

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract line drawing in a light blue color. It features various shapes, including what looks like a face in the upper right, a structure resembling a house or a piece of furniture on the left, and various geometric and organic forms scattered throughout. The lines are thin and somewhat sketchy, giving it a hand-drawn, artistic feel.

# LOCAL COLORING

5 writers  
67 artists

Axle Contemporary



Axle Contemporary  
P.O. Box 22095  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
[www.axleart.com](http://www.axleart.com)

Axle Contemporary would like to thank all the talented writers and artists that contributed to the realization of this book.

LOCAL COLORING is made possible with the support of Axle Projects, Inc. which is generously supported by grants from the City of Santa Fe's 1% Lodger's Tax, The McCune Charitable Foundation, and New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

©2017 Axle Contemporary  
Stories © Melody Sumner Carnahan, Jamie Figueroa, Nasario García,  
Joe Hayes, Lily Hoang  
Drawings © the individual artists  
All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-0-9963991-2-8  
No part of the book may be used or reproduced without permission from the publisher.

Front cover: detail, Rose Simpson

# LOCAL COLORING

5 Writers

67 Artists

In response to the Social Distancing recommendations in the world at this time, Axle Contemporary is offering our 2017 Local Coloring book for free online. If you have access to a printer, please download the book, read the stories, and color the pages with your pens, crayons, and imagination!

We'll release one story and its accompanying drawing pages each week for five weeks.

Visit [www.axleart.com](http://www.axleart.com) to download.

To purchase a print copy, visit  
[www.axleart.com/books](http://www.axleart.com/books)

**Axle Contemporary Press**

## **Dancing with a Star**

Joe Hayes

One clear winter night when Coyote sat on a ridge top, gazing up at the sky, he saw a beautiful star go dancing clear from the east to the west. The star was so beautiful, and she danced so gracefully across the sky, that Coyote fell in love with her.

Night after night Coyote sat looking up, howling and crying and wishing he could dance in the night with the beautiful star. And then Coyote noticed that in the evening, when the star rose, she danced right by the peak of a mountain far to the east. Coyote decided he would go to the mountaintop and meet the star and ask her if he could dance with her in the sky.

It took Coyote a long time to get to the mountains, and an even longer time to climb to the summit, but late one afternoon he arrived at the very peak of the mountain. He sat waiting for nightfall, and, sure enough, a short while after the sun had set, the star came dancing right by the mountain.

Coyote called out, "Star Maiden, please, let me dance with you in the sky. I have been watching you every night. I think you are the most beautiful and the most graceful star in the sky."

The star maiden reached her hand down and took hold of Coyote's hand. They danced together into the sky. Coyote lifted his knees high and whirled in circles as danced. He felt as though all his dreams had come true.

But the star maiden danced clear from the east to the west in just one night, so she had to dance fast. And she wouldn't stop to rest, not even for a minute, all night long!

By the time they were a quarter of the way across the sky, Coyote was puffing and panting and dripping with sweat, but he swore to himself he would dance with the star all night long.

But... by the time they reached the top of the sky, Coyote was so tired he couldn't pick up his feet anymore. He couldn't hold his head high. He couldn't even hang onto the star maiden's hand!

Coyote let go. And he fell! He fell through the sky so fast that he burned up in a flash of white light!

The other animals saw the flash. Some of them said, "That foolish Coyote! Who does he think he is, trying to dance with a star? He got just what he deserved. He should have stayed down here on the ground where he belongs."

But other animals disagreed. "No," they said. "At least Coyote tried to do the one thing his heart was longing to do. It was better for him to dance half-way across the sky with the star, and then fall to earth in a flash of fire, than to spend the rest of his life sitting on the ground crying and wishing he could dance with a star. And, besides, didn't Coyote make a beautiful light when he fell?"

So, if you ever happen to be outside on a clear winter night and you see a shooting star go flashing across the sky, think about Coyote. And then decide: Was Coyote a fool, or was he sort of a hero, because he tried to dance with a star?

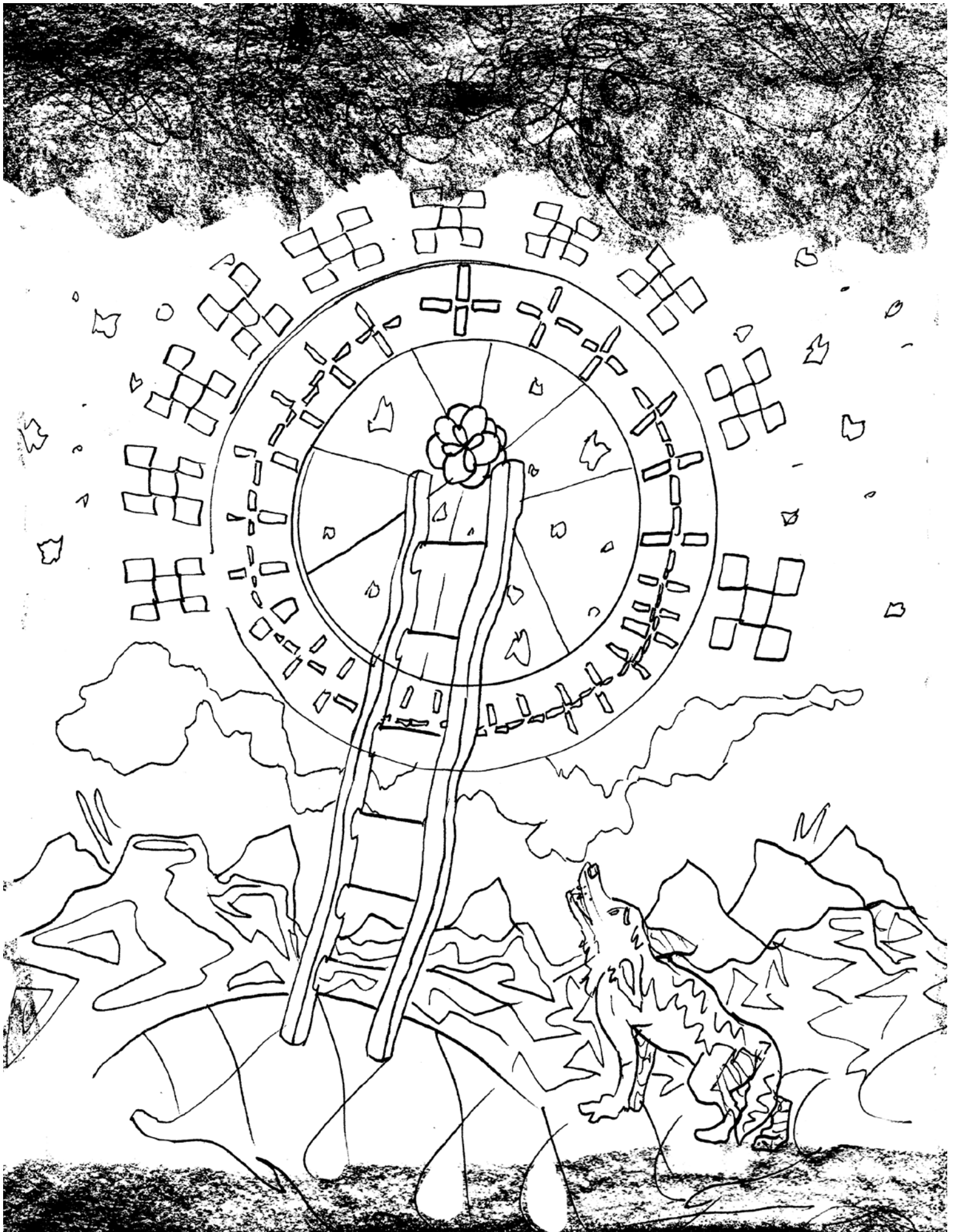


Brian Fleetwood





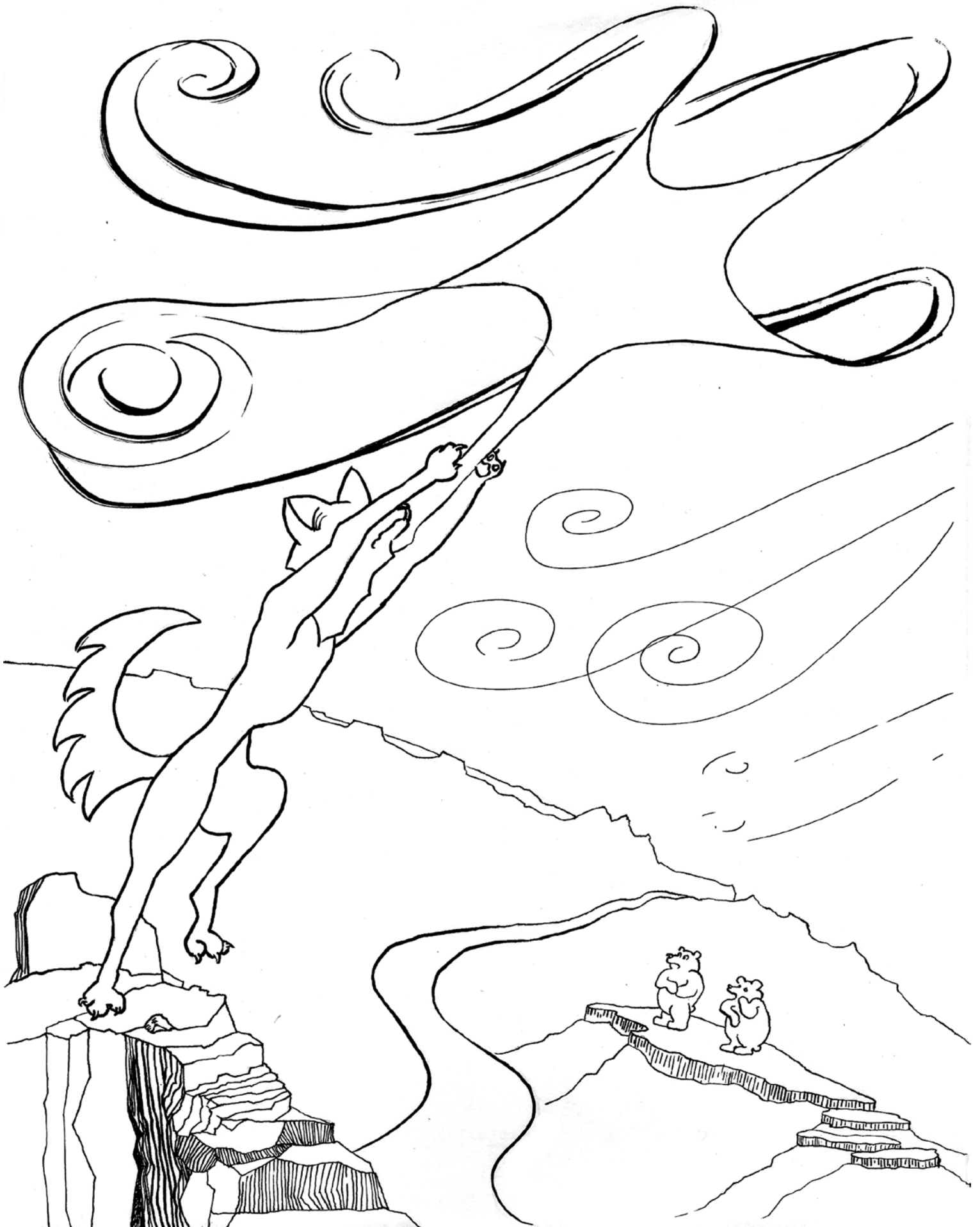




Mikey Rae







Abby Mattison

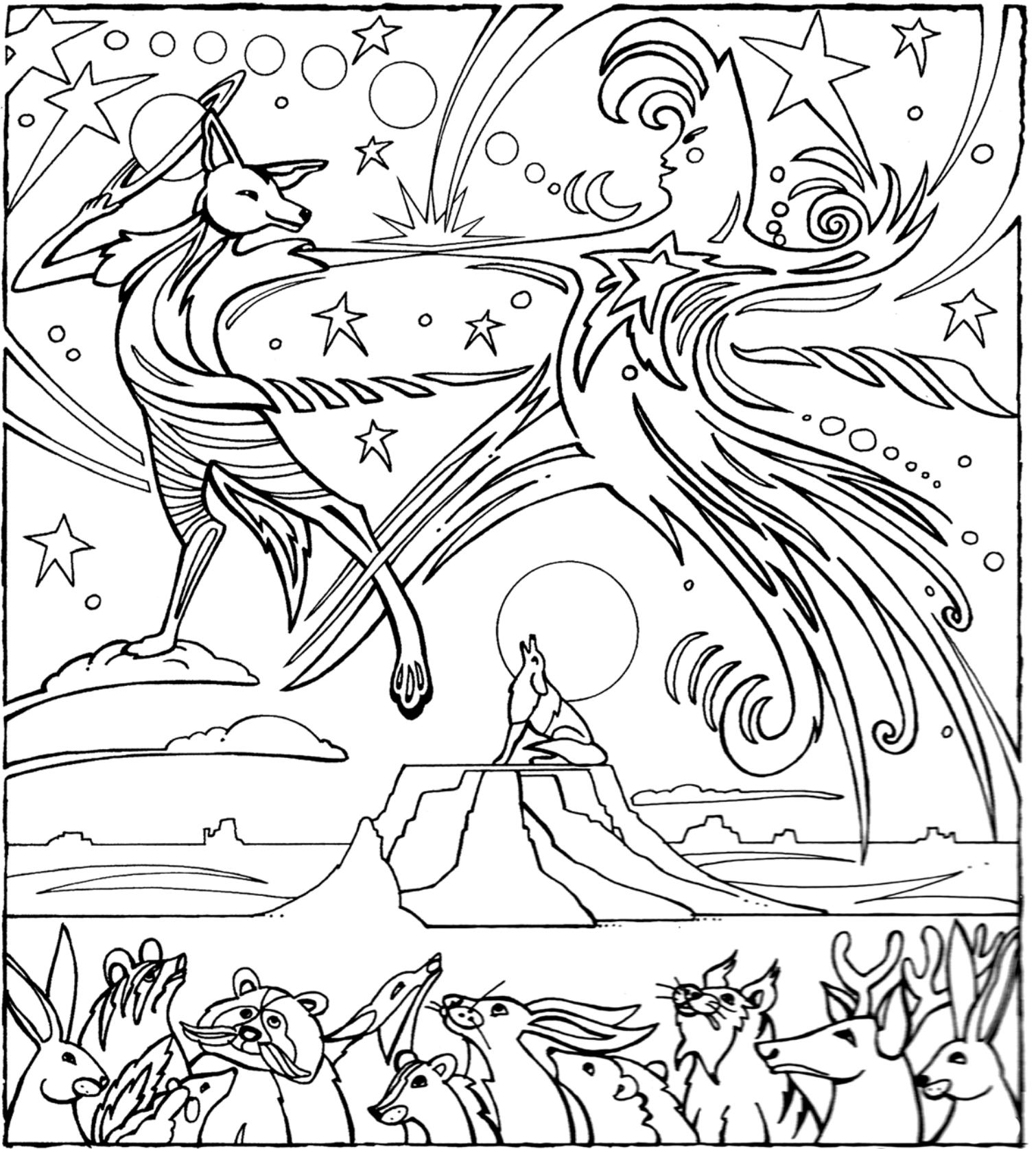




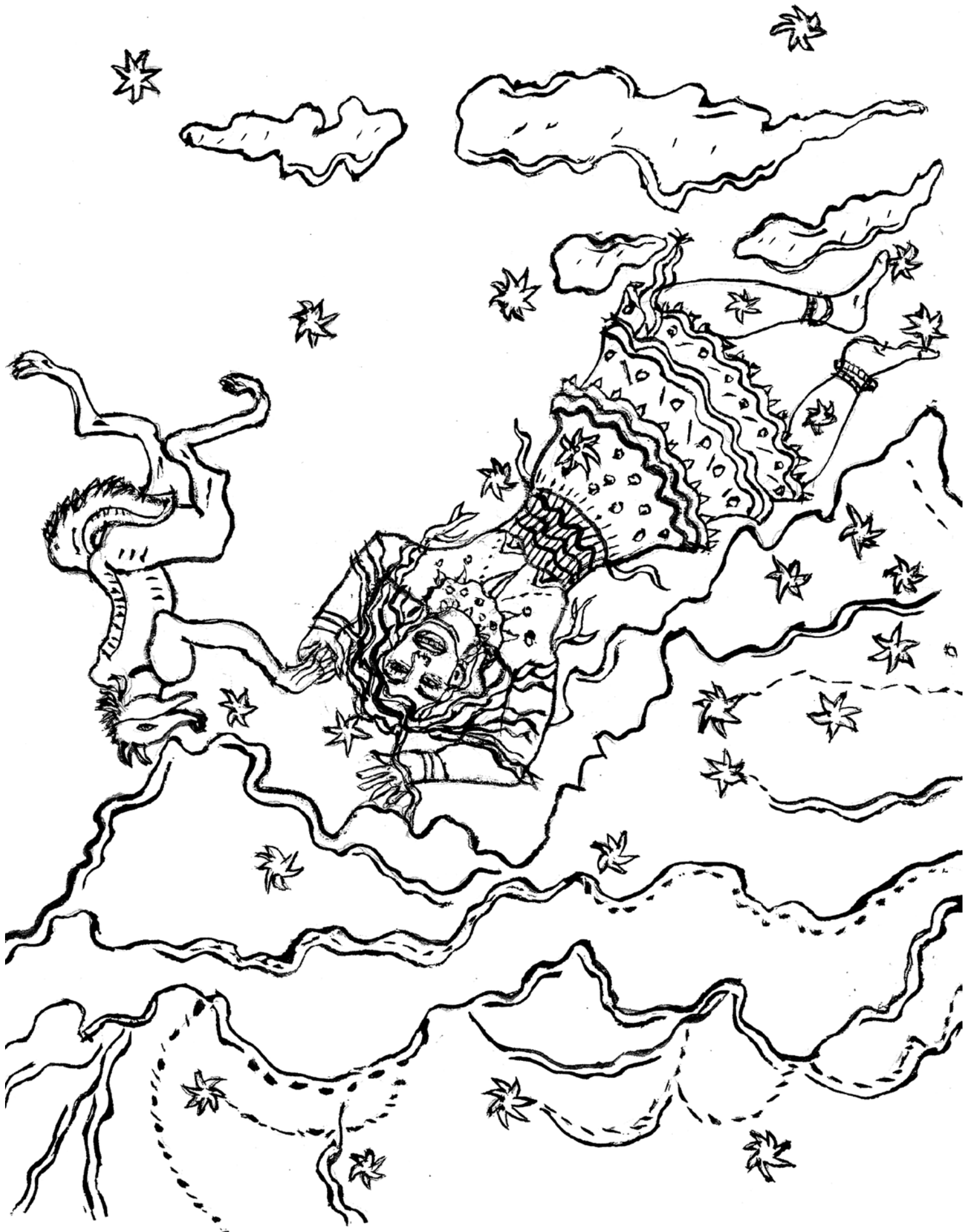




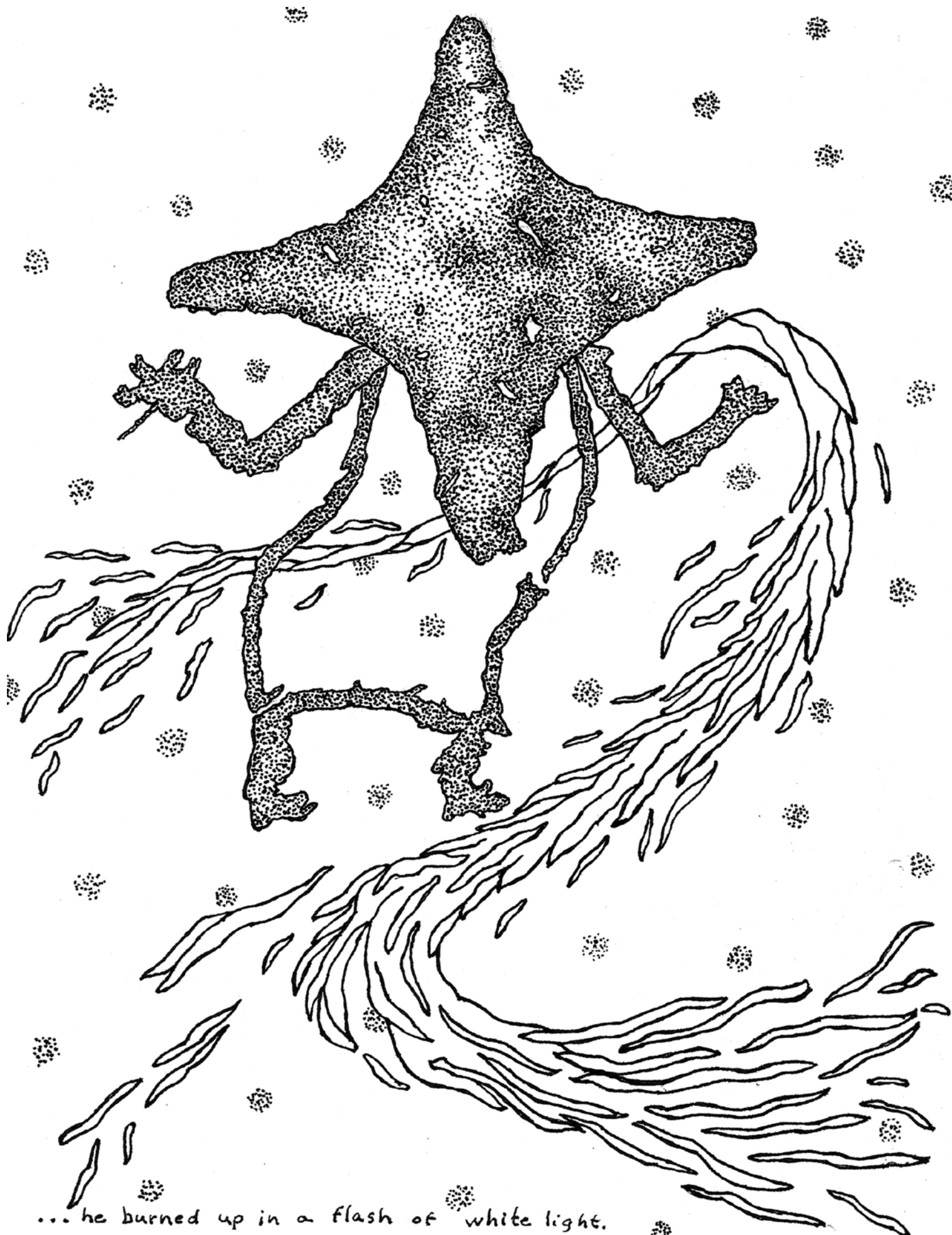
STAR MAIDEN + COYOTE







Janet Stein Romero





...and besides, didn't Coyote make a beautiful light when he fell?