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A Son Of The Forest" And Other Writings (Native Americans Of The Northeast)



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Synopsis

Designed especially for classroom use, this book brings together the best-known works of the nineteenth-century Indian writer William Apess, including the first extended autobiography by a Native American. The text is drawn from On Our Own Ground, which was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Book. Barry O'Connell has written a new introduction for this abbreviated edition.

Book Information

Series: Native Americans of the Northeast

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: University of Massachusetts Press; Abridged edition edition (October 29, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558491074

ISBN-13: 978-1558491076

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"Makes available in a superb scholarly edition not only the first published autobiography by a Native American (1829 originally), but also a range of historical, political, and personal writings. The anger in Apess's work, . . . always eloquent, serves a depth of analysis and a layered irony that make pressing claims on any catalog of what is finest and most significant in American literary history."Ã¢â ¬â ¢New York Times Book Review"The appearance of this volume brings to center state a writer of great importance and power, the first Native American to speak fully in his own words about the appalling racism of the early republic. . . . With the publication of this work, those who care about what passes for nineteenth-century American literature can never be the same."Ã¢â ¬â ¢New England Quarterly"A milestone in the evolution of American literary and historical scholarship. By bringing Apess's voice before the public, Barry O'Connell has both broadened our understanding of the literary canon and extended our definition of Native American

history....This book should be a part of any library of American letters."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Frederick E. Hoxie, Director, D’Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian, Newberry Library

Barry O’Connell is professor of English at Amherst College. He is editor of Our Own Ground: The Complete Writings of William Apess, a Pequot, which is part of the series Native Americans of the Northeast: History, Culture, and the Contemporary, published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Awesome read! I love reading about the tribes of the NewEngland area.

Great condition!

This was a required book for an undergrad class. The author is a great writer and the book was of decent quality.

"A Son of the Forest and Other Writings," by William Apess, is an important resource in United States history and literature. The book is edited by Barry O’Connell, who also provides an introduction. Apess (1798-1839), of the Pequot Indian people, was a pioneer Native American writer. In addition to his 1831 autobiography, "A Son of the Forest," this volume also contains "The Experiences of Five Christian Indians of the Pequot Tribe" (1832) and his "Eulogy on King Philip" (1836).Apess’ writing is dominated by his fervent evangelical Christianity, and also by his articulation of a Native American consciousness. "Son" is at times a very gripping autobiography. In it Apess writes about poverty, child abuse, alcoholism, ethnic identity and religious conversion: all topics that remain very relevant over the centuries. This volume contains, in addition to the primary texts, a useful bibliography and chronology. This book is an excellent choice both for the classroom and for the independent reader.

Four stars seem appropriate for an abridged edition of a work rating five stars for the complete version. For more detail, see my review of "On Our Own Ground" with the same date. The spectacle of Apess delivering his "Eulogy on King Philip" to the descendants of the Puritans who destroyed the Wampanoag leader should cause many Americans to rethink their image of our country’s history.

Interesting

This book does have some cultural/sociological worth, but if you buy it new, you've got gross emotional problems. Buy it used--as long as you can find a dependable seller, and it looks like there's a good one already up here, you'll be much happier for it. Trust me on this one--save the few dollars and the years of therapy.

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