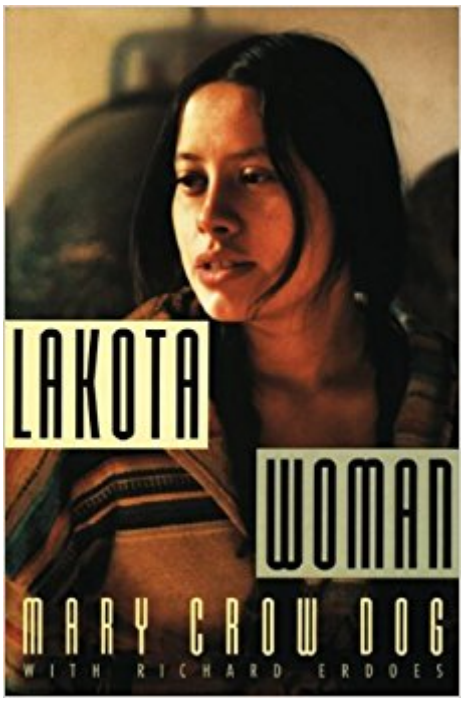
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Lakota Woman



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Synopsis

Mary Brave Bird grew up fatherless in a one-room cabin, without running water or electricity, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Rebelling against the aimless drinking, punishing missionary school, narrow strictures for women, and violence and hopeless of reservation life, she joined the new movement of tribal pride sweeping Native American communities in the sixties and seventies. Mary eventually married Leonard Crow Dog, the American Indian Movement's chief medicine man, who revived the sacred but outlawed Ghost Dance.Originally published in 1990, Lakota Woman was a national best seller and winner of the American Book Award. It is a unique document, unparalleled in American Indian literature, a story of death, of determination against all odds, of the cruelties perpetuated against American Indians, and of the Native American struggle for rights. Working with Richard Erdoes, one of the twentieth century's leading writers on Native American affairs, Brave Bird recounts her difficult upbringing and the path of her fascinating life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Brave Bird gave birth to a son during the 71-day siege of Wounded Knee in 1973, which ended with a bloody assault by U.S. marshalls and police. Seventeen years old at the time, she married fellow activist Leonard Crow Dog, medicine man and spiritual leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Written with Erdoes (Lame Deer ; Seeker of Visions), her searing autobiography is courageous, impassioned, poetic and inspirational. Her girlhood, a vicious circle of drinking and fighting, was marked by poverty, racism and a rape at 14. She ran away from a coldly impersonal

boarding school run by nuns where, she reports, Indian students were beaten to induce them to give up native customs and speech. The authors write of AIM's infiltration by FBI agents, of Mary Crow Dog helping her husband endure prison, of Indian males' macho attitudes. The book also describes AIM's renewal of spirituality as manifested in sweat lodges, peyote ceremonies, sacred songs and the Ghost Dance ritual. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mary Crow Dog narrates the story of her youth in this anguished account of growing up Indian in America. After participating in AIM (the new American Indian Movement), she joined the stand-off at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, where she gave birth to a [son]. Her marriage to Leonard Crow Dog, a medicine man who revived the sacred Ghost Dance, was a learning experience for her; she was assimilated into his family. Short, choppy sentences impart a sense that Mary Crow Dog is speaking directly to readers, and her story is startling in its intensity of feeling and its directness about the Indians' reliance on their heritage and religion. A unique account of a way of life unknown to most Americans, this pulls readers in and holds them. By no means a pretty account--the author is graphic in her accounts of drunkenness, lawlessness, killings, and drug use--the book is an important bridge to cultural understanding, and a volume that should be in every library. --Dorothy L. Addison, Woodlawn School, Fairfax County, VACopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mary I want to thank you for taking me back to 1970 my husband and I were stationed at ellsworthair base and I saw first hand how the so called towns folk treated the lakota nation,,,there was sucha struggle...and to read how brave you and your people were...IT upset me all over again to see thatsouth dakota was settled by the first americans the indian...my ancesters came from Italy and Ireland... I had a friend that was stationed with us Quintan LaGrande...one night he put his native clothes on and showed us briefly a dance his people did at the pow wows...i could see how such pride went into the sybolic feathers and animal hide and everything ...I have since gone to a pow wowand when I entered and heard and felt the beat of the drums and the singing I felt it was important and came from the earth ....bless you for your book

Truly I would like to give this book a 4.5. Just thinking about this account of Mary Crow Dog's life and experiences as a young "half-blood" Sioux girl/woman in South Dakota gives me gooseflesh. I never felt her account was out of hatred or anger for how her people have been treated by the

whites and our government - and even other tribe people. But she has given a true picture of the lives of 1000's of Native Americans in our country for centuries and their plights. This should be a required read for all students studying American history!

Deeply moving book. Makes the Indian story so sad and totally unnecessary. Am ashamed to be white. Unable to understand how our government could be so cruel and totally deceitful!! TheGovernment was never, ever trueful or even fair. Nothing was ever enough to steal from the Indian people. Nothing short of genicide. Totally disgusting behavior on the part of our government.....they nearly destroyed a brave people and their lifestyle. Difficult to read, so sad and unfair!!!

I really enjoyed reading about Mary's life. She describes her experiences of growing up on Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, going off to boarding school, joining The American Indian Movement, and becoming the wife of Lenord Crow Dog. Her life was very harsh and I don't think I could have handled half of what she went through but at least her life was full never boring. I will definetly be reading Ohitika Woman in the near future.

Lakota Woman was a powerful book showing how our Indian population is being so mistreated by our own government. I knew the Indians have been mistreated over the years. I never realized how the FBI was so biased against Indians who tried to stand up for their rights. The way they went after Indians who were trying to stand up for what they believed in made me sick to my stomach. They are the most persecuted people in this country.

A good read to know what it was like to be Native American in the 1970s and how Mary endured the hardship of growing up on the reservation, being shipped out to boarding school, life with AIMS, and being married to a spiritual leader. It was very interesting on the brutality she and other American Indians faced with the government and how she fought for civil rights through AIMS.

Superb description of the vanishing Lakota culture from a woman's point of view of the 1970s. The book pulls no punches describing Mary's journey through the confines of a physically impoverished life. Hints of alcohol abuse, neglect, identity confusion and racism are some of the things Mary endured . After reading the book, I conducted an internet search to find out what happened to her and read that she died in her late fifties of 'natural causes.' A worthy read filled with the prospective

of a simple woman.

Sit down and kick off your Adidas,Crocs, or Nike shoes and in this book you can stand then slip your feet gently into a Lakota’s moccasins and tip-toe quietly through their sacred dances and "choke up"over the abuse heaped upon the last of our ABORIGINES..Very well written. I wish I had a paper book for my library that the writer Mary Crow Dog could sign for me.A good read sister may you live many years.

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