



## Title: **The Hunter and the Lost Children**

### Traditional Métis Tales Series | Moccushion<sup>©</sup> #1

Creation date: September-October 2018

Materials: Delica beads, wood beads, seed beads, Velveteen, Wolf hide Deer hide, cotton thread, and sinew.

“The Hunter and the Lost Children” is a beaded interpretation of a “loup garou” tale from the Metis tradition as told by Métis author Karole Dumont-Beckett and author of indigenous-based titles, Chris Kientz.

The story tells of how a brother and sister who were lost in the woods came upon an empty cabin. The children enter to take refuge and are later greeted by the cabin’s owner, a gruff hunter, who feeds them and allows them to stay the night while he goes off to trap. His only warning is that the children ensure they keep the fires burning in the hearth and that they do not open the door or window for anyone or anything until daybreak -- no matter what. The story goes on to tell about the children’s night alone in a stranger’s cabin, on a stormy night with the loup garou scratching at the door to get in.

Stories and tales are a part of childhood. Parents will often tell us a bedtime story as we lay with our heads on our pillows, listening to their soothing voice as we are lulled to sleep. In Ojibway and Metis tradition, stories are meant for entertainment but also to instill practical knowledge. Moccasins are another traditional item that warm our feet but also connect us to the earth. During special occasions, we are often gifted new, hand-made moccasins with special beadwork that signifies the event to keep us grounded in life. Tales and traditional dress make up a large part of the Métis culture.

Named the “Moccushion<sup>©</sup>”, the cushion’s physical construction is based on the Metis moccasin design. What would normally be the vamp is now the top of the cushion which interprets the story with beads.

This is the first piece in a larger project that serves to introduce the Métis culture through a series of Moccushions that interpret traditional tales before they are lost with time.



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