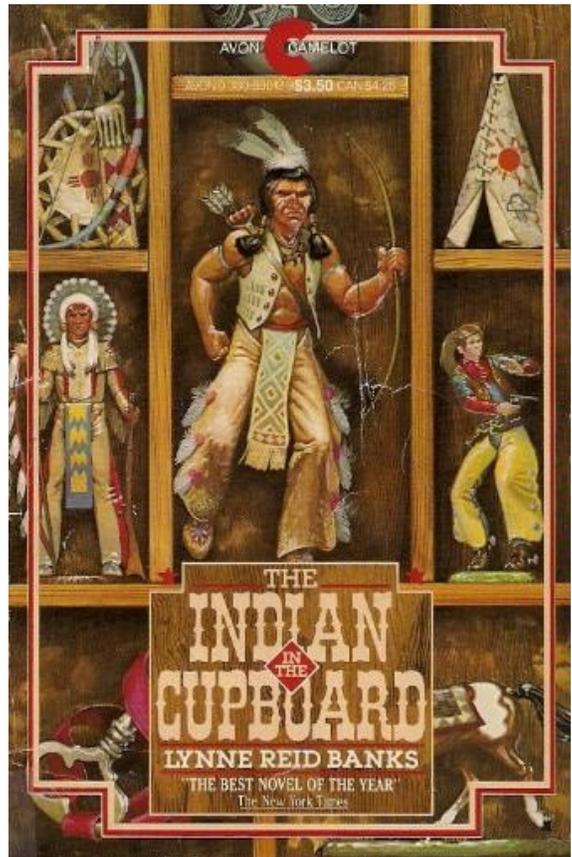


The Indian In the Cupboard

by Lynne Reid Banks

The Indian in the Cupboard is about the magic of a little boy. A young boy gets a toy Indian for his birthday and places the figure inside an old cabinet his brother found. With the help of a special key the plastic toy comes to life. The boy befriends the little Indian and matures throughout the story. He finds he can make other plastic figures real as well by locking them in the cupboard. He befriends a come-to-life cowboy as well. The young boy learns the value and fragility of friendship and life. The Iroquois Indian creates a long house, becomes chief, and marries throughout the course of his miniaturized adventure. The Iroquois also becomes blood brothers with 2 individuals from different times.



http://img1.wikia.nocookie.net/_cb20110310232538/childrensbooks/images/6/67/The_Indian_in_the_Cupboard.jpg

LITTLE BEAR

The miniscule Indian, Little Bear rode his tiny horse along the worn-out path. "The little stones on the path became huge boulders that had to be dodged, weeds became trees, the lawns edge became an escarpment twice the height of a man. As for living things, an ant, scuttling across the horse's path, made him shy wildly. The shadow of a passing bird falling on him made him dead stop... Once again Omri (the boy) marveled at the courage of Little Bear, faced with all these terrors."

Of all his traits, Little Bear was brave. He was somewhat superstitious. He refused to sleep in a teepee from another Indian tribe as it would anger the spirits and freely accepted the magic of the cupboard.

VOCABULARY

Aghast: suddenly shocked or frightened

Bedraggled: dirty and/or wet

Coherent: logical and well organized

Flummox: to confuse or puzzle

Ornery: stubborn, mean, grumpy

Banks, Lynne Reid. (1980). The Indian in the Cupboard. New York: Avon Books.

LITTLE BEAR

At times he can be demanding especially after receiving the title of chief. Throughout it all though it is the bravery of Little Bear, the tiny Indian, that is the most impressive. He has no problem using his knife on the "giants" and even fighting a cowboy his size who is armed with a gun. When the time comes he even ventures under the floor boards to save his friend despite the darkness and dangers.

Little Bear was an Iroquois Indian from the late 1700's to early 1800's. Once a plastic toy Indian, he was able to come to life as a real man. He stood just under three inches tall and was dressed in authentic Indian garments. His hair shines in a bluish-black plaited and held with a colored headband till receiving the full mantle of a chief's headdress. His buckskin pants and moccasin shoes had precise details too small to properly appreciate. His belt and bandolier were adorned with tiny white beads. Little Bear's grasp of English is a little broken but very good for his time and circumstances. He does not trust the white man but is able to eventually overcome this prejudice and becomes a brother to an unlikely friend. Little Bear has learned scalping and such taught during the French and Indian war and becoming part of custom after. He has had a wife and lost her, fought in battles, killed men, and hunted animals.

Little Bear was a brave Indian man. He was not a toy, but a man transplanted from his era with the size of a plastic figure. The magic of the cupboard brought him a new stature, that of a chief. It brought him a new friends and family, brothers and a wife. It also taught him and allowed him to teach the value of friendship and life.

VOCABULARY

Prostrate: lie or throw yourself on the ground

Ravenous: extremely hungry

Relapse: returning to bad behavior or poor health

Reverent: showing great respect for