

Bunyip in the Moon

A TALE FROM AUSTRALIA

Retold by Suzanne I. Barchers

Illustrated by Peter Clarke



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Bunyip in the Moon: A Tale from Australia

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Summary: When a young woman is captured and brought under the spell of the feared Bunyip, one brave hunter sets out to save her. And while his bravery is finally rewarded, it is thought the Bunyip still looks down on people today to bring them under its spell. An aboriginal tale from Australia.

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Long ago, in the time before history, the **Bunyip** freely roamed the land where the Murray River would one day flow. One evening, as night fell, the Bunyip trudged along the river bed under a full moon. It hoped to glimpse something that would serve as its nightly meal.



Tiring, the Bunyip climbed up the river bank. It leaned against a gum-tree, blending with its **mottled** trunk. While resting, it realized that it was not alone. In the nearby swamp, a hunter crouched motionless in a clump of rushes in the swamp. He was nearly invisible thanks to a bundle of rushes tied on his back.





Two unsuspecting ducks paddled by, only to be snatched up by the hunter. With the rushes still tied to his back, the man turned toward his nearby camp, carrying the ducks.

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