

PAGE THREE

Francis/GHOST RIVER/ 2

PAGE ONE
Full spread all black with text.

V.O.
History is complicated.
Violence is easy.

PAGE TWO
Splash page.

Lenape Creation Story as an Invocation

The art and backdrop will spread over both pages. The feeling for the illustrations is to tell the story as two images - not using panels and borders but rather as continuous movement, a way to tell the story in an abstract manner. It can be abstract, ephemeral, leaning more on evoking emotion, intuition. It is time immemorial, the time before time, where time is not a linear construct but cyclical, momentum, the joy of Creation.

VO.
In the beginning of our knowledge of time the world was full of water. The first creature to rise from the depth of the water was Turtle. As Turtle raised its back up high to feel the warmth of the sun, all of the water ran off its shell so it became dry. This became the first earth.

PAGE THREE
Splash page.

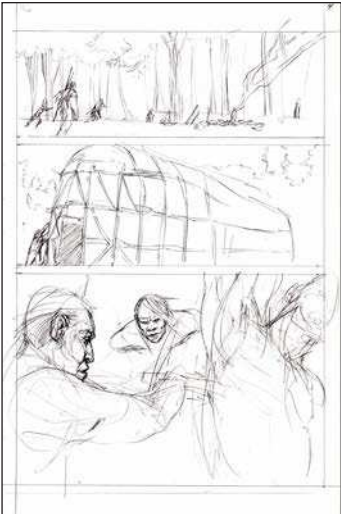
VO.
From the middle of its back a tree began to grow. From the root of this tree was sent forth a sprout beside it. From that sprout grew a man. The man was then alone. But the tree bent over until its top touched the earth, and another root emerged. From this root came another sprout. And from that sprout grew a woman. And all humankind grew from these two together, the man and the woman.

This is how we begin.

PAGE FOUR
*Three panels, horizontal.
Speeding through time.*

Panel One
The earliest Susquehannock. They are gathering, coming back from fishing. Beginning to establish the village.

Panel Two (1500s)
The building of the first longhouses. The People work together to build a settlement with more permanent structures.



WF: I think this is a lovely story, though I wonder if using a Seneca story might create confusion. Is there an analogous Susquehannock/Wendat myth? I've contacted Dan and Curtis about it. If we do keep this origin story, I think we'll need to have it vetted by a Seneca scholar.

Dan Richter: I'm not sure we have any record of a Susquehannock origin story. ("Creation" is probably not the right word, since most Native origin stories don't begin with a time when nothing existed.) It's likely that the Susquehannocks shared a version of the Wendat and Haudenosaunee Sky Woman stories, but there is no way to know for sure, as far as I know.

WF: I've removed all instances of "tribe," a 19c anthropological term used by US Government (to determine who is/isn't sovereign).

WF: regarding the "NOTE," I can imagine surfacing it in either the front or backmatter, but I do think we need to find different sources against which to vet this. Most of the work of 19c anthropologists is a bit suspect.

WF: Sub in a Lenape origin story from either Curtis or Bierhorst's *Mythology of the Lenape*?

Curtis Zunigha: I've told a Lenape creation story (some use the word 'myth' or 'legend') for many years but I learned it from storytelling by a Lenape elder. So I was surprised having difficulty finding something in writing. Here is a story that has written origins as far back a 1679 as told by a Lenape elder named Tantaque: "In the beginning of our knowledge of time the world was full of water. The first creature to rise from the depth of the water was Turtle. As the turtle raised its back up high to feel the warmth of the sun, all of the water ran off its shell so it became dry. This became the first earth. From the middle of its back a tree began to grow. From the root of this tree was sent forth a sprout beside it. From that sprout grew a man. The man was then alone. But the tree bent over until its top touched the earth, and another root emerged. From this root came another sprout. And from that sprout grew a woman. And all humankind grew from these two together, the man and the woman." Note: Many creation stories/myths/legends in many populations and cultures around the world contain the image of a flooded world. And many indigenous cultures also refer to the turtle and the water, thus "Turtle Island". I know this is brief but I will stand on my credentials in advising that this story is ok to use when writing about or redrawing history of the Lenape.