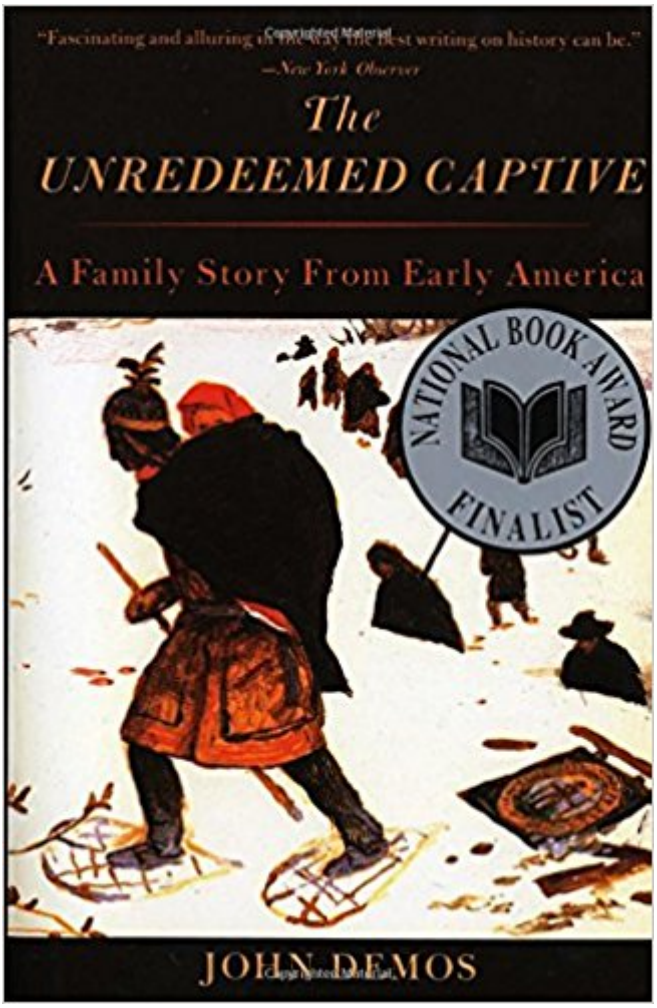
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The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story From Early America



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Synopsis

Nominated for the National Book Award and winner of the Francis Parkman Prize.The setting for this haunting and encyclopedically researched work of history is colonial Massachusetts, where English Puritans first endeavoured to "civilize" a "savage" native populace. There, in February 1704, a French and Indian war party descended on the village of Deerfield, abducting a Puritan minister and his children. Although John Williams was eventually released, his daughter horrified the family by staying with her captors and marrying a Mohawk husband.Out of this incident, The Bancroft Prize-winning historian John Devos has constructed a gripping narrative that opens a window into North America where English, French, and Native Americans faced one another across gilfs of culture and belief, and sometimes crossed over.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The armed conflicts of the 18th century between the English colonies in North America and the French settlements that stretched into Canada were fought with the support of Native American allies. Demos, a Yale history professor (Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England), draws on primary source material to provide a perceptive analysis of the cultural encounters that occurred between combatants by detailing the experiences of the John Williams family. Williams, a Puritan minister, and his family were captured in 1704 in their Massachusetts home by a group of Frenchmen and Native Americans, and forced to march to Canada. Although he and four of his children were later released, his wife died on the march and his daughter, Eunice, became a convert to Catholicism and married a Native American. Despite the ongoing attempts of

her father and brother to persuade Eunice to return to Massachusetts, she would agree only to brief visits and lived in a Native American settlement until her death at the age of 95. Illustrations not seen by PW. History Book Club main selection ; BOMC alternate . Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

From an obscure and isolated event, Demos (History/Yale), a Bancroft Prize-winning historian (Entertaining Satan, not reviewed) explodes the easy oppositions between Christian and savage, Indian and white, nature and civilization--oppositions on which the narrative of colonial American history has traditionally been built. In 1704, Mohawk Indians, converted to Catholicism by Jesuit missionaries, allied with the French settlers in Canada, attacked the frontier village of Deerfield, Massachusetts, killing 50 of the very young and old and kidnapping 112 more. They then marched the prisoners to Canada, killing 20 more women and several children along the way as acts of mercy, including the wife and infant son of John Williams, a Puritan minister and a prize hostage. While he and his surviving sons were ultimately released, his daughter, Eunice, who was seven at the time of her capture, remained with her captors, converted to Catholicism, and at the age of 16 married an Indian, with whose people she chose to spend the rest of her life. Among Demos's narrative achievements is his representation of the religious, cultural, political, economic, and psychological orientations that collided in this episode, the web of fears, justifications, and powers revealed in the process of encounter: the Puritan fear of the wilderness, the English fear of the French, the Jesuit missionary fever, the French-Canadian greed, the Indian interpretation of Christianity, and the arrogance with which Puritans interpreted a massacre as an expression of God's will, of redemption and resurrection. This thought-provoking study explores the multiple communities to which apparently simple people belonged and how their domestic lives were overtaken by political events. Fascinating, lively, and especially timely to an age struggling to understand the implications of its own cross-cultural encounters. -- Copyright Ã Â©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The book came in perfect shape.

Very helpful for my research. Insightful.

Demos gets us into the thoughts, as much as possible from the existing record, of Puritans, Indians, Catholics, and French, and helps us understand the larger picture of the frictions, battles,

suspicions, and enmities between these groups, and in doing do allows us a deeper complicated meaning of the settlement of the New World.

I had relatives who were either captured or killed at what became know as "The Deerfield Massacre." This book helped me understand the larger picture surrounding this event. It’s a very interesting read and I highly recommend it!!!

Seems to have been well-researched. It’s not an easy read, but well worth pursuing.

We tend to see the relationships between European settlers and the Native Americans is very stark terms, without ever considering the subtlety that must have been a fact of life for those who lived in that era. This book brings those relationships alive.

This is great history here, but probably had to be padded a bit to make a full book. Worth reading for cultural history buffs.

Extraordinary story. Should be required American history class reading.

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