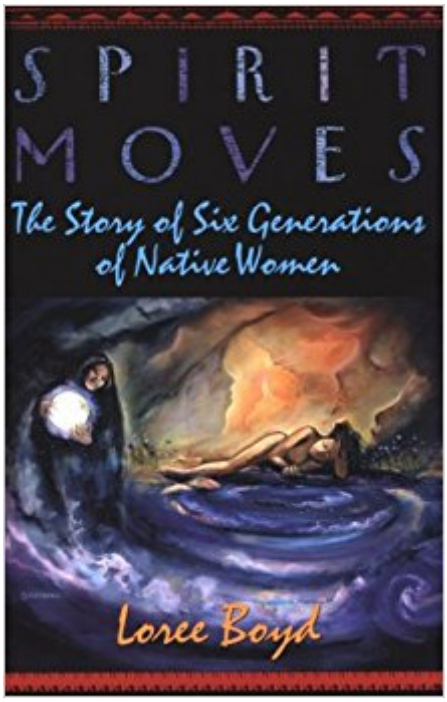
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Spirit Moves: The Story Of Six Generations Of Native Women



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Synopsis

The author recounts the struggles and spirituality of the women of her Native American family from the late nineteenth century until the present, showing how her great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother, Silversong, endured life on the frontier. Original. Tour. IP.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this autobiographical memoir, Boyd, a Cree/Blackfoot Metis American who works in the development and production of programming for television and film, comes to terms with her childhood by portraying six generations of her family. Her evocative stories about the lives of her great-grandmother, Margaret; her grandmother, Anne; and her mother, Silversong, are poetic and thought-provoking. "It would not be an overstatement to say I was often in awe of them," the author writes, "when I considered the courage, determination, and spirit that not only enabled them to survive . . . but to go that one step further." Boyd tells about prejudice against Native Americans, physical abuse, and the cultural destruction of her people. While researching this work, she discovered that both her grandmother and mother had sworn vows of silence to protect her. Her stories about the endurance of these women give readers a strong model of a family determined to survive. Recommended for women’s and Native American studies collections.?Vicki Leslie Toy Smith, Univ. of Nevada, RenoCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Six generations of Native American women are revealed in an intense chronicle which explores how

one family survived the transition from traditional to modern life-style. Beginning in 1886, this charts a family's recovery from an invasion by an abusive society. -- Midwest Book Review

This is quite, frankly, one of my favorite books in my collection. When my soul needs cleansing, I take this book out and read it. When I need to beleive in my ability to endure, I take this book out. When I need to celbrate life, I take this book out.Weaving together the stories of her matriarchal line, Loree summons up a primal spiritual fire of an insistence that will not be quenched. As she details scenes that are happy, then heart-rending, then breath-taking, she takes on an emoptional roller-coaster that makes you care about every single member of this incredible family. I cannoy say enough this book, or about the author's courage in writing it. That these women found the strength to not just survive, but flourish, delight in life and love, and reach out to others, makes this quite frnaly one of the most inspiring books I have ever read. The author right- the spirit does move, right under the surface of everyday life, and so many of us miss it. it is refreshing to read about a journey where the value of spirit is acknowledged.

This book is a clear work of literature where the reality of growing up Indian in 6 Generations is laid out before the world. It is a hard life but one where the women make a difference in the lives of their children and grandchildren. Their choices were often made for them until the past 2 generations. It is a powerful and moving story the should be read by all.

Spirit Moves is the compelling, heart-wrenching memoir of six native women, six generations, all survivors of genocide and brutal abuse. Set in Alberta, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, the stories of these six Cree/Blackfoot Metis Native American women unwind from the heart. The reader sees how the abuses the women suffered shaped their lives and the lives of their daughters. No one woman should suffer anything that these six suffered. No family should have to carry the burden of suffering Bird Song, Margaret, Anne, Silversong, Loree, and now Danaelle and Layla carry.There are those who would say that this family's suffering diminished over time, that each mother survived to give her daughters a better life, even when those daughters were not of their bodies. Does believing that really honor their hearts, their suffering, their journeys, or does it simply sweep all that rich story under a rug of comfortable tidiness? They were the lucky ones, the ones who didn't die from the beatings, who didn't starve to death while governments created restrictions after restriction in order to control the 'wild Indian'. They were the lucky ones who had to watch their family members die, pick up the pieces of shattered and flooded homes, shut the door, and start over

again. They survived disease and poisonings to emerge as artists, thinkers, and activists.Boyd has written a human memoir, one where the characters are neither perfectly good nor perfectly evil although the circumstances of each event could easily direct the narrative into those binaries. Spirit Moves is as much a love story as it is a memoir of witness, a story of hope as much as a chronicle of one family's history in times of great upheaval.

The story of Loree Boyd -- who I know is now the writer and mind/body/spirit interviewer Loree Hemachandra -- and the generations of women in her family is beautifully told, especially in its rendering of the life story of her grandmother, Anne. The book succeeds best when capturing the grand arc of the generational rainbow of all these women's lives, which at their best are infused with trust, faith, hope, and mystic blessings. The women's resilience in the face of, and struggles with, generations of abuse, narcissism, ignorance, and discrimination -- as well as their own failings born from living lives often deprived of kindness, quality education, and a broader societal perspective -- offer valuable lessons and wonderful inspiration for readers of all backgrounds.

I know the family and Silversong was a very dear friend of mine who I miss sorely. I am so glad her daughter Loree is carrying on the family traditions and story of her amazing mom and other generations!!!

I never thought I would ever find such a book that I would ever not put down..This book kept me involved like I never been involved before. I loved this book from beginning to end. Also the artwork from Ms. Boyd's mother Silversong is just breathtaking to me. I laughed and cried and cried some more. I have owned my copy for 3 years now. I also have read this book 4 times since I have owned it. This book is part of my favorite possessions and will cherish it forever. Also when my daughters are old enough I will read it to them or have them read it themselves for the simple fact is the strength, pain, love, and sense of woman and family in this book are just absolutely breathtaking. I really recommend this book to anyone with a heart and the heart of a woman...I like to thank Ms. Boyd for writing her family's story. I never will forget it and although this may not be my family story, I will pass this onto my girls and onto their girls so they can see that women can have the strength to go through anything and that love conquers all and that the SPIRIT MOVES through all of us.....

Loree Boyd has done more than merely written a great book. She has demonstrated the pride, strength and respect so characteristic of Metis/Native people in Canada. As a Metis/Ojibway person

myself, I found this story, based on Loree's family history, to be moving and inspirational. I laughed, I cried, and I smiled thoughout reading this book. Loree's personal story extends beyond the words of this book; touching the lives of many Metis and Native families throughout Canada. Knowing and recognizing the similarities of my own Metis/Native family history made reading "Spirit Moves" all the more bittersweat. This book should be read in every household in Canada- Metis, Native, and white! Mii-gwetch Loree for your courage, your pride and your story! In Spirit, James Fortier

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