NOTE: Kowasawa is also referred to as Kowassa and Akowassa in the story.
Rufus Goodstriker: This story is now about a child that was abandoned,* was found and raised by an old lady -- something similar to the story of Moses. Okay, old man, you will tell us of the story of Kowasawa (Adopted Child).

Scraping White: Okay, an old man and his old woman (wife) camped alone; and their daughter, the girl would go for some water in the mornings. She found a dead prairie chicken. She picked it up and went home with it. She told her parents, "Here is a prairie chicken that I killed."

The day went by and night came and in the morning she saw a rabbit. "Here is a rabbit." "Yes, you are lucky, my daughter." Another day went by again and in the morning there was a deer lying there. "Yes, my daughter, what is that?" "It ran by and I killed it." The old man said, "I suspect our daughter. I am going today and find out about her." So he did. It was night and he heard a sound. "What is that?" He said. It put down an elk. It was a huge rock. It said, "It's taking them a long time for them to get fat. I (rock) am fattening them." The old man went home. The old man said, "It
is not the right way we are having something to eat. We must flee now." So they fled. On and on they went.

When the rock came again, "They have found out about me," it said. So it rolled over their home, it rolled on, it tracked them down. The girl told her parents, "The rock is chasing us." The rock came rolling on and on. The old man told his daughter, "We are old. You save yourself." The girl could run away and she'd run back. "Oh daughter, you run for your safety." When the rock came closer the girl ran. The huge rock rolled over the old man and his wife; so the rock ate them.

A man was sitting facing west; he was scraping off the bark from a stick. The girl told the man, "Please save me, a huge rock is chasing me." The man told her, "Straight on." The girl would run away and she'd run back. "Help me, save me." The man told her, "Yes, yes." The girl crawled under the man's robe. The rock came rolling on. The rock told the man, "Did you see my prey?" "She ran that way." The huge rock would follow the girl's tracks and would roll back. The rock told the man, "You are to blame." "No, straight on," the man said.

The rock would roll away and find the girls tracks to a dead end. The rock told the man, "I have a notion to include you in." The man told the rock, "Yes, you include me in." The rock rolled backwards and the man jumped up. The man tried four times to strike the rock with the stick that he was scraping and he hit the huge rock and he split it open in half and there it was. The rock had killed the old folks.

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*The boy was not abandoned, he just wandered off with his brother.

The man told the girl, "I have a wife, so be careful. She kills the women that I take for wives." So he brought the girl home. The man goes out trapping and shooting. Time passed on. The man told the girl, "My wife does not swim. She's afraid of water." So the girl got pregnant. She told the woman, "Let us go swimming." The woman told the girl, "No, I don't swim." The girl told her, "Don't swim, just watch me swim." The girl told the woman, "Take your moccasins off and you can just put your feet in the water and I will swim to you and splash water on your feet." The woman would throw her feet up when the girl swims to her. Then after a while she didn't resist any more. The girl grabbed her by her ankles and she swam away with her and she drowned her. The woman's name is Crow Woman. The girl went home. The man came home and the girl told him, "I have drowned her." The man told the girl, "Be careful. Her brother will look for her, so don't look out to see him. Don't look out to see him." The man went away again, then suddenly the girl heard someone saying, "Which way? Which way?" The girl sat very quiet. The voice would sound away and then it would sound close by. When the voice sounded away the girl took her awl and she punched a hole in the tipi. "Oh, you have
satisfied me."

The man entered her tipi. As he came in he was dragging his insides and he sat down. The girl fed him. When she put the plate in front of him he said, "Daughter, I don't use those for a plate." She gave him all kinds of things for a plate. "No, I don't use those for a plate." The girl took her dress out. "Use this." "Almost," the man said. "Use me for a plate." So she laid down on her back beside him. The man started to eat and what he swallows drops through him to the ground. Then all of a sudden he cut her stomach open. He took the twins out and he stuck one into the fireplace and he stuck the other one behind the tipi liner.

When the husband came home he saw what happened. "I warned you," he said. So he took her outside and he painted his face. He shot an arrow up into the air. "Lookout, lookout, it might hit you," he told his wife. The second time the girl stirred. On the third time she moved and on the fourth she got up and ran. When the woman is busy outside, and when she goes inside the place would be all messed up by kids. "Yes," the man said, "there are some kids." Whenever he does not take his arrows the feathers would be taken off from his arrows. The man made bows and arrows. "There are two of them," he said. So he put the arrows inside of the tipi. When the woman is busy outside she would hear them laughing. The man came home. "Ah, they took my arrows."

The man told his wife, "I am going to transform myself into an old log and put me inside of the door and I will try and catch our children." His name is Boy. So he turned into an old log and his wife put the log inside.

One of the boys was mischievous. His name is Man Stuck in the Fireplace and the other one's name is Man Behind the Liner. The one in the fireplace got up and he said, "My friend, you can come out now and we will have a game of darts." "No. That log is a human being." Man Behind the Liner was wise. Finally he agreed. "My friend, let us play a game of darts; the log will be our target." Man in the Fireplace was shooting at the log. They'd shoot and Man Behind the Liner does not take the arrows. He'd tell his friend, "Take my arrows." Then he had a wild thought. He went forward with his friend to get his arrows. The man grabbed both of his children. "My children, take a taste of me. You are my children."

The man told his children, "There a rodent that has a den somewheres. Don't you ever snare it. Be wise, my children." So they (boys) went, and it was the crazy boy, Man in the Fireplace, said, "This is the one that our father told us about." He took his bowstring out and he made a loop and set it in the den. And morning never came. "Children, I told you not to put a snare in that den. A rat burrowed a tunnel to the inside of the den and chewed off the thong and the sun came up. My children, I told you."

The man told them again, "There is a bull buffalo in the bush,
so don't go there." It was the one, Man in the Fireplace, said, "My friend, let us go in that direction." They had bows and arrows, so on they went. The buffalo charged out from the bush, the boys jumped to one side and they killed it. "Ah, my children have killed the bull buffalo." So the boys came home.

The boys told their father, "Please make us a hoop." A hoop is a circular thing. You shoot an arrow at it, in the centre of it; it's a usual game. "Help me," told his sons, "Don't roll it downwind, roll it the other way." "What is our father going to do? Let's roll it downwind." They were shooting at it but it kept rolling. On and on they went. The hoop rolled into an old tipi. The boys looked inside. There was an old woman in the tipi. "Old woman, give us our hoop," the boys told the old woman. "My children, come in and get it." It was the same crazy boy, Man in the Fireplace, said, "We will go in and get it." So they went in. The old woman said, "I am going to make us a fire." So she started putting rotten wood in the fire. Then she closed the door and the smoke flaps at the top.

Man in the Fireplace had a plume headpiece. He took it and blew it up and the smoke that was supposed to smother them kept above their heads. They sat there. "My children, what," the old women said, "the corners of my children's mouths have a bad odor." "Now come in, old woman." So they smothered her instead, and the boys went home. "Ah, my children have killed the old woman." The man told his sons, "There is a bird. Don't shoot it." So the boys walked along. There was the bird and it was the same one. Man in the Fireplace took a shot at it. It tumbled down the tree and it got stuck.

His friend told him, "Leave it there," but he said, "I will take it." The bird kept going higher. "My friend, you are disappearing." Man in the Fireplace said, "My friend, I am almost reaching it." He was taken up into the heavens. His (Man in the Fireplace) clothes dropped one by one at his friend's feet.

The boy laid there crying. He rolled up his friends clothes and used them for a pillow and he laid there crying. The people were moving camps, so they stopped and pitched up their tipis. An old woman went into the bush to gather some rotten wood to tan a hide. She heard someone crying. "What is it?" she said. So she walked along and she came up to it. She wrapped it up in the hide that she was going to pack wood in.

She went home with the boy. The boy was just skinny with a great big bloated stomach. So she got home with the boy. Her son-in-law told his wives, "There is a baby crying in your mother's tipi." One of the girls went to her. "It looks like as if you have a child." "Yes," said her mother. "Daughter, this is my adopted child." The boy wets and messes its bed but the old woman took care of him.

So time went by. The boy said, "Mother, stand me up by the
doorway tipi pole and so on to every pole." The old woman took him and stood him up against the doorway pole and so on to every pole. The boy was growing. When she came to the other doorway pole the boy was full-grown. The head chief had two daughters; they are called Outstanding White Weasel Childs. They were not married. One was older and the other girl was younger. An announcement was made. The chief says, "Whoever kills that white prairie chicken I will have him for my son-in-law." The boy told the old woman, "Mother, make me an arrow with a shaggy bud, grow. "Yeow," said the old woman, "Kowassa [Kowasawa] will never kill it." The chief said, "If anybody chases a herd of buffalo over the cut bank with a white buffalo amongst the herd." The older girl is now married to Crow Arrow, took his snowshoes to his wife. The older girl is now married to Crow Arrow and the younger girl, Akowassa [Kowasawa]. Crow Arrow took his snowshoes to his wife. His wife told him, "What shall I do to them?" Crow Arrow told her, "Ochre them with black ochre." Akowassa's [Kowasawas] wife took his to him (Akowassa - Kowasawa), "What shall I do to them?" "Use ochre on them," Akowassa [Kowasawa] told his wife to get something from their tipi, and the girl went. "Oh, this tipi is erected." It was a big tipi. As she looked inside, the tipi liners, the people of the past use buffalo hides for pillows; the tipi liners were white buffalo calf hides. Akowassa [Kowasawa] told her, "Why are you just looking inside? This is our home." The girl went inside. "Here are your snowshoes."

Crow Arrow was gone already. Akowassa [Kowasawa] went and he placed the buffalo droppings in order with a white stone amongst them. Then he (Akowassa - Kowasawa) tried to arouse them four times. On the fourth, a buffalo herd stampeded rattling their hooves; the white buffalo ran amongst the herd. "They are here," the women jumped shouting at the herd. "Woo, wih, woo-wih." So they jumped over the cut bank. So he (Akowassa - Kowasawa) killed the white buffalo. He told the butchers, "You will spread out the hide over here. I will come back to it."

Akowassa [Kowasawa] went home. He had a quiver full with arrows. The buds of the arrows were trimmed with tail feathers. The hide is ready so he (Akowassa - Kowasawa) told his wife, "Come, let us go to that hide." The eagle feather trimmings were almost without black tips. They were pounding the hide with the arrows. His wife told him, "What shall I do with the arrows?" "Throw them away," Akowassa [Kowasawa] told his wife. She'd throw away the arrows and the old men would pile on the arrows. Crow Arrow's wife told Akowassa [Kowasawa], "What shall I use to beat the hide?" Akowassa [Kowasawa] told her, "There are a lot of white sticks around."
Time went on and Crow Arrow got disappointed, so he took away the buffalo and he chased them into a huge den. The people would go out into the prairies and set up buffalo droppings, they'd try to arouse them four times and on the fourth time they would stampede the herd over the cut bank. Crow Arrow found out and he started to break all the buffalo droppings and the people couldn't do anything any more. Now Napi (Old Man) is involved. He told Akowassa [Kowasawa], "I will lay down on that slope and I will try and catch that Crow Arrow."

Now he (Napi) has turned into a buffalo. So he laid there. The crow flew around and he said, "Ah, you are a real carcass." The crow kept flying about. He flew down to him. The crow pretended to go for his eye, to punch it with its beak, but he (Napi) didn't blink an eye. So the crow jumped on him, the crow picked him, but he (Napi) was trying to get his under his arm pits. Finally he caught him. Now we will all starve to death.

He (Napi) took it home and tied the crow by the feet between the backrests. The crow said, "This thong is almost cutting off my feet. Please loosen it." So they tied the thong loose and it got its feet out from the noose and he flew up. "Yes, you are all going to starve just the same."

Akwassa [Kowasawa] told Napi, "What kind of a vision have you got?" He (Napi) told him (Akwassa - Kowasawa), "I had a vision of the crawlers (snakes). I (Akwassa - Kowasawa) had a vision about dogs. Now let us do something."

So they followed Crow Arrow. He would fly in a different direction. They went on and on. He (Crow Arrow) had moved to another place. Napi turned into a fancy carved digging stick and it laid there and Akwassa [Kowasawa] turned into a pup with its ears flopped over his face as he walked around. Crow Arrow had a son; the boy found the dog and the digging stick. The boy took the dog home. "Mother, here is a digging stick for you."

When Crow Arrow saw the dog he said, "Take the dog away." But as a child would cry for the dog, "I am going to have it for my dog." So the boy kept the dog and the woman kept the digging stick. So Crow Arrow went away again. The little boy opened the mouth of the den. He told the pup, "The herd of buffalo are in there." The dog was pulling back and all of a sudden it ran in. He (Napi) turned into a snake and he also crawled in. They heard them shouting inside and the buffalo stampeded out. Crow Arrow was at the entrance ready to shoot.

The pup crawled into the wooly head of a buffalo and Napi turned into a snake; he crawled into the shaggy chest of the buffalo. When they were far away Crow Arrow heard them shouting. And so the whole herd of buffalo was chased back to the camps. So that is how the story was told, so I (Scraping White) have no further story to tell. So that is the end.
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