

The Young Girl Who Was Taken Away By a Panther

**as told by Minnie Fouts
written down by Frank Siebert
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It was said that long ago there was a young woman who had never had a man. One day when she went into the woods all at once she met this young man. He looked very good to her, and then he took her with him. Finally it he said that they had two children, but they looked strange because it was a panther who had taken her. These children were half panther. This man had told her I am going to take you home with me. Then when our children are very large I will only come to see you every once and a while, but I will feed you.

Suddenly one day she saw that young man in the woods again and he told her at this time tomorrow I want you to bring our children here. She did that and he said to her that he was going to take the children with him because they are like wild animals the way they look and the way they walk on all four feet, and they act like cats. He told her again I am going to take these children but every once in awhile I will feed you.

Ever after that every few days during the night there was a deer brought to where she lived and when she would get up in the morning there would be the deer lying in the doorway. Then that panther-man told her I cannot live with you any longer. I knew that you had never been with a man and that is why this strange thing happened. When he turned around it was very strange because she saw that it was a panther that she had been living with.

Very often Indian people do strange things. There were a great many Delawares as well is different tribes who also had strange things like this happen to them sometimes they would become a wild animal or a wild bird. Sometimes they could transform themselves into these creatures, and sometimes the animals take them with them.