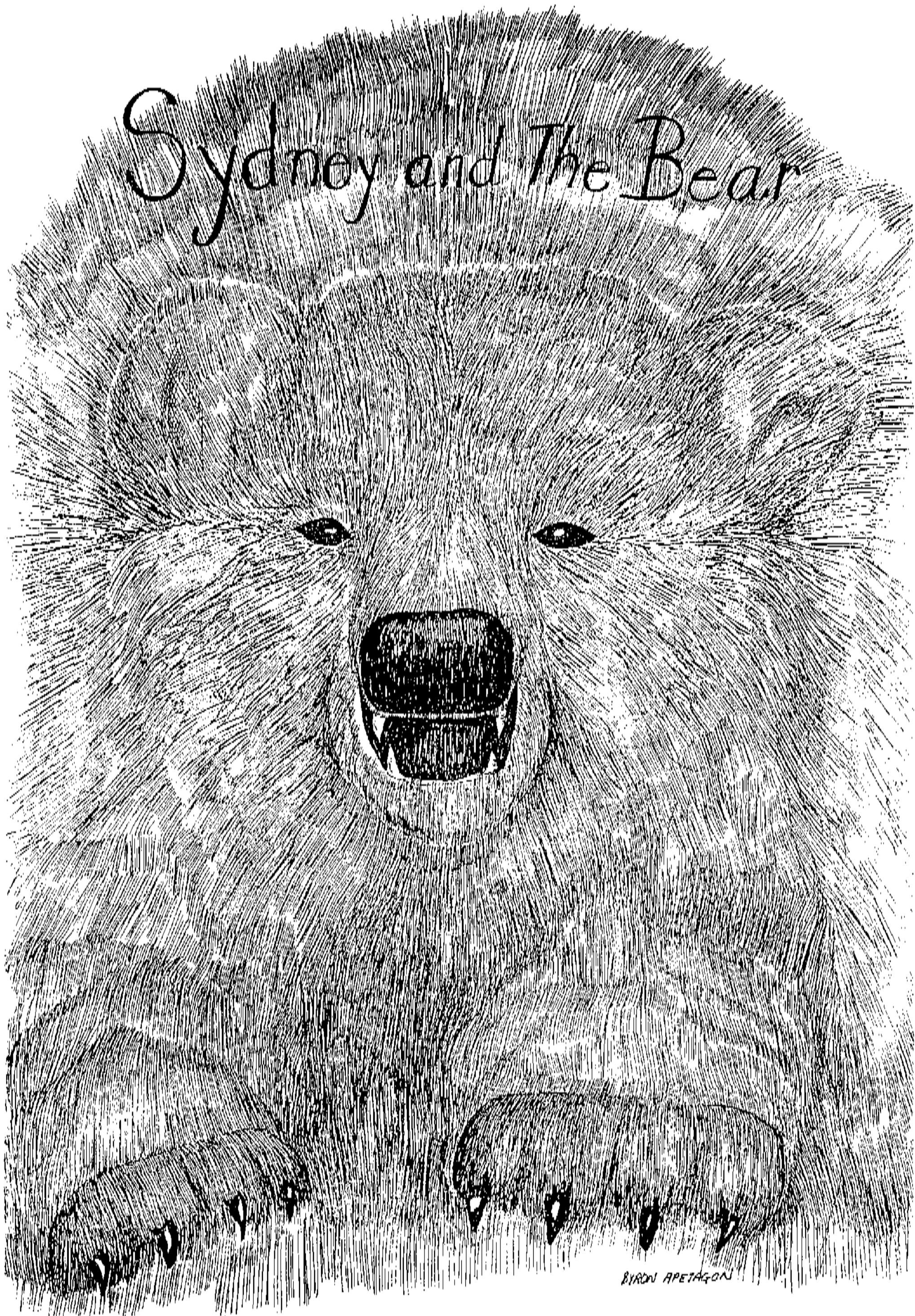


Sydney and The Bear



BYRON APETAGON

Sydney and the Bear

**Based on a childhood experience of Sydney Osborne Jr.
as told by Betsy Muswagon Apetagon.**

**Written and illustrated by Byron Apetagon,
edited by Raymond Beaumont**

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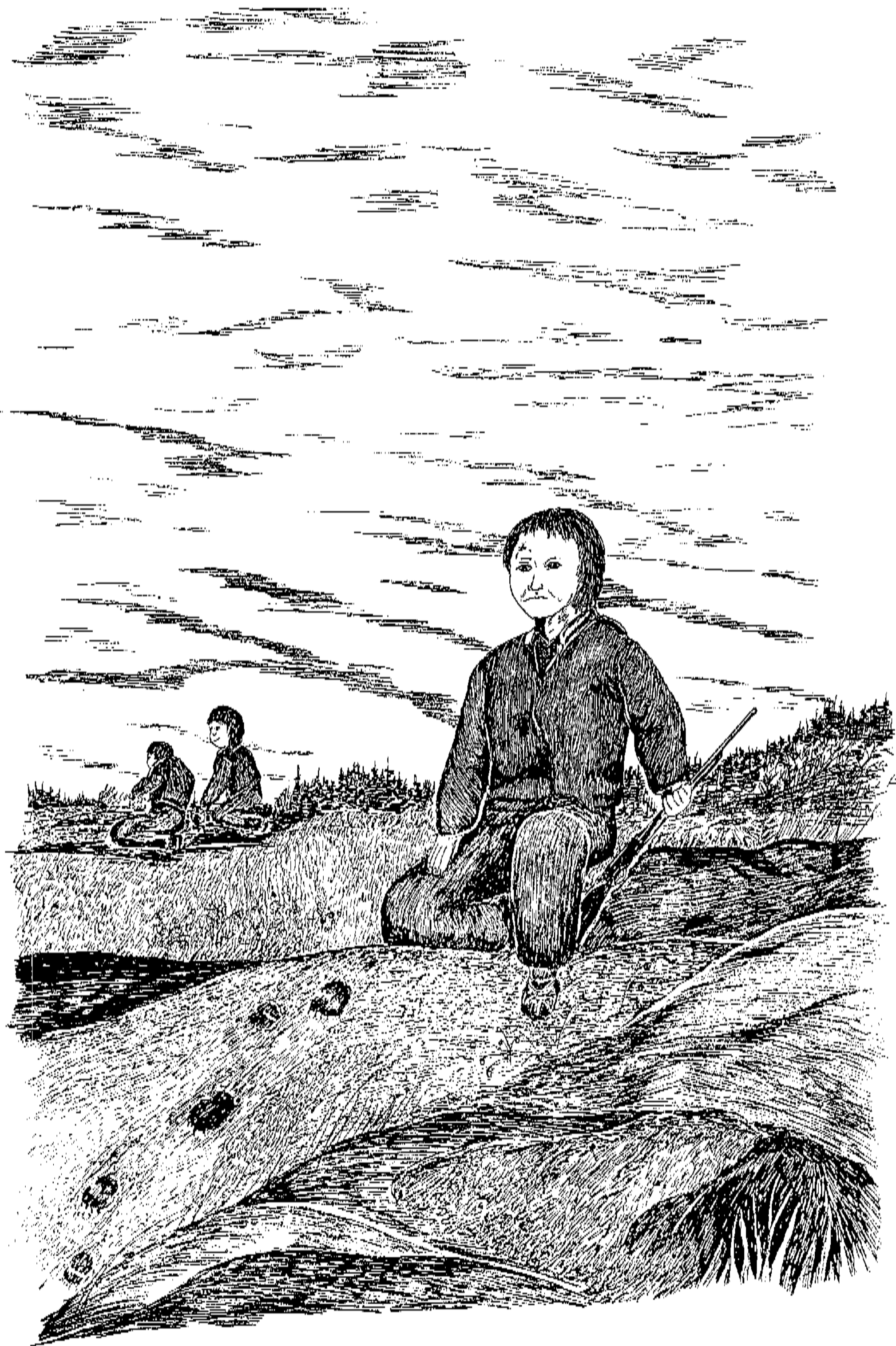
One day Sydney and his family got ready to go across the lake to pick blueberries and raspberries. Sydney's mother packed a big lunch. His father took his gun just in case he needed it.



**They crossed the lake in their boat.
They did not know how long they would
be away.**



After they reached the other side, Sydney's mother found a nice patch of blueberries, while not far away, his father knelt down to look at something. Sydney and his mother took no notice, and his father kept quiet, even though he had just seen the fresh footprints of a bear. He did not want to alarm his family because they were having fun and laughing. However, he stayed alert and carried his gun with him.



In the meantime, Sydney walked away from his mother because he wanted to pick raspberries instead. He found a good spot and started pulling the berries into his pail. Once he stopped to listen, thinking he heard a noise, but deciding it was only his imagination, he went on picking.



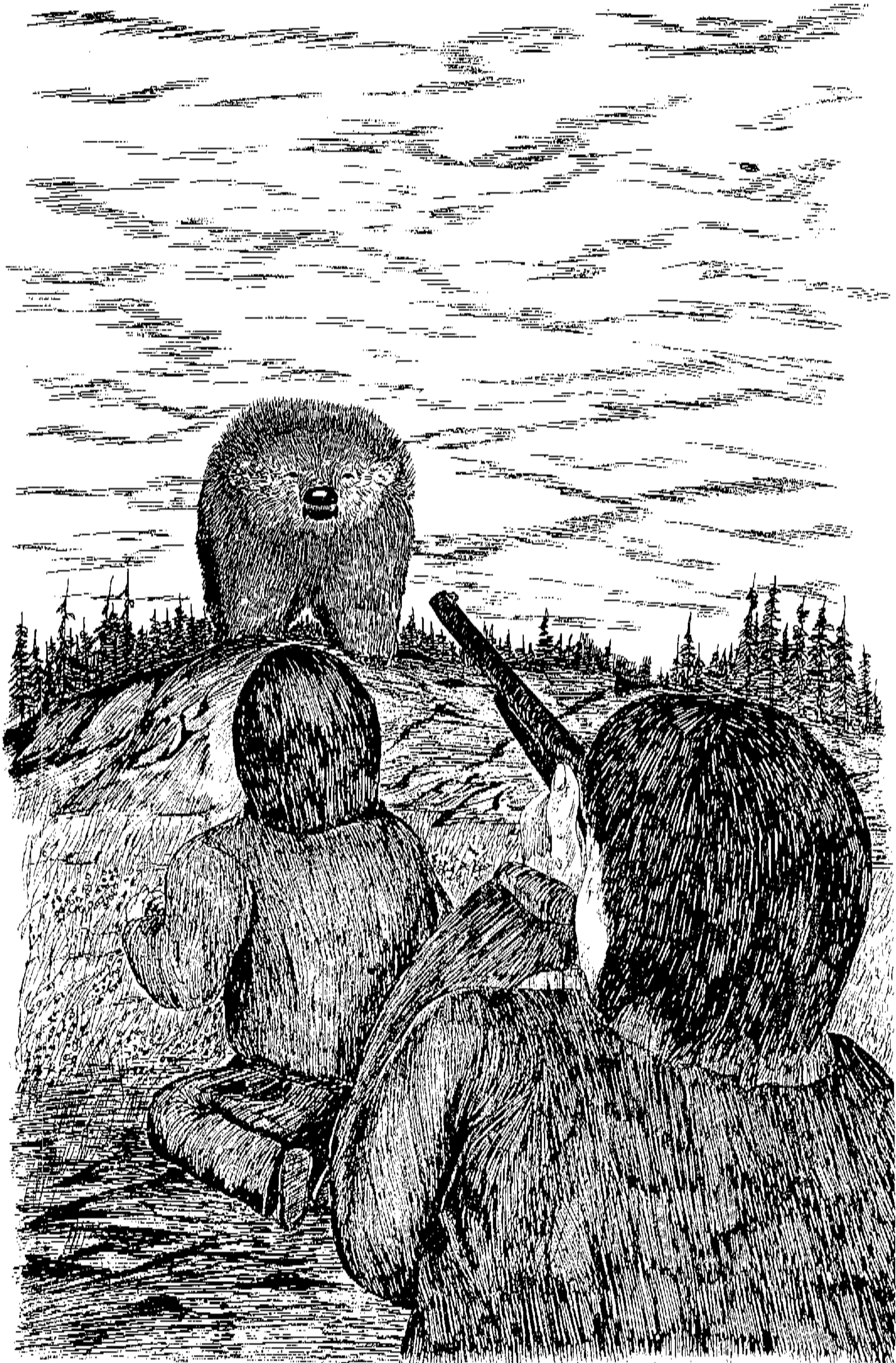
Suddenly, he heard that noise again. This time he knew it was not his imagination. He looked up and froze. There in front of him was a big black bear.



It stood there huffing and puffing at him. Startled and frightened, Sydney could not move. He could hardly breathe.



All at once, three gunshots echoed out.



For a moment, all was quiet. Then his father went over to the bear. His mother came running up and put her arm around Sydney.



That night, his father slept next to Sydney. He knew Sydney would have nightmares.

