

The background is a painting of a forest at night. The sky is a deep, vibrant blue with visible brushstrokes. In the center, a large tree trunk is illuminated from below, casting a warm, orange glow. The surrounding trees are dark and silhouetted against the blue sky. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

Global Grey ebooks

**WHEN THE
STORM GOD RIDES**

Florence Stratton

WHEN THE STORM GOD RIDES

FLORENCE STRATTON



When the Storm God Rides, Tejas and Other Indian Legends by Florence Stratton.
First published in 1936.

This ebook edition was published by Global Grey on the 1st January 2025.

This book can be found on the site here:

globalgreyebooks.com/when-the-storm-god-rides-tejas-and-other-indian-legends-ebook.html

Global Grey 2025

globalgreyebooks.com

Contents

Foreword

When the Storm God Rides

How the North Wind Lost His Hair

Kachina Brings the Spring

The Sweet Gum's Amber Tears

The Plant That Grows in Trees

Why the Woodpecker Pecks

The Woodpecker's Stumpy Tail

Chief Two Hawks' Trail

The Magnolia Babies

Old Woolly Bird's Sacrifice

A Tribe That Left Its Shoes

The Cloud That Was Lost

The Swift Blue One

The Wise Man's Big Bald Head

Grandmother River's Trick

Why Hummingbirds Drink Only Dew

When the Stars Took Root

The Maiden Who Loved a Star

Old Quanah's Gift

How Sickness Entered the World

The Evil Water Spirits

Why the Irises Hold Hands

The Pecan Tree's Best Friend

When the Rainbow Was Torn

Paisano, Hater of the Rattlesnake

Maidens Who Broke a Drouth

Why Arrows Have Feathers

The Cottonwood Remembers

Why the Skunk Walks Alone

How the Turkey Hid Her Eggs

Why the Dog's Ears Flop

About the Tejas Indians

About the Tejas Indians

The White Man Finds the Tejas Indians

Texas is the largest state in this great land of ours. Long ago, long before Columbus came to the New World, the people who lived in Texas were not white. They had bronze-colored skins. They were called Indians, because the first white people who found them thought they had come to the far-off land of India.

In a number of ways the Indians of the New World were like us. We like to tell stories, and so did they. They did not write their stories on paper because they did not know what paper was, and so they learned their stories by heart and remembered them. Fathers and mothers told the stories to their children and the children told them again to their children when they had grown up.

The stories in this book came mostly through the Tejas Indians, who belonged to certain tribes of east Texas, but the Comanches, Alabamas, Wacos, Wichitas, Tonkewas, Attakapas, and Karankawas ¹ gave us some of the stories. The peaceful Tejas Indians made treaties with the warlike tribes west of their country, such as the Comanches and Wacos. By doing this the Tejas people could go out of their own country to get the hides and meat of the buffaloes, which roved the western lands in great herds. Living between the Tejas tribes and the Comanches and other tribes of central and western Texas were the Wichitas, the Tonkewas and Attakapas. Along the gulf coast lived the Karankawas.

As we read the legends we shall find out what the Indians of long ago believed about the flowers that grew in the fields and the fish that swam in the rivers and the birds that sang and flew in the air. The Indians lived close to these things. They lived in the woods and on the open fields, gathered into villages. They knew how little animals lived in the bushes and trees. They walked under the trees and watched the animals eating and playing. At night they sat in their camps around their fires and heard owls hooting and wolves howling far away in the dark.

They watched the flowers grow by the rivers and in the woods and fields in the spring time. They knew where to find the pink azaleas, which grew on tall bushes. In the spring the woods were full of yellow jasmine flowers. Indian girls liked to pick these and tie them in their long black hair. Another flower which the Indians knew was the dogwood. This big white flower grew on trees. When the trees were in bloom the blossoms that covered them looked like large white butterflies resting on the green leaves. In the open marsh glades grew the purple gentians, and on the prairies the bluebonnets. Sometimes these flowers looked like purple ponds of water because there were so many of them growing together. When the wind blew across them their purple and blue heads moved like waves. The Indians liked these flowers and others which grew where they lived, and many of the legends in this book are about them.

The bronzed people who knew the animals and flowers and told stories about them were friendly. When the first white people came to east Texas from France and Spain they found that the Indians were good and peaceful, and so they called them Tejas Indians, which means friendly Indians. The white men named the country the land of the Tejas. Today that land is called Texas because of this old Indian name.

¹ Wich'itas, Tom'kewas, Attak'apas, Karank'awas.

