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Mankiller: A Chief And Her People



Synopsis

In this spiritual, moving autobiography, Wilma Mankiller, former Chief of the Cherokee Nation and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, tells of her own history while also honoring and recounting the history of the Cherokees. Mankiller's life unfolds against the backdrop of the dawning of the American Indian civil rights struggle, and her book becomes a quest to reclaim and preserve the great Native American values that form the foundation of our nation. Now featuring a new Afterword to the 2000 paperback reissue, this edition of Mankiller completely updates the author's private and public life after 1994 and explores the recent political struggles of the Cherokee Nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since 1985 Wilma Mankiller has been Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, the first woman to hold this post in a major tribe. Her work in rural development, especially the Bell Project in Oklahoma, has received national acclaim. *With Wallis (Route 66)*, Mankiller recounts the tragic history of the Cherokees and her own personal struggles. In the 1950s, her family moved from rural Oklahoma to San Francisco in a government relocation project. It was a traumatic change for the 11-year-old and her 10 brothers and sisters and brought her face-to-face with racism and poverty. The 1969 Indian occupation of Alcatraz, which she supported strongly and participated in to a slight degree, proved a turning point in Mankiller's life. She became an activist in Indian affairs, eventually leaving her husband and returning with her two daughters to her old home. Surviving a debilitating automobile accident and a kidney transplant, she continues to lead her people. In this inspiring

story, Mankiller offers herself as a valuable role model--for women as well as Native Americans. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Written jointly with Wallis (*Pretty Boy: The Life and Times of Charles Arthur Floyd* , LJ 3/1/92, among others), this book is an adroitly fashioned dual story of Chief Mankiller's life and a compact history of crucial and poignant episodes in Cherokee history. This contemporary account of the first woman principal chief of the Cherokee Nation describes the development of a modern-day leader. A tale of personal triumphs and tragedies, it begins with a childhood spent on an allotment farm in Mankiller Flats, Oklahoma, and moves through teenage years in the 1960s as an "urban Indian," a near brush with death, and a life of solid accomplishment in service and tribal leadership rooted in Cherokee culture. As more Native American women are celebrated, it is hoped that many high-quality books like this one will appear. Shelve it next to Gretchen M. Bataille's *Native American Women* (Garland, 1993). Enthusiastically recommended. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 7/93.- Margaret W. Norton, *Montay Coll.*, Chicago Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A great autobiography of a powerful Native American woman. I purchased this for a college class on Native American history and thoroughly enjoyed it. Mankiller weaves Cherokee past with Cherokee present, showing how the Cherokee Nation is ever dynamic while remembering its roots.

Very good book!

This autobiography is a MUST read!!! An eye opening history of the Native Americans who were far more resilient than seems imaginable! Thank you, Wilma Mankiller, for heightening my already sensitive curiousness about this country's indigenous people!

I was somewhat aware of Wilma Mankiller prior to reading this book but I had no idea of the journey she had traveled in her life. This story is not only a tale of the many twists and turns in her life, but also a great introduction to the Cherokee people and the struggles that they endure. Wilma Mankiller is not one who will be remembered in history outside of her tribal circles, but her story is an important one.

I am part Cherokee and have always been proud of it. I never knew of this book however and really enjoyed reading it. I was especially interested to find out how Wilma's and my paths crossed many times. I have a cousin that researched our Cherokee history and published 5 volumes about the family. Such a brave lady of whom we can all be thankful for.

Wonderful book. Had only heard of her when she was alive, but didn't actually read of her until now, long after her parting. What a great woman.

This is an excellent book on a strong Native American woman. It is also a good insight into the Native American life in contemporary times.

Great book by a great female author and leader

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