



The Otter, the Spotted Frog & the Great Flood: A Creek Indian Story

Gerald Hausman , Ramon Shiloh (Illustrator)

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When Spotted Frog tells of a great flood that is about to destroy their homes, all of the animals ignore his warnings, except Listener the Otter. Ridiculed by the other animals, Listener heeds Spotted Frog's predictions and begins to build a raft to try and survive the impending disaster. But will his efforts be enough? This charming children's book warns us to listen to the wisdom of nature and the environment. Based on a traditional story from the Creek Indians of northern Florida and Georgia, this book is retold by award-winning author and storyteller Gerald Hausman, and is brought to life by the powerful images of Ramon Shiloh. This universal tale is imbued with Native American wisdom that is even more prescient now, with the conditions of global warming that threaten our world."

The Otter, the Spotted Frog & the Great Flood: A Creek Indian Story Details

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ISBN : 9781937786120

Author : Gerald Hausman , Ramon Shiloh (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Otter, the Spotted Frog & the Great Flood: A Creek Indian Story for online ebook

Sharon Tyler says

The Otter, the Spotted Frog and The Great Flood written by Gerald Hausman and illustrated by Ramon Shiloh is a story based a traditional story from the Creek Indians from norther Florida and Georgia. When Spotted Frog tells everyone about a great flood that is about to destroy their homes, the animals ignore his warnings, except Listener the Otter. The Listener is laughed at for heeding Spotted Frog's predictions but begins to build a raft to try and survive the impending disaster. But will his efforts be enough?

The Otter, the Spotted Frog and The Great Flood is a book that speaks to the importance of nature and the environment. It also supports the idea of believing in yourself and doing what you think is right rather than what the crowd thinks you should do. Spotted Frog knows that the great flood is coming, and Otter is a listener, and fully believes that he is right. He sees the signs in the world around him and does what he can to survive despite the mocking he faces. I liked that in the end the Otter really does get a happy ever after rather than losing what is precious to him. This tale echos other stories from around the world, and gives readers of all ages that might see similarities from their own flood stories the realization that we are all much more alike than different.

I would recommend The Otter, the Spotted Frog and The Great Flood for classroom and public library collections. The story could be used in lessons about nature, the environment, Native American legends, and the universal nature of some aspects of mythology. It will also be a great read for animal lovers and those that enjoy splendid illustrations.

Sheila says

Many cultures enjoy their different versions of the flood story. This picture book, by Gerald Hausman, beautifully illustrated by Ramon Shiloh, tells a version known to Creek Indians, and ends with an author's note that ties our different stories and cultures together. He quotes, "There is no competition in tribal storytelling. Just the message and the ways it can be expressed." This story carries a wise and simple message, beautifully expressed for parents and children to share.

The text is simple, lyrical and clear. The names of Listener the Otter, Honors Himself the buffalo chief, and Spotted Frog are immediately filled with meaning and character. And the images draw out those meanings, illustrating the text with bright clear colors, and adding the magic of pattern, shape and contrast.

Spotted Frog prophesies the coming of the flood. Listener builds a raft. But Honors Himself and the rest of the animals ignore what's coming to pass. Echoes of the Bible slip in an out, making this a thoroughly enjoyable cross-cultural tale. Mystery and magic dance in the loneliness of Listener as he learns his cleverness was never really his salvation. Instead, listening and heeding offer a chance to save more than himself.

The Otter, the Spotted Frog and the Great Flood is a beautiful story, simply told, easily read, gorgeously

illustrated, and gently deep; perfect for parents and children everywhere.

Disclosure: I was lucky enough to be offered a free copy to review and enjoy.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

I love Indian stories that offer such profound insight and have been passed down from generation to generation. I believe they are great story tellers and that is why I am thrilled to share with you the children's book, *The Otter, The Spotted Frog and The Great Flood* by Gerald Hausman. This is a beautiful hardcover book that is breath-takingly illustrated to capture a child's attention and sense of wonder. It shares with the reader the story of a river otter who was known for being a "listener," and a buffalo chief who was known as Honors Himself. One night Honors Himself was sitting by the fire in the village that sat by a great swamp. At night the frogs sang in many voices, but only one of the animal people listened to them, and that was Listener, the Otter.

"I hear many frogs," he said one night as he sat by his fire. Honors Himself, who was there too, said, "I do not like frogs."

Listener left his warm place by the fire and he went into the wet woods. There he found Spotted Frog and brought him back to the fire.

"This is the one who sings above the others," Listener said.

"Why do you do that?" Honors Himself asked the little frog.

"I sing the prophecy," said Spotted Frog.

He tells them both about a Great Flood that is coming that will cover the land. Spotted Frog sings so that the animals can save themselves. But Honors Himself won't listen to what he must do to survive while Listener does. I won't spoil the ending for you but this is crafted after the Bible story of the great flood of Noah's day, with a twist to keep children entertained.

I received *The Otter, The Spotted Frog and the Great Flood* by Gerald Hausman compliments of Wisdom Tales Press for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed are strictly my own. I love the Indian culture because of their love for the land and the things that are in them, such as the plants and animals. There is a beauty to the stories that have been passed down and this one is a Creek Indian story. I absolutely enjoyed this book and think that any child will appreciate the message it contains not only about the Great Flood but more importantly about what it means to be a great listener! I rate this book a 5 out of 5 stars!

Kate Matheis says

This is an interesting legend. It reminded me of Noah's arch. I love the illustrations. It was really interesting that the woman otter turned into the mosquito and then into the fish and then into a human.

Devon says

This creation tale comes from the Creek Indians and adopts elements from the well-known great flood story from the bible. River Otter is Listener and Buffalo Chief is known as Honors Himself. Spotted Frog warns the animals about an impending flood that will destroy their homes but the only one who listens is River Otter. He builds himself a raft and is saved from the flood. Because he listened, River Otter is rewarded a wife and they become the first humans to walk the earth. The moral of the story is summed up toward the end of the book, "And that is how First Man and his wife, First Woman, came to be the first two-leggeds born into this world. The Earth was good to them, and they were good to the earth in return."

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: The Otter, The Spotted Frog and The Great Flood (A Creek Indian Story)

Author: Gerald Hausman

Publisher: World Wisdom Inc/Wisdom Tales

Published: 10-1-2013

ISBN-10: 1937786129

ISBN-13: 978-1-937786-12-0

Pages: 36

Genre: Childrens Literature

Tags: Fiction

Based on a Creek legend this story tells of two animals during the long ago, Listener, the river otter and Honors Himself, a buffao chief. A beautifully told story of a great flood that is coming to cover all the land and how only Listener payed heed to the Spotted Frogs words of warning and prepared and Honor's Himself scoffed at the prophecy and mocked Listener for his preparations. Then the waters came.

I was expecting a children's story for small children and it is that, but so much more. I love to here the different Nations legends. This is so well written and illustrated that my nieces and nephews adored it never realizing they were learning a bit of history. I will gratefully purchase any and all of these stories to pass to the children of my family.

It was so well received by my family's younger members that I ordered 2 copies of it the day it became available. One for a gift and one to keep for them to read whenever they visit. In my opinion it makes a fantastic book to read to and read by new readers. Although short it is well worth the cost of the book and will be dearly loved by its readers both young and old.

Thank you to NetGalley for allowing me to get an early copy of the book in exchange for my honest review.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

The Otter, the Spotted Frog and the Great Flood is a beautifully illustrated folk tale from the Southwest based Creek Indians. It's a story of a frog with a prophesy, an Otter who listens (reminiscent of the grasshopper and the ant fable), and the emergence of man into the landscape.

My 10 year old read this and really enjoyed the book. Her conclusion was that it was a story about listening to your friends and not discounting them, which I felt was apt. She liked the illustrations and said the story was easy to follow.

As an adult, I also enjoyed reading this with her again later and the beautiful illustrations. Several looked like they could be lifted off Indian pottery and the others were beautifully colored watercolors. There were several styles represented - giving the book a lovely diversity. My one nitpick is that a character is a buffalo chief - I wish they had used bison instead of buffalo since there are no buffalo on North America and the use of the word buffalo is a European settler term if ignorance.

Enjoyed by both my 10 year old reading alone and by myself reading with her. Recommended.

Received as an ARC from the publisher.

Ariana Baxter says

From the book:

When Spotted Frog tells of a great flood that is about to destroy their homes, all of the animals ignore his warnings, except Listener the Otter. Ridiculed by the other animals, Listener heeds Spotted Frog's predictions and begins to build a raft to try and survive the impending disaster. But will his efforts be enough?

This charming children's book warns us to listen to the wisdom of nature and the environment. Based on a traditional story from the Creek Indians of northern Florida and Georgia, this book is retold by award-winning author and storyteller Gerald Hausman, and is brought to life by the powerful images of Ramon Shiloh. This universal tale is imbued with Native American wisdom that is even more prescient now, with the conditions of global warming that threaten our world.

Traditional Native American tales don't often translate into an English version that today's children would enjoy, but Hausman's gifted language skills combined with Shiloh's illustrations make for a delightful experience from the read-to-me stage on up to school book reports.

I have collected Native American children's books from when my children were little, and continue to look for new ones to share when my granddaughter is old enough. I will be buying the hard copy of this for us to enjoy together! I recommend this book to everyone.

*I was given a copy of this book through Netgalley for an honest review *

Kimberly says

This was a story about an otter who listens to the frog when he said the great flood was coming and to build a raft. But no one else believed him not even the others wife so when the flood came the only one that lived was otter. And a mosquito came and it was his wife but she only lived from drinking his blood so he let her but then he became sick and weak because she drank too much of his blood. So the mosquito brought him a fish and another but the second fish ate her and he became mad but the frog said not to kill the fish because it was his wife. Then it turned into a human woman and otter turned into a man and that's how humans came about

Allison Campbell says

<http://noranydroptoread.com/2014/01/2...>

What a gorgeous book. This is a retelling of the Creek Indian tale of the Great Flood and an origin story of humans. Listener the otter is the only one to pay attention when Spotted Frog sings of a coming disaster. He heeds the warnings and builds a raft, surviving when the flood finally comes. The other animals are turned into mosquitoes, searching in vain for food. Eventually Listener and his otter-wife (now a mosquito) become First Woman and First Man.

This is a lovely fable, and it held my seven-year-old's attention. She praised Listener for listening to his friend when no one else would, and she enjoyed the origin story. We both loved this delightful tale with its lush illustrations. Highly recommended to parents interested in sharing mythology with their children. It would open a fascinating discussion of comparative religion (the story is strikingly similar to Noah and the great flood in the bible). There is also a theme of listening to nature that is more than relevant today.

Source disclosure: I received an e-galley of this title courtesy of the publisher.

Lindsey Silvestrini says

The Otter, the Spotted Frog & the Great Flood was definitely different from any story I've read to my kids before. I think that the wisdom in it and the lessons were a little bit over their heads at four and five.

They did notice when talking about the great flood the parallels between this and the Noah's Ark story that they are used to from the Bible. This prompted a lot of questions from them and a long discussion!

The illustrations are beautifully done and remind me a bit of Van Gogh's art which I love. There is so much

detail in each image and a story that can be told in the pictures alone. Shiloh did a beautiful job with this. I can always tell a great illustrator when I later see my four year old, who can't read, flipping through the book and "reading" the story through the pictures!

The length of the pages and the messages within are definitely for much older children than mine but they still like to be read the book. It just requires some explanation on my end.

The Otter, the Spotted Frog & the Great Flood is a truly unique book filled with wisdom and masterfully illustrated.

zapkode says

{my thoughts} – This book was a nice read and was an interesting take on how humans had come to be living on Earth. It followed the Bible in a sense with Noah and the great flood for a basis but other than that it was interesting. This is certainly a wonderful book for any child with an imagination. It is also a good book for any child that likes to learn about other options and theories as opposed to believing the same thing that everyone else does. It is always nice to look outside the book. However, I myself believe in the creation story from the book of Genesis.

The images in this book as well as the story go hand and hand remarkably well. I enjoyed being able to look at the nice artwork as I was reading the book and I am sure any child would enjoy looking at it as well. This book also strikes me as a book that you could hand a child that can not read and ask them to tell you their take on the story through the pictures.

Vermicious Knids says

I was totally entranced by the artwork - looked through the book twice before I read a word. I want to buy this book in hardback, rather than in the ebook version that I read. The ebook version does not do this book justice.

Once I pulled my eyes away from the book, I sat down with my 1st grader to read it to him. This is an outstanding book to read with kids. The artwork initially catches their attention and the animals take it the rest of the way. Adults will enjoy the story also. The otter's name, Listener, subtle, but a very meaningful part of the story. I had to chuckle at the name Honors Himself, the buffalo chief.

Folk tales are often compelling to children and adults, drawing one in with the imaginative, only to depart with gifts of simple wisdom. This story follows within that tradition, I am reminded how much I love this type of storytelling. It also had my favorite aspects of Native stories 'how the animal got its....' In this case, it was how the red-tail hawk and turkey got their tail feather colors!

This book has imagination, is visually appealing, teaches positive morals and manners, all within the framework of Native culture and wisdom. If your library needs less princesses and superheros, this is a timeless, captivating fable that might make you think a little.

Disclosure: I read a free copy of the ebook in return for my candid review. Be assured, it is honest, and I do

not owe or know the author/publisher.

Tiffany Hathorn says

This Native American telling of The Great Flood is one of many stories that depict the origin of man. It also serves as a warning for why we should respect nature as well as heed the warnings that it gives to us -- before it is too late. I always find it interesting to read folk tales from other cultures to see their take on such things as creation and other significant human events. It is always interesting to see that although there are many differences, there are also some striking similarities. for example, this story is different in that it is told from the point of view of animals (who then transform into something else). However, there are some very distinct similarities to the story of The Great Flood that can be found in the Book of Genesis in the Christian bible.

I received this book for free to review on my blog. You can view the full review here:
<http://singlemommywarrior.com/the-ott...>

Pop Bop says

Being based in the West I am familiar with many of the tales from the Ute, Zuni, Hopi and Navajo traditions. While these stories can be stirring or touching they can also be cryptic and hard to follow for little readers. While they are populated by familiar animals and settings, they usually aren't clear linear fables, as you might find in, say, Aesop. That's especially so as you get away from modern tidied up versions and closer to the original tales. The challenge, then, in a book for early readers, is to capture the spirit of a story while not leaving it so confusing that it is frustrating.

I mention that because this book seems to me to strike an artful balance between conveying the spirit and fantastical elements of this Creek origin tale and telling a story that can be followed and understood by a younger reader/listener. As we move from the Spotted Frog's prophecy to Otter's preparations to the Flood and to the emergence of two legged man and woman there is a clear and understandable thread to the story that does not detract at all from the mystery, magic and underlying message of the story.

This is greatly enhanced by the stunning drawings, which have the same balance of clarity and elegant otherness that is exhibited by the tale. It's not often that drawing and narrative complement each other as well as they do here and the effect of the whole is very satisfying.

So, this succeeds as a picture book, a story book, and an elegant and powerful rendering of a Native American story. Fine by me.

Please note that I received a free advance copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.
