



Ki'ti's Story, 75,000 BC

Bonnye Matthews

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After examining questions of when people came to the Americas, who came, and from where did they come, I found the major issue in archaeology/anthropology: Clovis First or Pre-Clovis? A five year span of research still hasn't answered the questions, but there is much room for speculation. At the same time I encountered the recent DNA research on Neanderthals. I chose to use fiction as a vehicle to speculate on an early peopling of the Americas and the Winds of Change series was born.

In February 2013 the Smithsonian Magazine issued an article pushing back the date of the peopling of the Americas, doubling the Clovis First date, and suggesting that peopling occurred via small boats.

May 2, 2013, Ki'ti's Story, 75,000 BC, a coming of age story of the People's Wise One, was awarded First Place for Fiction by the Alaska Professional Communicators. The award explanation reads in part: "This book is worthy of first place award for many reasons beyond its ambitious scope and size. The work is highly imagined and even inspired beyond imaginings. This speaks of courage. Although primitive life is presented in real time, we don't lose our sense of historical connection." Judge was Grace Cavalieri, writer/producer: "The Poet and the Poem from the Library of Congress."

In June 2013, Manak-na's Story, 75,000 BC will launch and with it the travel from what is now China to Mexico and return will take place.

Ki'ti's Story, 75,000 BC Details

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From Reader Review Ki'ti's Story, 75,000 BC for online ebook

Robert says

One of my free books from the giveaway section. Excellent mix of fiction and non-fiction of a group of Neanderthals living in China. Similar to "Clan of the Cave Bear" but with better research. Can't wait for the next book in the series.

Melanie says

Really enjoyed this book. Maybe not very realistic, but the author obviously did her research. It kept my attention and I couldn't wait to read the second volume.

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmetic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here.

I rated this novel WARTY!

This is a Clan of the Cave Bear kind of a story, about primitive people in prehistory, based almost entirely on speculation. It sounded interesting initially, although I've actually never read any such stories before, but unfortunately I started having grave doubts about it right from page one (or in this case, page nine). The writing was awful, and offered nothing to hold my interest. Worse than this, nothing noteworthy happened in the entire first chapter, which I had to struggle to finish. The dialog was just ridiculous.

As I indicated, the page numbering is non-standard in this novel, with the cover actually being labeled as page one, so the novel itself doesn't begin until page nine, and the first ten pages or so consists of a huge info-dump with character after character not so much introduced as listed. It was way too much. There was no reason to get interested in any character because I had no chance to get to know them before the next character in line - quite literally in this case - was dumped on me.

This info-dump relates that the tribe, known as the People, was migrating from the threat of an erupting volcano towards a large cave where they figured they would be safe. The author seems unduly obsessed with describing every single person's hair. I have no idea why, because it contributed nothing to the story. The only real point of interest is that one of the tribe members (not Ki'ti) is a girl who looks unlike the others. Clearly the tribe is supposed to be Neanderthal, whereas she's supposedly Cro-Magnon, but how she came to be with them isn't explored at that point. Nor is there any explanation offered as to why the Neanderthals are apparently peopling the US, when no Neanderthal fossils have ever been found in the Americas! Or maybe that's not the case. As I said, I quit after the first chapter because I couldn't stand to read any more of this.

The biggest problem was the language used, particularly in dialog. It's completely modern, with no attempt to try and evoke prehistory. While I appreciate an approach which doesn't involve people burbling words

like "Ugh", or speaking pigeon English, I also felt a loss of credibility when reading of Neanderthals chatting like two business people on the subway. For example, at one point (p19), one of the characters says, "I worry about our long-term survival" which just seemed downright weird to me.

The sentences employed too many modern terms, and seemed way too wordy and way too sophisticated for 75,000 or so years ago. This seemed particularly absurd given that these same people had no words for numbers, being forced to show one or more fingers to indicate quantities. I didn't get the rationale behind that at all because there seemed to be none. You can't have these people presented as having this level of sophistication, yet remaining beyond primitive in such a crucial matter as enumeration.

In the introduction, which I wouldn't normally read, but which I did on this occasion, there appears the phrase: "...hundreds of thousands of geologic years...." This makes no sense! A year is a year. It isn't any longer in geology than it is in every day life. Neither did this term make any sense: "...digit of his forefinger..." Your forefinger is a digit. I think what the author meant was something like "to the depth of the first knuckle of his forefinger" so it didn't help my confidence in this novel to be hit with so many issues in so few pages.

The basic story is that of the peopling of the Americas, and this is intended to be a series (the second volume is already out). The author's premise is that this took place not by the recognized route of a northern land bridge opening up between Russia and the USA as the ocean levels dipped during an ice age, but by some other means and at a much earlier date. There's little undisputed supportive evidence for this. The best understanding - although it is disputed by some - is that the Clovis people were the first colonizers, and indeed, 80% of native Americans are descended from the Clovis people. The rest are a mixture of later immigrants, so 75,000BC as a time of colonization isn't looking good right now!

But the bottom line is that the story was beyond boring, the dialog was sorry, and the events non-eventful. I struggled even to finish chapter one and I cannot in good conscience recommend this novel.

Katarina says

this book is ok....unfortunately no better than ok.

I was very excited to read the book, because I love the Clan of the Cave Bear series and similar books. Even though this book is not that long, it seemed very repetitive in parts and reading dragged. Usually I would read a 350 page book in an afternoon, but this one took me several days.

parts were interesting, others were too cliché and too similar to modern society and mores.

Mary Ann says

Very much enjoyed it. Bought copy of second novel from Author at museum book fair at Anchorage museum in winter of 2014.

Amanda says

This was an interesting read. The book started a bit slow, and I would also encourage those who have an anthropology/archaeology background to be the audience, as it seemed to be of more interest to those of us with that background. I did enjoy the story.

Donna says

Ki'ti's Story, 75,000 BC

Book One of Winds of Change, a Prehistoric Fiction Series on the Peopling of the Americas

by Bonnye Matthews, 2012

As the world was changing, and man developing into who we are today, comes Kiti's story of growing up during these tumultuous times.

An erupting volcano causes a tribe of people to move - in fear for their very lives. The Wise One - Wamumur, is the spiritual leader of the group, and responsible for guiding his people away from the danger. 7 year old Ki'ti is showing herself to be a special child, one that Wamumur will teach and guide to take over the Wise One position when Wamumur dies.

The world is quickly changing, and with time, Ki'ti's people will encounter Others and have to decide if they are friends or foe.

Ki'ti's story is a fantastic, absorbing read that I found difficult to put down and was actually sad when the book/journey ended.

Undoubtedly, Ki'ti's Story, 75,0000 BC will become a best seller!!

John says

Could have happened

Bonney Matthews did a wonderful job in describing what life may have been like in prehistoric times. An interesting read.

Pam says

Bought the book at our local Fred Meyers from the author. Waiting for the next book. Just found out the second book is out..Got it, excited to read it.
