

# DOWNLOAD PDF WHY THE POSSUMS TAIL IS BARE, AND OTHER CLASSIC SOUTHERN STORIES

## Chapter 1 : Why The Possum's Tail Is Bare, And Other Classic Southern Stories by Jimmy Neil Smith

*Why The Possum's Tail Is Bare, And Other Classic Southern Stories has 5 ratings and 1 review. Jeff said: Great book with loads of southern tales, some of.*

Mammals Always be kind to Virginia Opossums. And, they never have rabies. Virginia Opossums are ideal visitors to urban yards. Instead, they arrive, eat a rodent and some snails, scoop up some insects, munch on fallen fruit and clean up any leftovers in the dog food bowl. Then they go away. Change their habitat, they adjust to a new one. Remove their usual food sources, they change their diet. It was first seen by European colonists in, yes, Virginia. Other marsupials include kangaroos, koalas, wombats, wallabies, Tasmanian Devils and possums. Except for being marsupials, possums are a group of entirely different animals, in the family Phalangeridae. They inhabit Australia and surrounding islands. The direct ancestors of the Virginia Opossum evolved later in South America and moved north to the southeastern U. During the late 1700s and the 1800s they were introduced into western coastal states and have now expanded northward into southern British Columbia. They also extend south into Mexico and Central America, where most of the other opossum species are found. Sources vary widely about their weight, with some reporting a range of 4. Males are usually larger than females. Wilson; cc by 3. Their ears are black and tipped or edged with white, and hairless. White hair covers their face, and their body is a sparse, coarse mix of grayish and blackish hair. Their thin hair makes them susceptible to frostbite, preventing them from inhabiting regions that are too cold. Virginia Opossums have 50 teeth, the most of any U. When they open their mouth, all those teeth are exposed and look truly menacing. In fact, holding them that way is painful for them. They have five hairless, dexterous toes some experts call them fingers. Each of the hind feet has a thumb, called a hallux. All their toes are clawed except for the thumbs, which are used to grasp branches when climbing. Virginia Opossums have no body odor because they lick themselves constantly. Senses Virginia Opossums have a keen sense of touch. Their sense of smell is exceptional – they have 1, genes devoted to smell. By comparison, humans have olfactory genes devoted to smell, and dogs have Communication Virginia Opossums make only a few distinct vocalizations. They hiss, snarl, click and screech, and may make all of these sounds when showing aggression. Clicking is also made by males in mating behavior and by females when around their young. Young ones also make clicking sounds. Some sources say mothers make a purring sound to their young. Listen to baby making clicking sounds. However, researchers found in a series of tests that opossums are better than dogs, cats and other animals at remembering the location of food hidden in a maze; only humans were superior to them. And, owners of young rescued and un-releasable opossums say they can be litter box- and leash-trained, love to be held and to snuggle, and will greet them at the door when they return home. They also claim that opossums will come when their name is called. Opossums try to seem very dangerous, by flashing their teeth and hissing – even young ones, like this. Coming face-to-face, opossums may freeze in place, but often they just turn and move away. They fall on their side and lie still with their body curled. Their mouth opens in a grimace, their tongue hangs out, they drool copiously and stare with unmoving eyes. They may defecate or discharge a foul-smelling fluid from their anal glands. This catatonia-like state may last minutes or hours. Eventually, they arouse, get up and go about their activities with no ill-effects. Instead, they may try to bluff their way out of trouble with a flash of teeth and scary hissing and snarling. Reproduction Females reach sexual maturity at about seven months of age and can breed about every 28 days year-round. Peak time is late December through January February in northern areas , and to a lesser extent from mid-May to early-July. Their reproductive system is bifid, meaning there are two sets of reproductive organs. Some of the fetuses develop in a left uterus and the others in a right uterus. But, like cars merging into a single traffic lane, the fetuses are born one by one through a birth canal called the median vagina. They have a very short gestation period – only 12 or 13 days. But first, they must perform a harrowing journey to get there. Mothers prepare the way by licking a path through their hair for them to follow. With a swimming motion, the babies pull themselves blindly literally,

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since their eyes are closed along this path. The weaker babies will not make it, regardless. Those who make it to the fur-lined marsupium will find one of 13 teats aligned there in a horseshoe arrangement. This is their lifeline to further physical development, and they hang on tightly. If there are more than 13 babies, the extra ones will die. Ever so cautiously, they peek out. Then they duck back inside. They duck back inside. Eventually, in a tense moment of bravery, they open their mouths and let go. Then comes the second significant climb of their lives: If any fall off, they make hissing sounds, and their mother makes clicking sounds in response. They travel widely in search of food, staying in one den only three or four days before moving to the next except in winter when a nice, warm, well-built nest invites a longer stay. Their mother will use her whiskers like a cat, to feel her way along dark passages, and her excellent sense of smell will locate food. They learn the best ways to hide and defend themselves, and where to live. They go up and down trees, through thick bushes and brush piles, into garbage cans and compost piles, under the porch, under fences, through drain pipes and culverts, and into hollow logs. They might even go into the water if their mother crosses a creek. All the while, they must tightly hang on. After a few weeks of tutoring, they begin life on their own four feet by simply loosening their grip and dropping off their mother. Lifespan Most Virginia Opossums have short lives. Those in the wild survive only a year or two: In captivity, they live three to four years. Habitat Although well adapted to city life, their natural habitat is deciduous forests, but they also are found in farmlands, prairies and wet areas, such as marshes and streams. Cover and nesting The opossums are solitary animals that generally nest alone. Females, however, will sometimes use daytime nests together. So, they look for existing nest sites that will keep them warm and safe, such as old burrows, drainage pipes, hollow logs, old squirrel nests, rock piles, woodpiles or under a porch. They line nests with soft, dry materials, like grasses and dried leaves. They gather their nesting materials by mouth and then shove them under their body, where they loop their tail around them for transport. Predators Natural enemies of opossums include foxes, coyotes, bobcats, eagles, owls and other birds of prey; also dogs and cats. Otherwise, vehicles are their biggest enemy. Hunters and trappers, too, take a toll, but mostly by finding opossums while seeking other game.

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## Chapter 2 : Bibliography of Native American Myths and Legends

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Frogs of Windham Lawyer Elderkin stood on the porch looking up at the night sky. Clouds were rolling in, obscuring the stars, but for a few moments the moon still shone on the sleepy town of Windham. Elderkin fervently hoped that the clouds meant rain. Fur-Bearing Trout Now it happened that there was a mining camp in Colorado where more than an average number of the miners were bald. An enterprising hair tonic salesman from Kentucky decided to take advantage of this golden opportunity, so he made the trip north. It was a rainy summer evening. The salesman was headed towards the mining camp with four bottles of hair tonic under his arm. As he was crossing one of the trout streams which lead to the Arkansas River, the salesman slipped and dropped two bottles of hair tonic into the water. The bottles broke, and the hair tonic spilled into the stream Superstitions, Folklore and Fact According to Pliny, garlic and onions were invoked as deities by the Egyptians at the taking of oaths. The inhabitants of Pelusium in lower Egypt, who worshipped the onion, are said to have held both it and garlic in aversion as food. It was a beautiful night with a full moon. We were laughing and discussing the party when the engine started to cough and the emergency light went on. We had just reached the railroad crossing where Villamain Road becomes Shane Road He loved the city and was beginning to feel at home on its streets. World War II was raging in Europe, and like all other good citizens, he followed the headlines daily and did his part for the boys overseas But among his crew there were many sailors who did not wish to share the new-found wealth with the monarchs of Spain I was young then, and my pretty little bride was just setting up housekeeping in the little cottage that was all we could afford. Life was good, and I thought everything would continue rolling along that way Ghost in the Stacks saw her out of the corner of my eye while I was studying in a remote corner of the second-level stacks in the library. She was pretty, with reddish hair and pensive, wide eyes in an intelligent face. I straightened up, patted my hair to make sure it was smooth, and took another look. It had once housed the actresses working for a big silent film studio across the street, but the film studio was long gone, and the boarding house was unused. My grandparents converted it into a 3-family home Ghosts of Ringwood Manor Ringwood Manor you say? A lovely old house. But no place, my child, to go on a dark night with no moon. The current Manor House was built by Martin Ryerson in Girl in White He was sulking a little, standing at the sidelines while all the other men danced with their pretty partners. His girl had not come to the dance that night. Her mother was ill, and so his girl had remained at her side. A fine pious act, he thought sourly, but it left him at loose ends. That Yankee Peddler was a scoundrel if ever I saw one. Green Lantern There once was a lighthouse keeper who had lived on St. They were all alone there, for the mother had died long before. Wanting the best for his daughter and son, the keeper had insisted that they continue their education, and for this purpose had purchased a small dory for them, which they rowed across to the mainland each day to attend school. Guardian of Yosemite For many nights and many days, the guardian spirit of Tisayac watched over the beautiful valley of Yosemite. Often, the gentle spirit would drift invisibly among the good folk of the valley, and it was during one of these visits that she noticed a tall, proud man named Tutokanula. He was a strong leader who greatly enhanced the lot of his people, and Tisayac came more often to the valley so that she could watch him. The explorer and his crew journeyed north for several days, trading with the native residents and searching for the fabled northwest passage to the Orient. By the time he reached the area that would become present-day Albany, Hudson knew that he had not found the passage for which he sought. Reluctantly, he turned the Half Moon and sailed back down the river Heron and the Hummingbird Heron and Hummingbird were very good friends, even though one was tall and gangly and awkward and one was small and sleek and fast. They both loved to eat fish. The Hummingbird preferred small fish like minnows and Heron liked the large ones. Hoop Snakes Now the

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Pennsylvania hoop snake is something to be reckoned with. But everyone agrees that you can tell a hoop snake from a regular snake by the way it moves. When a hoop snake travels around, it grabs its tail with the poison stinger at the end in its mouth and rolls along until it sees something it wants to sting. Then it whips the stinger out of its mouth quick enough and lashes out with its tail

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### Chapter 3 : Resources for Storytellers

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However, there are true possums " just not in the North American neck of the woods. Possums include any of several species from the family Phalangeridae of nocturnal, arboreal marsupials of Australia and New Guinea, and were mistakenly named in the 18th century when the naturalist from Capt. Opossums are mostly immune to rabies , and in fact, they are eight times less likely to carry rabies compared to wild dogs. Opossums have superpowers against snakes. They have partial or total immunity to the venom produced by rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and other pit vipers. Their normal diet consists of carrion, rodents, insects, snails, slugs, birds, eggs, frogs, plants, fruits and grains. They also eat human food, table scraps, dog food and cat food. They have an unusually high need for calcium, which incites them to eat the skeletons of rodents and road kill they consume. Although many people think opossums are not the sharpest knives in the drawer, there are several areas of intelligence in which they soar. For one, they have a remarkable ability to find food and to remember where it is. When tested for the ability to remember where food is, opossums scored better than rats, rabbits, cats, dogs " but not as well as humans. They also can find their way through a maze more quickly than rats and cats. Since their diet allows them to indulge on snails, slugs and beetles, they are a welcome addition to the garden. Opossums also keep rats and cockroaches at bay by competing with them for food. The opossum has opposable "thumbs. Primates and opossums are the only mammals with opposable first toes. They have prehensile tails which are adapted for grasping and wrapping around things like tree limbs. Opossums have been observed carrying bundles of grasses and other materials by looping their tail around them; this conscious control leads many to consider the tail as a fifth appendage, like a hand. The giant pupils are thought to be an adaptation to their nocturnal habits. The mouth of an opossum holds an impressive 50 teeth. When threatened, opossums run, growl, belch, urinate and defecate. It is an involuntary response like fainting rather than a conscious act. They roll over, become stiff, close their eyes or stare off into space and bare their teeth as saliva foams around the mouth and a foul-smelling fluid is secreted from glands. The catatonic state can last for up to four hours, and has proven effective as a deterrent to predators looking for a hot meal. And a bonus for the Scrabble players: Male opossums are called jacks and females are called jills. The young are referred to as joeys, just like their Australian cousins, and a group of opossums is called a passel.

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### Chapter 4 : 3rd Grade Reading Passages with Questions | Comprehension Program

*Opossums have been observed carrying bundles of grasses and other materials by looping their tail around them; this conscious control leads many to consider the tail as a fifth appendage, like a hand.*

Baby Rattlesnake loves using its rattle to play tricks but refuses to listen to the advice of others. A traditional Navajo story. One day he decides to visit his cousin Horned Toad, who is working hard in his corn field. Southern Indian Myths and Legends. Animal lore and legend: Information about the types of owls living in North America and tales told about them in one Eastern Woodlands tribe and two Southwestern peoples. First man and first woman overcome anger, and the creation of strawberries. The great ball game: A pourquoi tale of how the animals and birds played a game of stickball to determine who would have dominion over the land. Bruchac, Joseph, and London, Jonathan. A Native American year of moons. Short tales from a variety of tribes related to each of the moons in the Native American year. Bruchac, Joseph, and Ross, Gayle. The girl who married the moon. Tales with female protagonists from 16 Indian tribes. King of the birds. The birds live in chaos and decide they must find someone to rule them, so they organize a contest to find the one who will be king. Hero tale of a poor boy who becomes a leader of his people with the help of a magical pony created from clay. A young girl who is mistreated by her sisters becomes the wife of the Invisible One. Cinderella tale Cole, Judith. The moon, the sun, and the coyote. A Cherokee folk tale. Tales organized by geographical region: Eastern Woodlands, Western Plains and Coastal. Brief introductory explanations accompany each tale. The legend of the bluebonnet: An old tale of Texas. A young girl sacrifices her most prized possession to save her tribe. The legend of the indian paintbrush. Erdoes, Richard, and Ortiz, Alfonso Eds. American Indian myths and legends. Tales from a wide range of tribes are organized by categories: Some stories are graphic and others could be considered X-rated. The girl who loved wild horses. An Indian maiden loves her family but finds true freedom and happiness among the wild horses. A young girl goes in search of her siblings; pourquoi tale of the Big Dipper. A shy young man is unable to express his love until the mystical Elk Men bring him a flute to communicate his feelings. Iktomi and the Boulder. Vain Iktomi is traveling to the next village in all his finery. The boulder follows him across the plains and traps him underneath. Iktomi tricks animals into helping him get free. Iktomi and the Ducks. New York Haley, Gail E. A very old Cherokee tale. Wild Boys curiosity and sense of mischief result in the creation of work for humankind. Creation stories from around the world. Why Bear has a short tail: Tale similar to that found in the Connolly text. The story is nicely illustrated and simply written. A Native American Folk Tale. The tale of Rabbit and Coyote. Rabbit and Coyote trade tricks. Beginning with a story much like the tar baby and ending with explaining why we can see the outline of a rabbit in the full moon. A Karuk Coyote tale about how fire came to the people. Grandfather tricks the Yellow Jacket sisters to obtain fire for the rest of the animals who create a relay team when the insects chase the fire-carrier. And still the turtle watched. An ancient carver creates a turtle on a rock in the bend of the river to by the eyes of Manitou, but as the years passed, people forgot and later vandals defaced the rock until a knowledgeable man comes and takes the turtle to a museum. A young girl is mistreated by her two beautiful sisters, but her purity of spirit allows her to see the Great Being and become his wife. Arrow to the Sun. A trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest. A trickster tale from the American southwest. Animal Lore and Legend: Omaha, Seneca, Apache, Kiowa, Ojibwa. Three Native American tales about buffalo are accompanied by information about these majestic, endangered animals. The magic weaver of rugs: A tale of the Navajo. Two women from the Navajo tribe set out to save their people and meet Spider Woman who teaches them how to weave. How Rabbit tricked Otter and other Cherokee stories. Fifteen tales about trickster Rabbit. A traditional Cherokee tale. A pourquoi tale similar to Brer Rabbit and the Briar Patch. Great flood waters threaten all the animals, so they work together to save themselves, going two-by-two into great reeds on the hills. But the turkey couple has yet to arrive; they make it just in time, bringing with them all the seeds necessary to replant the earth. The legend of Scarface: A Blackfeet Indian tale. A boy despised by others in his

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tribe sets out to win the hand of the woman he loves by asking the Sun to release her from the vow she made not to marry. The animals help him on his quest, and his honesty, loyalty, and bravery win him the respect of Sun, Moon, and their son Morning Star. He returns to his tribe with riches and claims his bride. A young Hopi girl devises a plan to protect her pueblo from Apache raiders. The story of jumping mouse: A Native American legend. A small mouse wishes to see the wonders of the far off land, and with the help of a magic frog and his own unselfish spirit he manages to do it, although in an altered form. Scholastic Hello Reader L. The tale of how rabbits lost their long tails and ended up with a split lip and bent arms and legs. Warren, Barbara Shining Woman. The story of how the Blackfeet first saw and learned about horses told by an old man who was there as a boy when it happened. Favorite folktales from around the world.

### Chapter 5 : American Indian trickster tales

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### Chapter 7 : Native American Indian Opossum Legends, Meaning and Symbolism from the Myths of Many T

*Jimmy Neil Smith is the author of Homespun ( avg rating, 8 ratings, 2 reviews, published ), Why The Possum's Tail Is Bare, And Other Classic Sout.*

### Chapter 8 : Famous American Folktales & Stories from A to Z

*Native American Opossum Mythology The opossum is one of several North American animals whose name has Native American origins. The word for "opossum" was among the Powhatan words first recorded by English colonists at Jamestown, variously spelled opassom, aposoum or apasum.*

### Chapter 9 : Jimmy Neil Smith (Foreword of Sitting Up with the Dead)

*Resources for Storytellers. Haunted Bayou and Other Cajun Ghost Stories JJ Reneaux August House, Why the Possum's Tail is Bare and Other Classic Southern Stories.*