



Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes

From Brand: Knopf

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For the first time in the two hundred years since Lewis and Clark led their expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific, we hear the other side of the story—as we listen to nine descendants of the Indians whose homelands were traversed.

Among those who speak: Newspaper editor Mark Trahant writes of his childhood belief that he was descended from Clark and what his own research uncovers. Award-winning essayist and fiction writer Debra Magpie Earling describes the tribal ways that helped her nineteenth-century Salish ancestors survive, and that still work their magic today. Montana political figure Bill Yellowtail tells of the efficiency of Indian trade networks, explaining how axes that the expedition traded for food in the Mandan and Hidatsa villages of Kansas had already arrived in Nez Perce country by the time Lewis and Clark got there a few months and 1,000 miles later. Umatilla tribal leader Roberta Conner compares Lewis and Clark's journal entries about her people with what was actually going on, wittily questioning Clark's notion that the natives believed the white men "came from the clouds"—in other words, they were gods. Writer and artist N. Scott Momaday ends the book with a moving tribute to the "most difficult of journeys," calling it, in the truest sense, for both the men who entered the unknown and those who watched, "a vision quest," with the "visions gained being of profound consequence."

Some of the essays are based on family stories, some on tribal or American history, still others on the particular circumstances of a tribe today—but each reflects the expedition's impact through the prism of the author's own, or the tribe's, point of view.

Thoughtful, moving, provocative, *Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes* is an exploration of history—and a study of survival—that expands our knowledge of our country's first inhabitants. It also provides a fascinating and invaluable new perspective on the Lewis and Clark expedition itself and its place in the long history of our continent.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From perspectives as diverse as the tribes whose lands Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traversed, these nine essays offer an other-side-of-the-coin view of that historic 1803 mission. "What impact, good or bad, immediate or long-range, did the Indians experience from the Lewis and Clark expedition?" editors Josephy and Jaffe asked their contributors. The answers, fragmented and sometimes luminous, provide a kaleidoscopic vision of Native American opinions about the trip. Vine Deloria Jr., a member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in North Dakota, argues that "we often tend to clothe the accounts of Lewis and Clark in more heroic terms than they deserve." Pulitzer Prize-winning Kiowa N. Scott Momaday (*House Made of Dawn*) provides a creative evocation of historic "voices of encounter" which includes a section in the voice of Sacagawea. More prosaically, Bill Yellowtail, a Crow, sees Lewis and Clark as "envoys for free-trade agreements, long prior to NAFTA and CAFTA and the WTO." Several authors recall how the lore and history of Lewis and Clark were transmitted to them by older relatives. A popular historian and a respected scholar of Indian affairs, Josephy died in October 2005. *Main selection of the History Book Club. (Apr. 17)* Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—Native American viewpoints were rare among events celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark explorations. Yet during its trek from St. Louis to the Pacific coast (May 1804–December 1806) the Corps of Discovery made contact with many Indian nations, and the expedition's success was dependent on contributions from Native people, most famously Sacagawea. These nine finely crafted essays, all by distinguished Native American writers and scholars descended from those tribes, probe the roles of Indians in the Lewis and Clark experience from a variety of perspectives. Mark N. Trahant's *Who's Your Daddy?* recounts research into family lore claiming direct descent from William Clark, and in Frenchmen, Bears, and Sandbars, Vine Deloria, Jr. wittily redefines the historical significance of Lewis and Clark's achievement. Other contributors explore oral histories about the expedition, imagine the voices of Indians encountering Lewis and Clark, and explicate complex tribal legal, economic, and social systems and how they were affected by the expedition and its aftermath. This is an informative and moving collection, recommended for classroom and family discussions.—*Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA* Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

In the aftermath of the nationwide celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition comes this lucid reminder that few Indian voices were heard in all the festivities. Coverage of the Indian role in that journey and historical developments in its wake was most often conveyed solely from the white perspective. The nine essays gathered here, written by Native historians, authors, professors, and tribal executives, address the impact of the expedition on the Indians Lewis and Clark encountered and the Natives' descendants. Educator Bill Yellowtail discusses "the steady erosion of Indians' economic autonomy." Tribal leader Roberta Conner takes a humorous yet caustic approach, noting that her tribe's homeland was "neither an unoccupied frontier nor a wilderness" when Lewis and Clark arrived. Indian societies possessed philosophy, laws, order, and religion, none of which were ever mentioned in Clark's paternalistic journals, which she quotes extensively. "Our people have always been here," she concludes, and "we intend to be here forever," a sentiment that succinctly encapsulates this unique and provocative collection. *Deborah Donovan* Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Gibson:

The book Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the best thing like a book Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes? Some of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim this book can give many data for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you may give for each other; you may share all of these. Book Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes has simple shape however you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Ellis Cook:

The knowledge that you get from Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes giving you joy feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes instantly.

Nicholas Schindler:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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