



Earth Maker decided there should be a race of all the birds and animals, around the Black Hills, to decide whether People would eat Buffaloes, or Buffaloes would eat People. The animals sided with the Buffaloes because they have four legs, and the birds with the People because they have two legs. From the multitudes upon multitudes of birds and animals who had gathered, each tribe chose its fastest runner.

Magpie is not a fast flier, but she thinks things out.



Throughout the race she sat on Buffalo's back. When the winning post was in sight, she was not tired, and flew up to win the Great Race for the People.\*

"That was a fair race," Earth Maker said. "Now People will eat Buffaloes. But there will always be love between you, and you will live together on these plains until the end of time. Use your power wisely," he warned the People. "Look after all that I have made."

\* People honor the birds when they wear their beautiful feathers.