



Sacajawea

By Joseph Bruchac

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Captured by her enemies, married to a foreigner, and a mother at age sixteen, Sacajawea lived a life of turmoil and change. Then in 1804, the mysterious young Shoshone woman known as Bird Woman met Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Acting as interpreter, peacemaker, and guide, Sacajawea bravely embarked on an epic journey that altered history forever. Hear her extraordinary story, told by Sacajawea and by William Clark, in alternating chapters and including parts of Clark's original diaries. •Authentic telling by an American Book Award winner and winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Native Writers Circle of The Americas •Includes a black-and-white map showing Lewis and Clark's trail •Told in the compelling voices of Sacajawea and William Clark—in alternating chapters—for two unique viewpoints •Sacajawea was commemorated in the year 2000 with a U.S. Treasury dollar coin bearing her likeness

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Sacajawea By Joseph Bruchac Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"We are to ascend the Missouri River with a boat as far as is navigable and then to go by land, to the western ocean, if nothing prevents."

With these words from one of the members of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery, the men embark on their fateful journey. Encountering danger, hardship, and excitement along the way, Lewis and Clark carry out their plan of attempting to bring peace to the various Indian nations while exploring the western part of the continents. One of the most important moments on this great expedition comes when they meet Sacajawea, a Shoshone woman who becomes translator, peacemaker, caretaker, and guide--and an invaluable member of the Corps.

Told in alternating points of view by Sacajawea and Clark, this historical novel will rivet every reader, history buff or not. Including excerpts from Clark's and Lewis's journals as well as traditional Shoshone tales, the often-humorous, always compelling story inspires, educates, and entertains. Joseph Bruchac has written more than 60 books for children and adults, and received many literary awards, including the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. (Ages 13 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

Bruchac's (The Arrow Over the Door) intimate novel about Lewis and Clark's epic Western exploration unfolds through the alternating voices of Sacajawea, their Shoshone interpreter, and Clark. Sacajawea's now-grown son, Pomp (Jean Baptiste Charbonneau), introduces the two narrators, explaining that Shoshone custom dictates that "one can tell only what they have seen"; since he was not yet born at the beginning of the adventure, he recounts the tale as it was told to him. Sacajawea's chapter follows, opening with a creation tale of the "great flood"--each of her chapters begins with either Shoshone tales or those of other tribes the crew encounters, and many function as cautionary fables; relevant journal entries introduce Clark's chapters. This framing device results in a few contrived references in the narrative (e.g., "The fur trade, Pomp, can make a brave man rich or cost him his life," says Clark), and the assumption that Pomp already knows the story occasionally diminishes the suspense. But Bruchac builds the alternating chapters chronologically and keeps the pace moving. Both narrators recount intriguing cultural nuances; for example, when a deserter from the expedition is recovered, the Otoes Indians plead the white man's case, arguing that it would be better to kill him than humiliate him with a public whipping. The greatest strength of the novel, however, is Sacajawea's voice, enhanced by the lyrical repetition of traditional storytelling ("It was the Moon when the Leaves Fall from the Cottonwoods," she recalls of the day she first sees Lewis and Clark). The author adheres closely to journals kept by members of the expedition, creating characters who are both lifelike and compelling, at a fascinating juncture in history. Ages 12-up. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up-This intelligent, elegantly written novel weaves Sacajawea's recollections of the Lewis and Clark expedition with those of William Clark, the American captain who developed a deeply spiritual bond with her and became a surrogate uncle to her son. Beyond recounting the thrills and hardships of the legendary two-year mission, the alternating first-person narratives show the respect that develops between the young "Bird Woman" and the Corps of Discovery. Sacajawea begins her chapters with excerpts from Native American folktale, providing insight into her religious and cultural upbringing and its impact on her

interpretation of events. Clark begins his with entries mostly from his journal, underscoring his keen awareness of the importance of the expedition and his desire to record even its most mundane details. Balancing the eyewitness accounts of these two people is not just a clever literary device. Clark's account is crucial to supplying information about Sacajawea that she herself cannot provide. Her narrative is devoid of self-praise and self-promotion; they would be unnatural impulses for a Shoshone female. So Bruchac uses Clark to chronicle Sacajawea's extraordinary bravery and endurance, and his voice repeats what she cannot even attempt to mention: that the mission would have been a certain failure without her. This is an engaging book to share with young adults, who will find it all the more fascinating to learn that Sacajawea was a teenager when she made history with Lewis and Clark.

William McLoughlin, Brookside School, Worthington, OH

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Prentice:

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular Sacajawea to read.

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Felicia Sharpton:

That book can make you to feel relax. That book Sacajawea was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Sacajawea has many kinds or type. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading that will.

Terrance Bartholomew:

As a pupil exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher questioned them to go to the library or make

summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart or real their pastime. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to generally there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Sacajawea can make you really feel more interested to read.

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