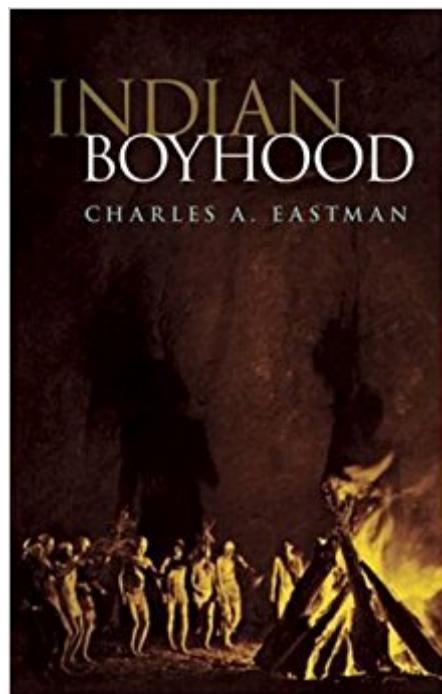


The book was found

Indian Boyhood (Native American)



Synopsis

Charles Eastman, or Hakadah, as his Sioux relatives and fellow tribesmen knew him, as a full-blooded Indian boy learned the reticent manners and stoical ways of patience and bravery expected of every young warrior in the 1870's and 1880's. The hunts, games, and ceremonies of his native tribe were all he knew of life until his father, who had spent time with the white man, came to find him. Indian Boyhood is Eastman's first-hand reminiscence of the life he led until he was fifteen with the nomadic Sioux. Left motherless at birth, he tells how his grandmother saved him from relatives who offered to care for him "until he died." It was that grandmother who sang him the traditional Indian lullabies which are meant to cultivate bravery in all male babies, who taught him not to cry at night (for fear of revealing the whereabouts of the Sioux camp to hostile tribes), and who first explained to him some of the skills he would need to survive as an adult in the wilds. Eastman remembers the uncle who taught him the skills of the hunt and the war-path, and how his day began at first light, when his uncle would startle him from sleep with a terrifying whoop, in response to which the young boy was expected to jump fully alert to his feet, and rush outside, bow in hand, returning the yell that had just awakened him. Yet all Indian life did not consist in training and discipline. In time of abundance and even in famine, Indian children had much time for sport and games of combat — races, lacrosse, and wrestling were all familiar to Eastman and his childhood friends. Here too are observations about Indian character, social custom, and morality. Eastman describes the traditional arrangements by which the tribe governed itself — its appointed police force, hunting and warrior scouts, and its tribal council, and how the tribe supported these officers with a kind of taxation. Eastman also includes family and tribal legends of adventure, bravery, and nature that he heard in the lodge of Smoky Day, the tribe historian. But Eastman's own memories of attacks by hostile tribes, flights from the white man's armies, and the dangers of the hunt rival the old legends in capturing a vision of life now long lost.

Book Information

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Paperback: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #64,985 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections #38 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Native American #372 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

At the beginning of Indian boyhood Eastman recalls the 1862 Sioux Uprising in Minnesota that sent his family into exile in Canada. He describes his childhood there, which ended when his father, who had been presumed dead, appeared to take him back to the United States.

About The Author Minnesota-born author Dr. Charles Eastman (1848-1939), also named "Ohiyesa", helped found the Boy Scouts of America. He is considered the first Native American to write American history from the Native point of view. He was a physician and authority on Sioux history and American Indian affairs. He founded 32 Native American chapters of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Books By The Same Author: Red Hunters and Animal People, legends, 1904. The Madness of Bald Eagle, legend; 1905. Old Indian Days, legends, 1907. Wigwam Evenings: Sioux Folk Tales Retold (co-author with his wife Ellen Goodale Eastman), legends; 1909. Smoky Day's Wigwam Evenings (co-written with Ellen Goodale Eastman), 1910. The Soul of the Indian: An Interpretation, 1911. Indian Child Life, non-fiction, 1913. Indian Scout Talks: A Guide for Scouts and Campfire Girls, nonfiction, 1914. (retitled Indian Scout Craft and Lore). The Indian Today: The Past and Future of the Red American, 1915. From the Deep Woods to Civilization: Chapters in the Autobiography of an Indian, autobiography; 1916. Indian Heroes and Great Chieftains, 1918

So...I'm enjoying this for the glimpse it gives into our history, when Ohio (!) was the "frontier." However, I am appalled at the attitude towards the American Indian. This is worth reading if only to show us why, as a people, we should be ashamed of ourselves! Alas, "Sic semper (ab) tyrranis" ("So always do tyrants act.") Because, man has certainly learned very few lessons from his past behavior.

primitive but informative.

After viewing the film "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" (the story of Charles Eastman) I became interested in his writings. This book is an easy read and gave me insight into the life of a young Santee Sioux boy. The writing style was a bit unusual and dated. It was evident to me that his wife (who was Anglo) edited the book in order to make it more acceptable to the white readers. Overall, I enjoyed the book very much.

fine book.

Perfect copy

I enjoyed reading this, helped me truly understand what life was like on the plains. I didn't want it to end....

great book interesting reading about American Indian way of life

Eastman speaks from his personal experience. He writes of the life he lived and loved. These days are gone and his voice offers a unique perspective on his generation.

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