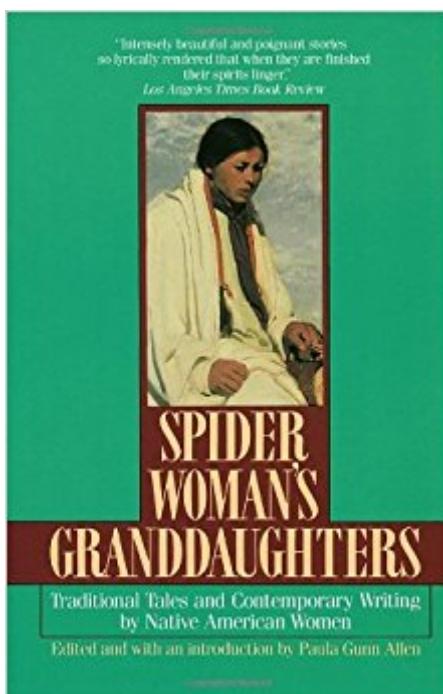


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Spider Woman's Granddaughters: Traditional Tales And Contemporary Writing By Native American Women



Synopsis

"Impressive....Haunting....Enchanting...Every story in the book, which covers nearly a century of tradition, is interesting, written with intelligent passion." **THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**
Native American scholar, literary critic, poet, and novelist Paula Gunn Allen, who is herself a Laguna Pueblo-Sioux Indian, became increasingly aware in her academic career that the writings of Native Americans, especially women, have been marginalized by the Western literary canon. Allen set out to understand why this was so and, more importantly, to remedy the situation. The result is this powerful collection of traditional tales, biographical writings, and contemporary short stories, many by the most accomplished Native American women writing today, including: Louise Erdrich, Mary TallMountain, Linda Hogan, and many others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These 24 compelling and bleakly evocative narratives compiled by Allen, a professor of Native American studies at the University of California, all stress the theme of loss: loss of identity, loss of culture, loss of personal meaning. By juxtaposing traditional stories with contemporary tales, Allen allows readers to see how the same themes, values and perceptions have endured through the centuries, "testaments to cultural persistence, to a vision and a spiritual reality that will not die." Echoes of the traditional "Oshkikwe's Baby," about an old witch who steals babies, can be found in two stories. In Louise Erdrich's "American Horse," a white social worker separates a boy from his mother for his own "good," to the anguish of mother and son. In "As It Was in the Beginning," by E.

Pauline Johnson, a preacher takes a girl away from her family to attend a mission school; the tale is a powerful indictment of the hypocrisy of the "Christian" white culture in dealing with native Americans. The importance of storytelling in keeping the Pawnee culture alive is beautifully conveyed in Anna Lee Walter's "The Warriors," in which their alcoholic uncle teaches two sisters that they must struggle to find beauty in the midst of squalor and poverty--"For beauty is why we live," he says. Allen's somewhat patronizing attitude toward her non-Native audience--in her introduction and editorial notes--is sometimes intrusive, but should not detract from the poignant impact of these stories. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What distinguishes this collection of stories by contemporary Native American women is Allen's meticulous scholarship; in her fine analytical headnotes, she explains how writers like Silko, Erdrich, and Hogan draw images, characters, and themes from traditional stories. Arranged thematically ("The Warriors," The Casualties"), the text shows that Native Americans "write out of tribal traditions and into them" and that Native women writers are "strong, doubting, curious, inventive, frightened, brave, confused, and very contemporary human beings." A glossary and a typically trenchant introductory essay make Allen's latest work a treasure for scholars and general readers alike. Highly recommended.- Rhoda Carroll, Vermont Coll., MontpelierCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lots of great stories. Too bad the book is not in print; I'd use it for class.

I really enjoyed reading the short stories and was intrigued by the topics that was chosen for anthology. Each story had a meaning and often times they had sad endings. Very much worth the buy.

God-awful stories.

I had to buy this for school but it had some very interesting stories that helps put life into perspective

Amazing. Every story is unique and amazing. I have read it and re-read it.

Amazing book. Give a overview of some of America's great Native American writers and their story.

This one's a must-have for the mythology collection - native American myths as told by native American women (Spider Woman's granddaughters).

This is a great book. I am interested in reading about Indian women and how they survived during their hard and harsh winter months. Good reading.

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