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**AMERICAN INDIAN
FAIRY TALES**

MARGARET COMPTON

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American Indian Fairy Tales by Margaret Compton.

First published in 1907.

This ebook edition was created and published by Global Grey on the 7th May 2018,
and updated on the 16th December 2022.

The artwork used for the cover is '*A Hare in the Forest*'
painted by Hans Hoffmann.

This book can be found on the site here:

globalgreyebooks.com/american-indian-fairy-tales-ebook.html

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Contents

Author's Note

The Story-Teller Himself

Snowbird And The Water-Tiger

The Coyote Or Prairie Wolf

How Mad Buffalo Fought The Thunder-Bird

The Red Swan

The Bended Rocks. A Story Of Niagara

White Hawk, The Lazy

The Magic Feather

The Star Maiden

The Fighting Hare

The Great Head

The Adventures Of Living Statue

Turtle-Dove, Sage-Cock, And The Witch

The Island Of Skeletons

Stone-Shirt And The One-Two

The Great Wizard

White Cloud's Visit To The Sun-Prince

were on the banks of a river as clear as crystal stone, or on the edge of little lakes which in their stony trails looked like bowls of water set there for the use of a mighty giant. Tribes of water-fowl flew about, and birds of bright plumage darted through the forest like a shower of arrows. They saw some long, low lodges with cages filled with singing birds hanging on the walls, but the people were away.

When they had traveled half across the sky, they came to a place where there were fine, soft mats, which the young men discovered were white clouds. There they sat down, and the Sun-prince began making preparations for dinner.

At this place there was a hole in the sky, and they could look down upon the earth. They could see all its hills, plains, rivers, lakes and trees, and the big salt lake they had crossed.

While they were looking at a tribe of Indians dancing, something bright flew past them, downwards through the hole in the sky and struck the merriest dancer of them all, a young boy, son of a great chief.

The warriors of his tribe ran to him and raised him with great cries and sounds of sorrow. A wizard spoke and told them to offer a white dog to the Sun-prince.

The animal was brought, and the master of the feast held the choicest portion above his head, saying: "We send this to thee, Great Spirit," and immediately the roasted animal was drawn upwards and passed through the sky. Then the boy recovered and went on dancing.

After White Cloud and his companion had feasted with the Sun-prince, they walked on till they saw before them a long slope that was like a river of gold, flowing across silver sands.

"Keep close to me," said the Sun-prince, "and have no fear. You will reach your home in safety."

So they took hold of his belt, one on either side of him, and felt themselves lowered as if by ropes. Then they fell asleep.

When they awoke they found themselves in their own country, and their friends and relatives were standing near them, rejoicing over their return. They related all their adventures, and lived many years in honor and in plenty, the Sun-prince smiling upon them in all their undertakings.

THE END

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