shot at the bear. The oldest sister went home with the youngest crying. She sent her youngest sister back. "Here you go back, get me the bear's paw; don't let any one see you" - So the young girl



at <sup>girl</sup> went back and got a <sup>June 23</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>3</sup> ~~two~~  
When the Indians were cutting  
it up in pieces the girl sneaked  
up and got one of the furs. She  
went back with it. "Here you are  
sister". The eldest sister was glad  
to get that, cause the bear  
was her sweetheart, you know —  
She took the fur and hid it  
in a parfleche. That evening  
she sat out crying. The  
youngest said "What are you  
crying about?". "I was lonesome  
for my sweetheart", she said.  
"Next day get all the girls &  
boys together, we'll go down into  
the brush, & I shall play Bear".  
So the youngest one gathered  
all the boys and girls and  
they went down to the brush. The  
eldest girl lay in the brush and  
she told the ~~boys~~ & girls "You  
the



must take little arrows (June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910)  
and tickle me." The boys  
and girls come and tickled her.  
She jumped up and hollered like  
a bear. The boys pretended to shoot  
at her. She went back into the  
brush. The girls tickled her again.  
He called her youngest sister  
"Don't tickle me on the ~~thighs~~  
hips; you can tickle me  
any place else; you must  
all look out." The youngest  
girl went away to the loop  
and girls. "What did your  
sister say?" "My sister says  
you must not tickle on her hips."  
The youngest one said "She can't  
do anything; let's tickle her  
there;" So they all sneaked up;  
and the youngest one tickled  
her on the thighs. So the oldest  
June 23



one turned into a bear. 5  
She ate them all up  
except her youngest sister.  
The bear ran into the tundra  
and ate everybody. (and  
the seven brothers who were at  
war). She went to her mother's  
lodge and turned into a woman  
again. She called to her  
youngest sister: "You must  
come; I shall not kill you".  
So the sister came out from the  
brush. The eldest one said: "Here  
sister, your my servant." "All  
right; I'll wait on you and  
do anything you want".  
So she cut wood, got meals,  
and everything a girl can do.  
Early one morning the youngest  
one went after water. Somebody

June 23 1910



called her "Sister!" She  
looked all around. It was  
the seven brothers who had  
come back. "Come over we  
want to see you" they said to  
her, "What has become of all  
the people?" "Don't talk  
loud; Sister will hear you;  
our sister turned into a bear and  
killed off all the people." "You  
go ask your sister what will  
kill her." The girl went back.  
When she came in, her  
eldest sister sniffed around  
and said "It smells like  
person around." "Don't say  
that; there's nobody around."  
"Come up here" the eldest one  
said "look on my head  
and put me to sleep." The  
younger sisters said "all right." So she  
looked on her head, and felt

June 23 1910



around her face: "Poor 7  
sister, she said "I love you;  
I ~~can~~ be an orphan in  
case any body comes along  
and kills you. "Oh don't get  
scared sister, nobody can  
kill me with a gun, nor can  
fire burn me, nor can I  
get drowned. I'm the medicine  
woman. "What can kill  
you, sister? "Where I walk on  
my paws, an owl will kill  
me there. "Is that so; I did not  
know that! So she put her eldest  
sister to sleep and went after  
water again. Her brothers called  
her again. "What did you sister  
was going to kill her? "Oh yes!  
she'll die with an owl, brothers."  
"You go round the camp and  
pick up all the owls." So they  
did so. They next day they  
went down by the river where  
the youngest girl went to get

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water. "You take these awls," ~~then~~ <sup>8</sup>  
~~then~~ said to their sister; "Here's  
a rabbit for you. You cook  
the rabbit when you get  
home, don't give her any even  
if she asks for it. Stick ~~to~~ all  
the awls close to the tipi".  
So the girl went ~~to~~ and hid the  
awls outside and went into  
the tipi. She said to her oldest  
sister "I've got you a rabbit."  
"Cook for yourself alone" the  
eldest sister said. So the youngest  
one started cooking the rabbit.  
Her sister said "look on my  
knead; put me to sleep  
again". So she did so. Then  
she went out and put the  
awls all round the tent,  
near the door and all  
around. The girl went back  
into the lodge. The rabbit was  
June 23 1910



done, but she didn't eat it; 9  
she was ~~water~~ waiting for  
her sister to wake up. She  
woke up. The youngest notes  
said, "The rabbit's done, do  
you ~~the~~ want a piece of  
it?" "No; eat it alone, go  
ahead and eat it; it smells  
like persons. Somebody must  
be around". "No; there's no-  
body around". So the  
youngest started to eat the  
rabbit, but hid half of  
it. "I guess my note must  
have eaten all that rabbit",  
the oldest one said, "I did it  
get none". "No, I've got none  
more here for you". "Eat  
him all up; don't save any  
for me" said the oldest  
sister. The youngest was

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putting away the dishes . 10

"Did you eat it up" said the eldest one; "yes, I don't care, I ate him up." "I'll eat you up" the eldest said. "I don't care; you can eat me up" ~~yes~~ the youngest said. She ran out of the lodge, ~~then~~ the eldest turned into a bear again and chased her;

When she jumped out she stepped on one of the awls and could go no further.

Her brothers rushed that and stabbed her and some made a fire and pulled her in it. So the Bear was nearly dead. "Let's make a bigger or she will burn well" said the brothers. Then she burnt to death. Then then

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all left. At the time, a little piece of the finger  
blew one side. So she  
came together again. When  
the brothers + 1 sister looked  
back the bear was coming  
at them again. The oldest  
one told the middle one  
"What do think, do you  
know of anything?" "I'll  
save all you folks. I'm stronger  
than sister (i.e. the bear). I'm  
medicine" she said. ~~She~~ <sup>He</sup> took  
out a little feather. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> ~~then~~  
blew it up in the sky. All  
seven brothers went up in  
the sky. ~~The dipper was~~  
They became the 7 stars, i.e.  
the dipper. "You run to the  
June 23 1910



rock over there; "They  
 cried to their sides. She  
 saw there, ~~he old man~~ <sup>Napi</sup>  
 sat there making arrows.  
 "Save me, save me, my  
 sister is coming to kill me,  
 she is a bear." ~~That~~ The old  
 man raised the rock up  
 "Get in under there." So she  
 crawled under. He shut  
 the rock down on her. He  
 sat there making arrows.  
 The bear came. "Where  
 is my sister?" ~~The~~ <sup>Napi</sup> old man  
 said nothing, but kept  
 fixing his arrows. "Whine  
 my sister before I swallow  
 you." "Get out" he said.  
 He took out a butcher

June 23 1910



knife cut off her ears <sup>June 23/3</sup> 1910

and tail "I am't going  
to kill you, just make  
you suffer" said he, "you're  
going to look like that."

He opened the truck again.

"Come out and be happy"

He said to the youngest sister.

That's the end of it.

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2826  
BLACKFOOT

MICHELSON, TRUMAN.

*Neg. Microfilm on file.*

Piegán Blackfoot stories in English. June-July, 1910. A. D.  
49 pp.

Contents: "The Beaver-Bundle," by George Pablo. July 13,  
1910. 35 pp.

Concerning the buffalo drive (piskan), by Mountain Chief.  
June 22, 1910. 3 pp.

"The woman who turned into a bear," by Mrs. Julie White  
Swan. June 23, 1910. 13 pp.

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