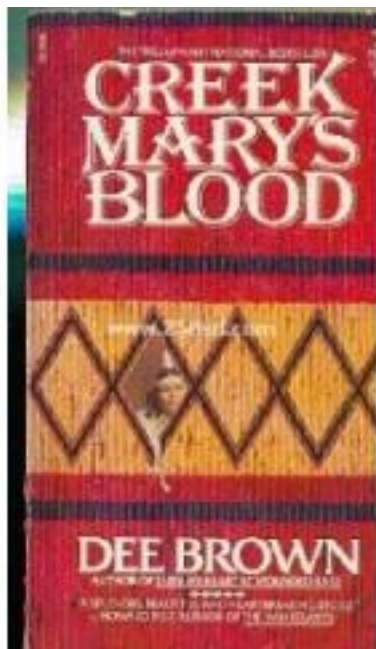


Creek mary's blood



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THE MONTANA LANDSCAPE is always startling when one
comes there straight from the East. It was early
morning when I stepped off the train at the little
brown-stained depot into an immense space of frosted
yellow grass and blue sky. I had scarcely lifted my bag
i¼ before the train was on its wayi¼ the locomotive swirling
steam and sulfurous smoke and cinders in its wake. The
!depot was desertedi¼ but old Dane had sent explicit
~irectionsi¼ and as soon as I found my bearings I started
up the dirt road that led to his cabini¼ a mile and a half
away.
As I walkedi¼ I wondered if I had not been rather
foolish in traveling such a distance to ask an aged
Indian a few questions about his legendary grandmoth-er. I had known her namei¼ Mary Kingsleyi¼ or Creek
Maryi¼ or simply Amayii¼ since the days of my Georgia
youth.

Later at the university I had tried to write a paper about her but the records were scanty. She was a full-blood Muskogee or Creek Indian daughter of Machichi a famous chief who had been killed in a skirmish with colonists. After Machichi's death Mary's people at Bluff Village regarded her as their leader the Beloved Woman. By all accounts she was a great beauty who had charmed all the male colonists of Georgia from General Oglethorpe down to trader John Kingsley whom she married. Proud and hot tempered she had 3

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