

This story was Told ^{to me} by the Squaw girl
Aha Black Jack; # I put it down exactly
as she told it, without changing words or
tenses. # She ~~said~~ that her grandmother had
told the story to her when she was a little girl,
and that her grandmother was a Tribal Story-teller.

~~Long Short Short~~

Feb 11
[1945]

LADY IN THE MOON
(Eskimo Legend)

One time there was Eskimo girl who did not want to marry - no matter what her father and mother say she did not want to marry. One day when she was out berrying - getting Salmon berries, she find skull of man. This skull she take home to her camp and hide in the reindeer skins of her bed. She sleep high up ⁱⁿ her bed way above the bed of her father and mother, ~~and~~ every day when she go berrying and she come home at night, ^{she} take half her berries and give to father and mother, and half she takes to her bed and feed to skull of man. Then she laugh and laugh when berries drop through the mouth and drip down.

By and by she give to her father and mother only a few berries and they ask ^{her} where are the berries, ~~and~~ they ask her why she laughs when she goes to bed at night, ^{but} she will not tell them. Well, ^{one} day when she is gone out berrying her father looks into reindeer skins on her bed and finds the skull of man. He is angry and he takes long sharp stone that he uses to fix ^{the} wick of stone lamp and he drives it through one eyes of skull. Then he wraps skull in skin and takes it out. Now there is high cut bank over the ocean, ~~and~~ he takes the skull with the sharp stone that he drives through the eyes and he throws it away as far as he can, ^{over} the cut bank into the water.

~~Well~~, when the girl comes home at night she takes berries to bed, ^{but} she cannot find skull. ~~and~~ she goes to

father to ask him "where is that thing I have in my skins?" - And he is angry and says, ^{"In this"} ~~to this~~ why you will not marry any man, "and she cries and cries and says nothing but, "give me that thing, give me that thing"! and her father say - "go to the cut bank and in the water you will find skull if you want him so much."

So the girl packs ^{small} little wooden bucket with lunch and starts out to walk. On cut bank she wraps herself round and round in reindeer skin, thinking to roll down bank into water and drown maybe.

~~But when~~ she rolls way down in water, down, down, pretty soon she opens her eyes and looks round. She is standing on just like land, only under the water. She starts out to walk down beach and she sees some men talking. She stops and asks them if they have seen man going east, and they say 'yes', three days ago they saw man going east with stone in his eye and she hurrys on walking fast carrying her ^{small} little wooden bucket. When she goes past the men say to her "turn and look at us when you go past" and she turns and looks back like people do, over their shoulders, and she does not see men (humans), but she sees instead some tom-cod. Then she knows she is in the ocean only it seems just like on land.

She keeps on walking very fast down beach, and she sees two three men, and she stops and asks them have they seen any man going that way, and say yes, they have seen man going to east - with stone in his eye, and she hurries past them, carrying her ^{small} little wooden bucket, and when she goes past they say turn and look back as you go past, and she turns and looks back, and there

are no men there at all only bull head-fish, - then she knows she is in ocean, - and so she goes - seeing more men, and when she looks at them they are not humans but different kinds of fish. By and bye ["] some tell her, man has passed by toward east only half day before ["] and she runs and runs down the beach hunting his camp.

After a while she comes to his camp on the beach, and looks in thro the window ["] there she sees the man of the skull, only he is not skull now, but human - and he is standing with two women one on each side of him, - behind, ["] and he has his arm stretch out ["] and one hand on breasts of each woman ["] and the blood is streaming down from his eye over his cheek - and in his eyes is the long pointed stone that her father drove thro the eyes of the skull, and she starts to run away ["] but he calls out to her, and he is very angry ["] and she goes into his camp and he says "why have you come here, ["] I am very angry - for your father drives stone thro my eyes ["] - and she begs to stay with him for she loves him very much ["] but he say no, and drive her out of his camp, - and she starts to walk back to beach, just like it was on land and not under the water. And the man calls out to her and tells her if she wants to go home to her father she must do what he says, ["] After a while you will come to a fork in the trail and one will go to the right and one to the left - and you must keep to the left and not walk the right hand trail. The one on the left will be narrow, rocky and the one on the right will be smooth but you must keep to the left trail if you want to get home to your father

and your mother.

and so the girl walked along carrying her ^{small} little wooden bucket with her lunch in it, - and after a while she came to the forks of the trail and there ^{was} the road just as smooth, - on the right, and the rocky narrow road ^{was} on the left. Sure enough, the road ^{was} narrow, and full of stones rough ^{right} nigger heads, and she look across and the road to the left ^{was} so nice and smooth, so she just ^{runs} ran across to the right hand road and began walking fast along the smooth road. She heard the man calling - "keep to the left, if you want to get home and see your father and mother," but she kept running along the smooth road, and just then she looked back, and she ^{was} out of the sea and into the air, - and as she looked back the trail behind her faded away and she was way up in the air, with no man behind her and only the smooth trail leading into the sky.

Well, the girl kept on walking until she came to a land and it was the moon, and it had mounts and a ravine and a river, and she saw a man in a kyak coming down the river, and when he got just opposite to her he stopped his boat and got out his hook and began fishing and after a little the girl saw him draw up his line and he had a wooden bucket on his hook, - and she looked in the water to see where he got the bucket but she couldn't see, and the man never looked at her but he threw in his line again and commenced to fish, well, after a while he pulled up one skin boot, and again the girl looked down into the water to see where he got it but she couldn't see, - then she looked at her feet and one skin boot was gone off her foot and she thought that

was funny but she saw man had it on his hook, ~~and~~ she couldn't move, ~~and~~ man fished until he had hooked all clothes off her.

~~then~~ after that he caught her on his hook and carried her away to his camp and shut her in his cabin and the man was going to keep her for his own, ~~but~~ after awhile - something - a spirit or medicine man knocked at the window and told the girl that man was not human.

~~and~~ if she staid there that bye and bye he would eat her up and kill her. So she tried to run away, ~~and~~ she got out of the camp and ran away, but he man caught her and said if you will run away I will set a watchman to look after you, ~~and~~ so he set a watchman.

~~and~~ when she tried to run away the watchman would call out, ~~and~~

~~she~~ she said to herself, 'I must get rid of the watchman and throw him the river' for when voice spoke in the window to her, it ~~had~~ said that there was an old woman who lived up there, ~~and~~ if she would go to her camp the old woman would look after her and not let the man in the moon get her. But when she got to the camp

of the old woman she would find a big brown grizzly bear lying down in front of the door, but the girl must not be afraid but step right on the belly of the bear and would right on, ~~and~~ not to mind if the bear growled a little, ~~so~~ the girl pushed the watchman into the stream and he sank. ~~she~~ she went on to find the camp of the old

woman, ~~and~~ when she got there, the bear was stretched out in front of cabin. She was afraid the bear would eat her but if she turned back the man in the moon would get her, and she was afraid of him,

so she stept right on the belly of the bear, ~~and~~ he growled but he didn't eat her, ~~and~~ she went on and there was another bear, ~~and~~ she stept on its belly and then she was at the door of the old woman's cabin, ~~and~~ she opened the door and went in, ~~and~~ the old

woman asked who it was and the girl told her. - ~~and~~ she said,
"well, / you can stay with me and I won't give you to the man,"
~~and~~ the girl stayed and helped the old woman in her house / with
her cooking and with her sewing / and she carried water for her
too .

-- One day the man in the moon came way round the house,
and it was Eskimo house with window at the top, and the man kept call-
ing and calling for the girl until the old woman got tired and called
out "go away" + but he didn't go away + he kept calling for the girl
and he crawled on top of house and looked thro window down into house.

So the old woman breathed like this, - puff + and
fire went out of her mouth right up thro the window and burned the
man and he rolled over and over down from the house to the ground.

Then old woman said, go out and push him into river +
But the girl was afraid but the old woman said I'll burn you just
the same unless you do. - ~~and~~ the girl is afraid to go but she is
afraid of Old woman, and old woman says - go on - and get rid of him.
I don't want him around here to smell bad - (stink)". So she goes
out and man is dead; - burned his hair and everything and she push
him into water.

Then she stays with old woman and helps her, but all
the time she wonders about her father and mother and if they are
dead. One night the old woman takes up one plank out of her floor
and tells the girl to look down, and she looked out through the hole
in the floor to the earth. She could see it all spread out like
it was in her hand but a long way off. She could see water and
earth • then she could see people • after a while she could see
the people looking up and pointing and saying "New Moon - New Moon" !

And after a little, the old woman took up another plank and then another until the whole floor was up, and it was full moon. Then the old woman waved a reindeer skin toward the crowd and the people cried out, there would be plenty of caribou meat and after that she waved a seal skin over the sea so there would be plenty of seals in the water.

But the girl kept thinking about her father and her mother and crying - so the old woman said - "well, if you want to go home, I will tell you how you can go! Get to work and make sinew thread, and mittens, some seal mittens, some reindeer skin. So the girl made the sinew rope and braided it like she braids her hair, and a bag full of mittens. Then she starts out and throws out the rope from the moon to the earth.

She puts on some mittens and carries the others with her, and she climbs down the braided sinew rope, hand over hand, and when mittens wear out she throws them away if they are seal skin, she throws them into the sea, and if they are reindeer skin, she throws them on the land. She climbs down and down until at last there is only one pair of mittens left and only a little sinew rope. Now the old woman had told her to keep her legs straight when she got on the earth for if she had straight legs she would be young just like she was when she went to the moon, but if she curved her legs, she would be bent like an old woman.

So when she had on her last pair of mittens they began to wear out and only a little rope and it was too short, and the earth was a long way down. Well, there was nothing for her to do but drop, and she did, trying to keep her legs straight

so she would be young as she was when she left the earth ~~2~~

But it was too far and her legs bent, ~~+~~ ^{PP} and there she was, bent
almost double like an old woman, and she couldn't straighten
up ~~or~~ she was an old old woman ~~or~~

She hurried fast as she could to where her mother
and father lived ~~and~~ ~~and~~ all she found was a sunken place, - where
the house had fallen in a long time ago ~~or~~ ^{PP} and that is the story of
the lady-in-the-moon.