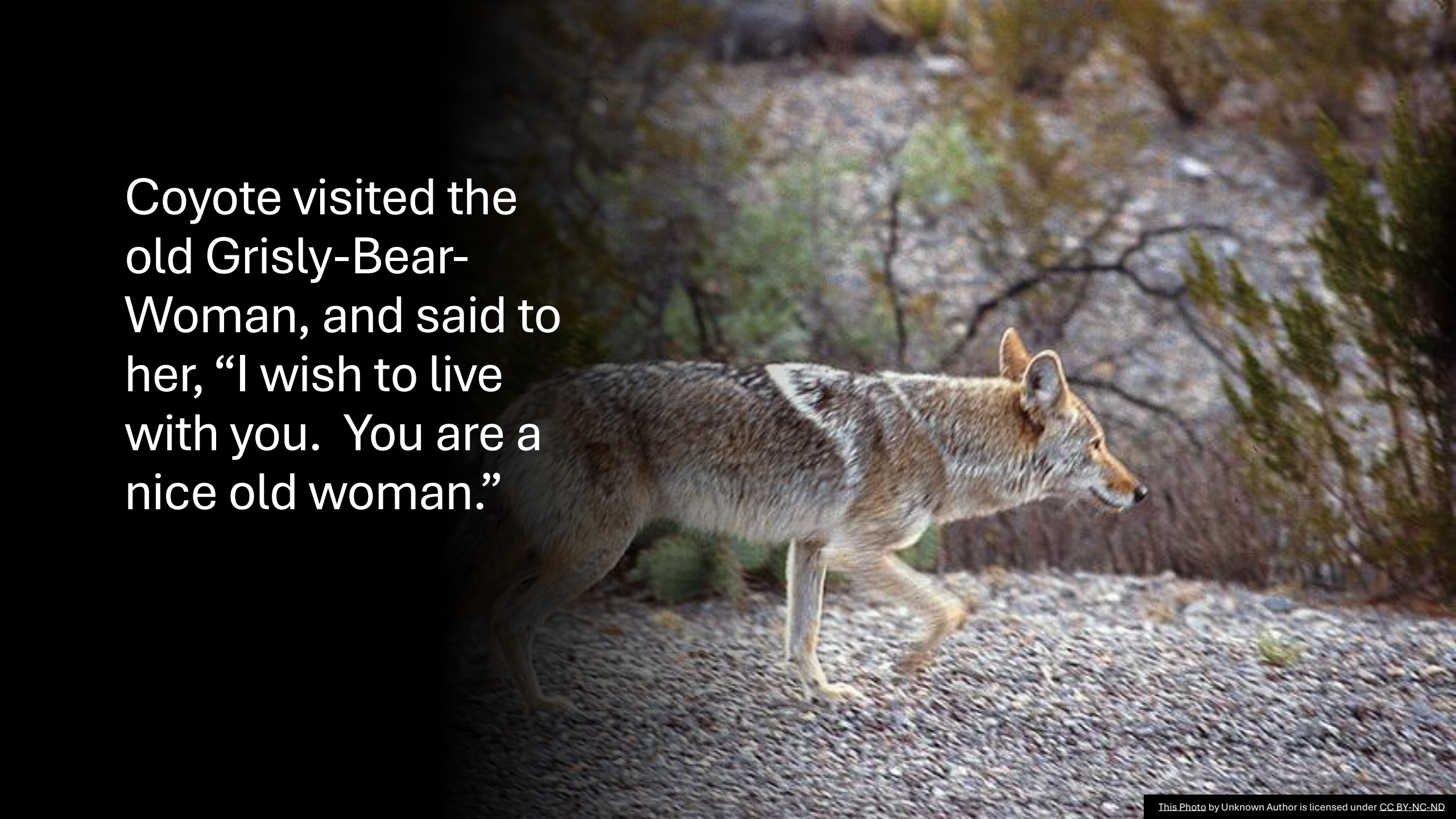


Coyote and Grisly Bear

IN James Teit, “The Shuswap” in Franz Boas, ed. *The Jesup North Pacific Expedition: Memoir of the American Museum of Natural History* Vol II, Part VII (Leiden: EJ Brill/New York: GE Stechert, 1909) at 630

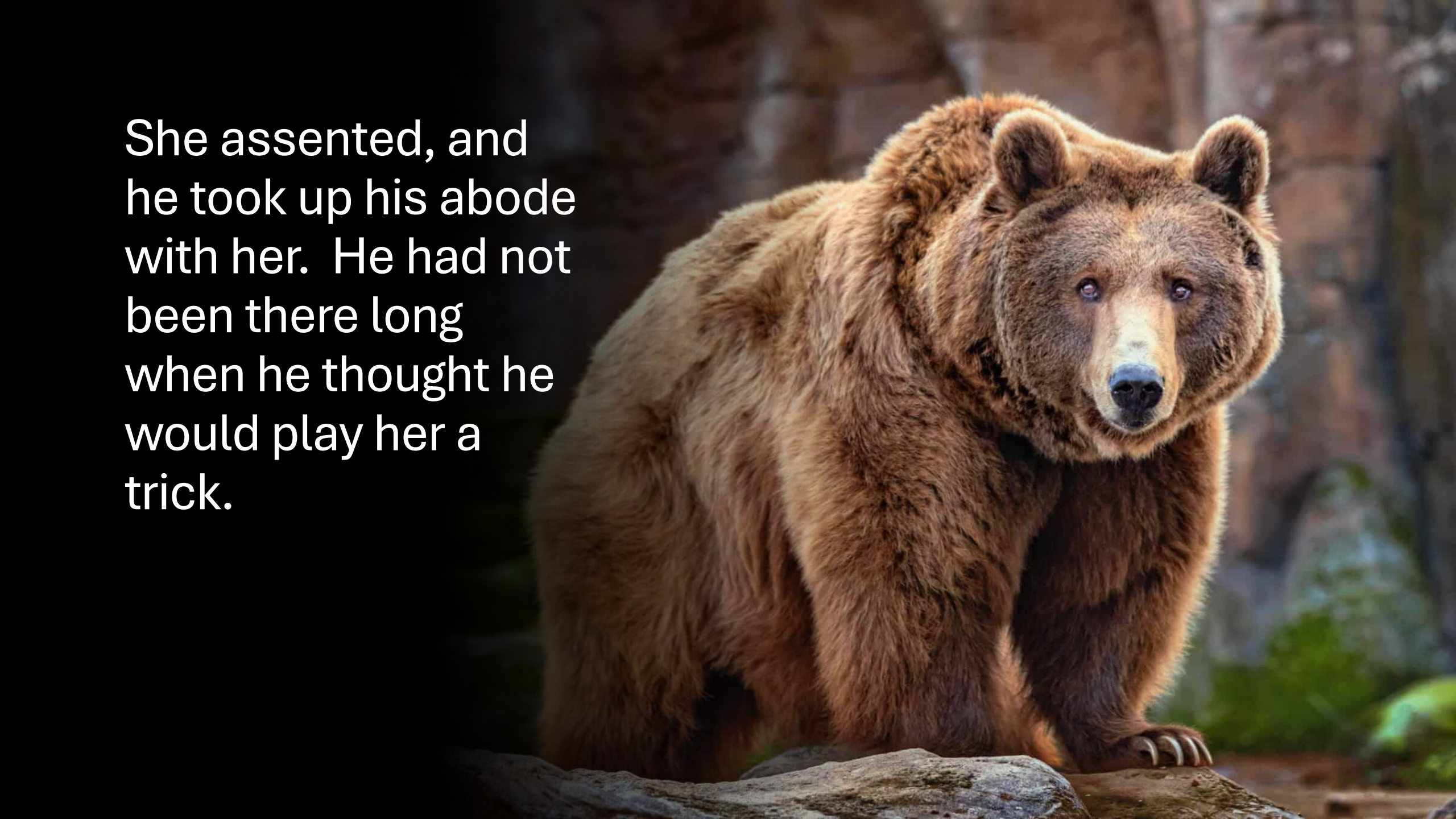
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Coyote visited the old Grisly-Bear-Woman, and said to her, “I wish to live with you. You are a nice old woman.”



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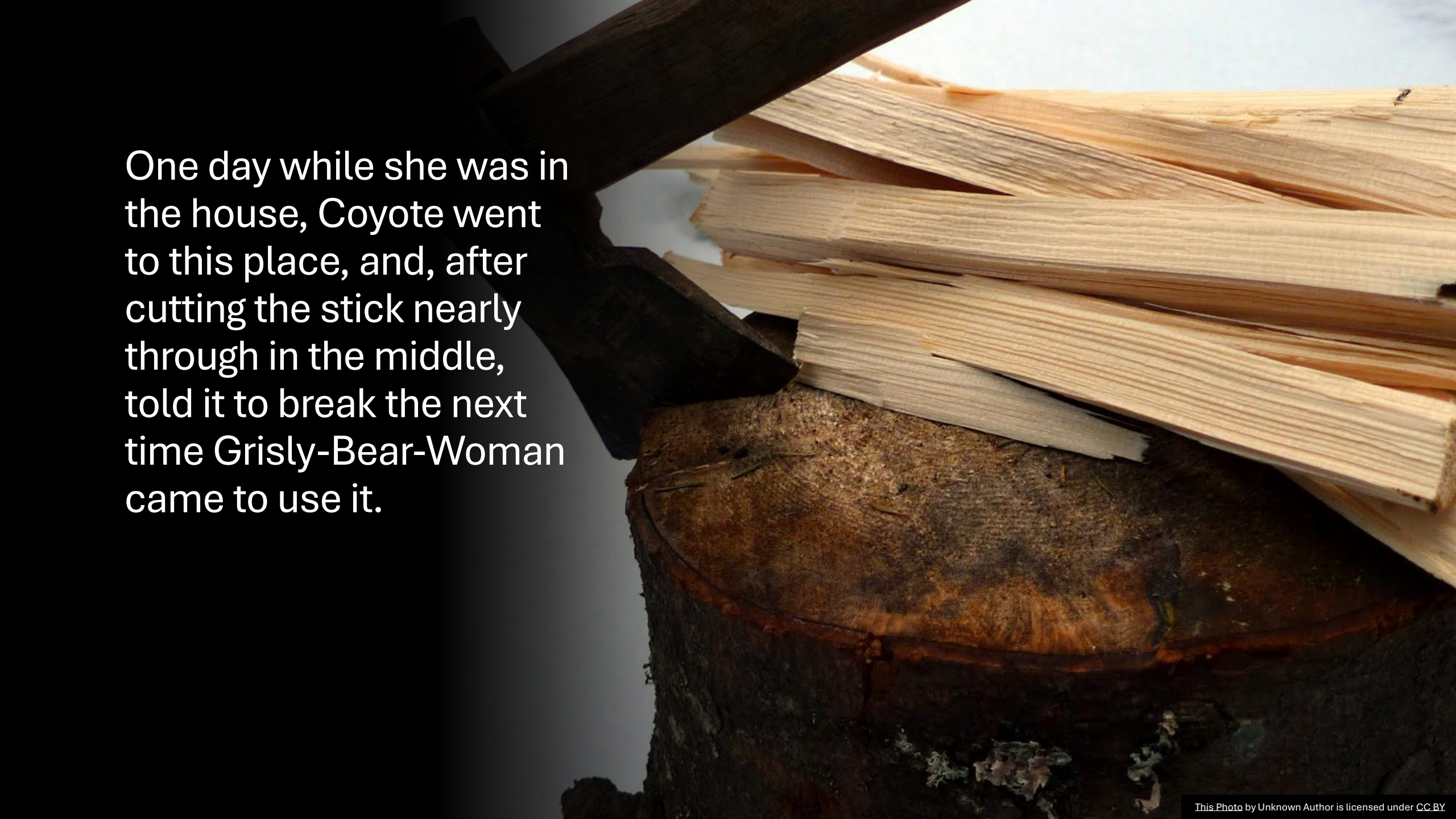
She assented, and he took up his abode with her. He had not been there long when he thought he would play her a trick.





She was in the habit of defecating while sitting on a pole which she had laid across a deep, narrow gulch.

One day while she was in the house, Coyote went to this place, and, after cutting the stick nearly through in the middle, told it to break the next time Grisly-Bear-Woman came to use it.



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Soon after he returned, Grisly-Bear-Woman went to defecate, and Coyote watched her from the top of the underground house.



Grisly-Bear-Woman had just finished when the stick broke, and she fell to the bottom, where she was covered with dung, which stuck to her fur. Coyote was so amused that he rolled over and over on the ground laughing.

Grisly-Bear-Woman wiped herself and went home. As she entered, Coyote went out, and, coming in again, sniffed, and said, “I smell excrement.”





Then, looking at one of his feet, he said, “I must have stepped on excrement” Sniffing again, he held up his other foot and looked at it also. Grisy-Bear-Woman felt ashamed, and going outside, wiped herself again.

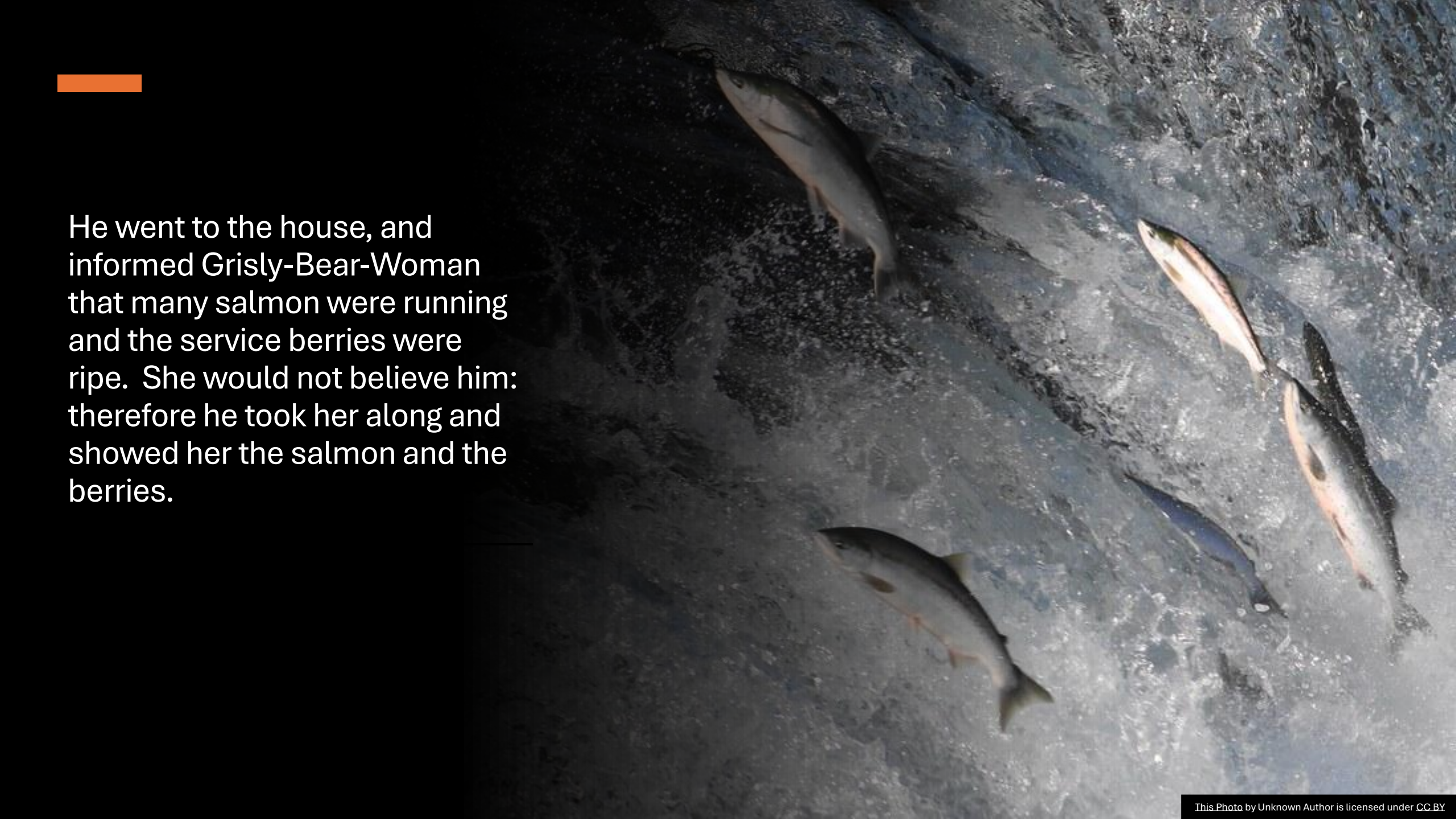


As she returned, Coyote went outside, and, entering again, sniffed and looked at his feet, as before. Grisly-Bear-Woman went and wiped herself again. When Coyote had done this four times, Grisly-Bear-Woman went to the water and washed herself.

It was now winter-time, and Coyote thought he would play another trick on Grisly-Bear-Woman. Taking some dead leaves, he threw them into the river, and they changed into salmon. Then he took some dry service berries from the trees and threw them at the bushes, thus making them green, and laden with many fresh berries.



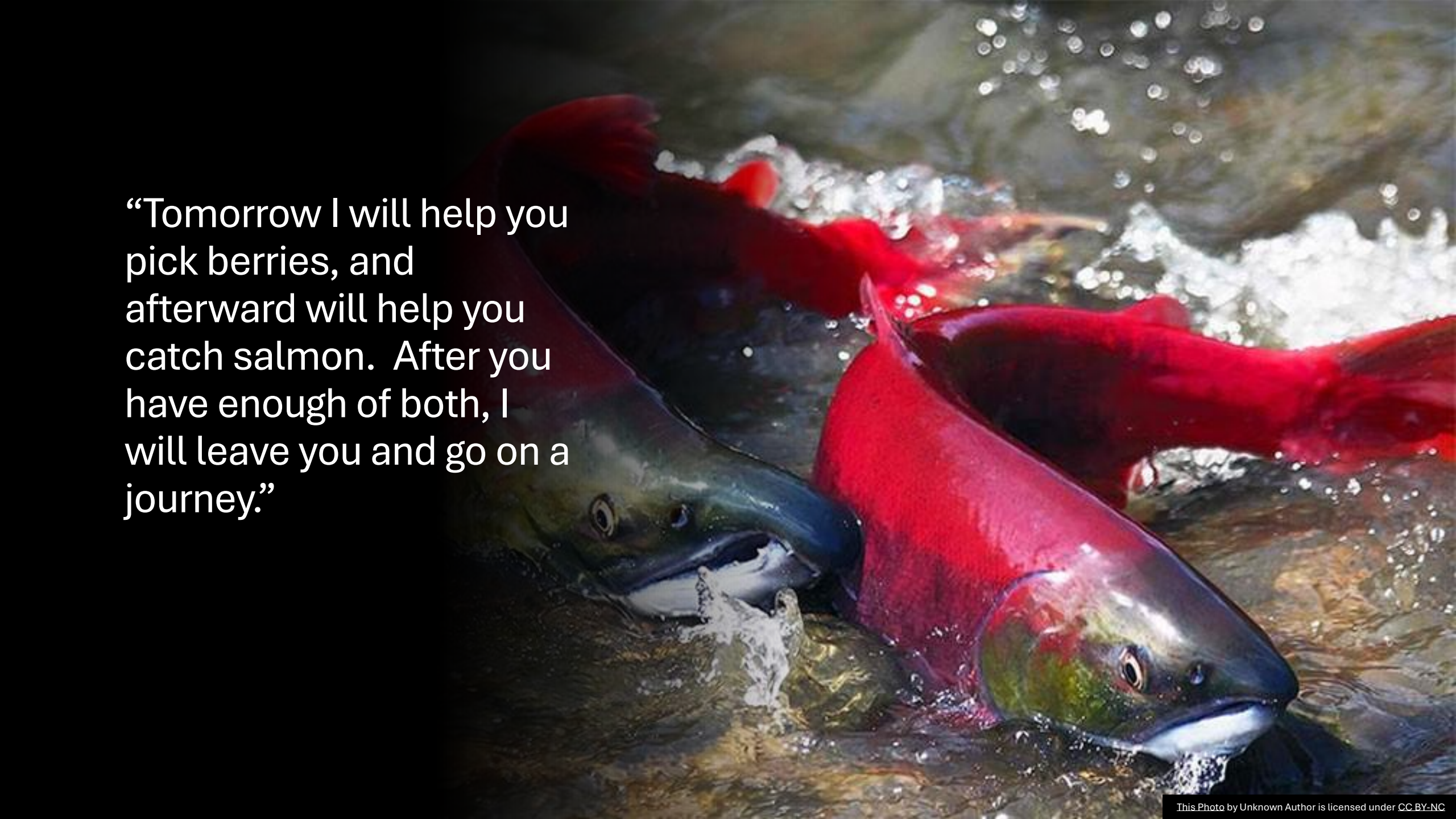
He went to the house, and informed Grisly-Bear-Woman that many salmon were running and the service berries were ripe. She would not believe him: therefore he took her along and showed her the salmon and the berries.



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When they returned to the house, he said to her, “There is no use eating old food when there is plenty of new to be had. Let us eat all your stores of provisions. There is no use keeping them.”





“Tomorrow I will help you pick berries, and afterward will help you catch salmon. After you have enough of both, I will leave you and go on a journey.”

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Grisly-Bear-Woman agreed to this, and, bringing out her stores of dried salmon and dried berries, spread them in front of him. Then Coyote and Grisly-Bear-Woman ate all day and far into the night, finishing all.



Then Coyote said, “We will sleep for a while, and early in the morning we will start to pick berries.” When Grisly-Bear-Woman had fallen asleep, Coyote put a rotten log in the place where he used to sleep. And covered it over with his blanket.

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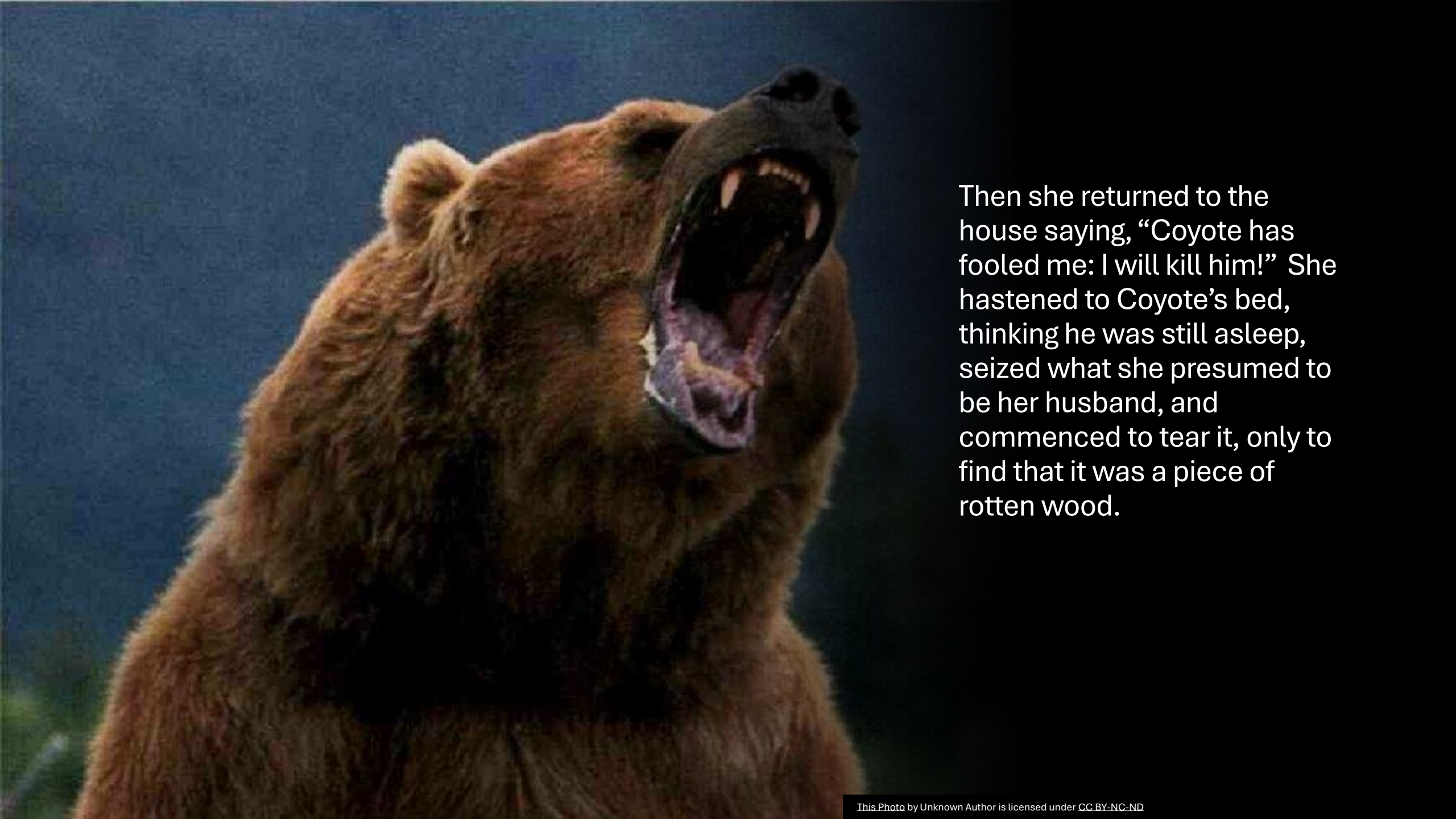


Then he left the house, and caused a cold wind to blow, which withered up the leaves and berries he had made grow, and covered the river with a thick sheet of ice.



After this he made a heavy snow fall, when Grisly-Bear-Woamn awoke, she noticed the snow, went outside, and saw everything covered with ice and snow, and no sign of berries or salmon.

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Then she returned to the house saying, “Coyote has fooled me: I will kill him!” She hastened to Coyote’s bed, thinking he was still asleep, seized what she presumed to be her husband, and commenced to tear it, only to find that it was a piece of rotten wood.

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Being totally left without food, Grisly-Bear-Woman soon starved to death.