



Jaguar Woman

Lynn V. Andrews

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Lynn V. Andrews takes the reader with her as she goes on inward journeys with the help of the Sisterhood of the Shields, and relates the stories of others.

Join her as she is initiated into the Sisterhood and creates her own shield, which will show her the nature of her spiritual path (*Spirit Woman*). Follow her to the Yucatan, where the medicine wheel leads her, and she is faced with the terrifying reality of the butterfly tree (*Jaguar Woman*). Enter the Dreamtime with her, where she emerges in medieval England as Catherine, and encounters the Grandmother, who offers to show Andrews how to make her life one of goodness, power, adventure, and love (*The Woman of Wyrrd*).

Not all these stories describe the author's own spiritual experiences. Meet Sin Coraz?n, an initiate into the Sisterhood, whose husband abandons her. She nearly succumbs to her inner dark power and unleashes her rage on men and the Sisterhood (*Dark Sister*). Andrews also writes about the elder women of the Sisterhood: their loves, their lives, their losses (*Tree of Dreams*).

Andrews shows us how to channel our own spiritual and intellectual energy and balance the need for love with the desire for power (*Love and Power*). She takes the reader on numerous spiritual journeys that inevitably uplift.

Jaguar Woman Details

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Author : Lynn V. Andrews

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From Reader Review Jaguar Woman for online ebook

Rosemary Bloom says

I was given this book by a friend whom I share spirituality with. I started reading it and thought to myself... what? Is this really true? Look up on the Internet, and lo and behold, we have ourselves a Castaneda-type - only this one's worse. This is a white lady from Beverly Hills purporting to say that she has been an apprentice to Native American shamans, and has been the first and only white person ever let into their secret global Sisterhood of the Shields.

There are many things wrong with this book. One, WHY are all of these native Mayan women conducting their ceremonies in English. I am sure some speak English, but if you go to the jungles of the Yucatan, people there are going to speak Mayan (which is actually not one language, but many!) and/or Spanish. All of their ceremonies seem to be centered around her, around teaching her this ancient wisdom, and all while receiving this knowledge she's actually kind of a brat. She says that she can't handle any more ceremonies, she's tired, she doesn't know. They impart this knowledge on her because she is 'chosen' or something, but she never really offers any wisdom herself, nor shows any promise that I would think shamans would look in an apprentice. She is simply eager to learn.

The ceremonies described here are like a supernatural sorority hazing gone wrong. She is attacked by women in scary costumes, one screaming to her - *"Cut off your hand. Cut off your foot. Tie you to the floor. Stake you to the tree. You will never leave me."* while brandishing a skull in one hand and a black stone knife in the other. Did I mention she arrived at this ritual blindfolded? Um, hello? Afterwards, she runs for her life and comes to her teachers, who say she passed the test. Really? You passed a shaman's test by running for your life after an indigenous Mayan woman screamed at you and threatened you in English?

Lynn Andrews is an embarrassment to Native culture and spirituality. She has written works of fiction and profited off their being true stories, and thus spends her time 'writing, lecturing and teaching on the Medicine Way' (read: charging \$400 for seminars and doing autograph signings); cashing in on traditions of an oppressed people, traditions she has distorted and stretched to make for good reading.

Not to trash on Lynn as a person, but she also has definitely gotten some major plastic surgery. I just simply cannot believe that a woman who was the apprentice of Goddess worship, women's spirituality, women's mysteries and honoring of women would deform herself in her old age. What do her 'teachers' think of her plastic surgery? What would Itzpopolotl (a Goddess she is given a figurine of) think? A woman has cycles in life, and a true spiritual women would honor those instead of paying thousands of dollars to halt them.

That being said, if you read this as a work of fiction, it is a wonderful book. Well written, gripping, and a real page-turner. If I come across them at used book stores or in a library, I would probably read her other books, not to gain knowledge or insight (all of the wisdom imparted in these books can be found in any basic text on Buddhism, Goddess worship, and/or from a REAL Native American shaman), but to read a suspenseful story. As fiction, I give this 3.5 stars. As 'nonfiction,' I would give it zero if I could.

Betsey says

I read this book during college as part of a seminar, "creating otherness: the making of cultural anti-selves."

snooty title, but fascinating. I discovered that every.single.one of Lynn Andrews' books are about her divorce - boys drool, girls rule. Hilarious, if it didn't sell so well to 50 year old divorcee's in Santa Barbara...

Deena says

I'm really embarrassed that I read this. I think it's really brave of me to admit it publicly.

Rachael says

Cool book about a shaman and a shaman in training. Most characters in these books are women. Need to read Medicine woman next although it came first in the trilogy. Still need to find out what the third book is called.

J Oga says

I've seen some mean reviews about this book questioning the color and status of the author. To me doesn't really matter if is a fiction or true history, but the metaphorical lessons about recognizing your inner strength. Love it!

Shanda says

Weird and a bit slow going.

Weam Namou says

What I loved the most about this book is learning about the different energies that people have: Rainbow Mother Energy and Great Nurturing Mother Energy. The wisdom that Lynn's Native American teachers pass on is invaluable.

P N says

If you treat this as a novel it is an entertaining read. But anyone who has seriously studied Shamanism and various native cultures will quickly see through the author's claims about her "true" experiences. I won't waste my time reading any more of her books.

Irene Vincent says

I enjoyed her whole series of books and couldn't wait for them to be published.

Misha Hoo says

I read this book for the first time in 1995 when I was new to shamanism and although I was guided to actually seeing the Sisterhood of the Shields in my visioning, I didn't really understand it all. About ten years later I came across the book again at a second hand market in Amsterdam and read it with new eyes...

Jaguar Woman and the Wisdom of the Butterfly Tree is a gripping tale of adventure and initiation which takes the reader deeper and deeper into the shamanic world of altered realities. Lynn V Andrews expertly overlays story upon story so that you find yourself deeply imbedded in the layers of the shamanic dreamtime.

She describes her experiences in a very personal way, often admitting to her own faults and weaknesses and describes what she has learned from her journeys. This is a book which needs to be read from the perspective of personal experience; it is certainly not a 'how to' guide on shamanism nor necessarily a path for others to follow.

There has been a lot of conjecture about how much of her story is 'real', whether any of the encounters described in the book 'actually happened' or whether Lynn V Andrews ever met any 'real' indigenous shaman which, to those who understand shamanism, is hardly the point.

In his book The Way of the Shaman Michael Harner (an anthropologist who really did study with real indigenous shaman) clearly explains that those who know shamanism don't value the outer world and experiences which happen there any more than the inner world of visions. Neither do those who live in shamanic culture differentiate when telling stories whether an experience happened in the outer or inner worlds, since to them it is quite obvious that if for example, a mouse shape-shifted into a bird, it happened in the inner realms.

'Real' and 'not real', 'fact' or 'fiction' are western concepts which hold little value in the shamanic culture, where worlds overlay worlds and each is dreamed into being.

Read with an open mind and a love for all things mysterious, this book is a great adventure!

Shaktima Brien says

All Lynn V. Andrews's books are fantastic.

Yvonne says

Another book I enjoyed back in the 90s.

Bekah says

my fave:)

etherealfire says

"Words are a sacred tool and must be honored as such. When used carefully, words have magical healing properties. When used to judge, to hate, or to separate, words are deadly. The words you will be using in this workbook are your basic tools for healing on this journey. Treat them with respect. Honor your words." ~ Lynn V. Andrews

Books completed:

- Medicine Woman, 1981
- Jaguar Woman and the Wisdom of the Butterfly Tree, 1985
- Star Woman, 1986
- Crystal Woman, 1987
- Windhorse Woman, 1989
- The Woman of Wyrrd, 1990
- Shakkai, 1992
- Woman at the Edge of Two Worlds, 1993

Loved the books - every one of them. Treat them as mythology or as absolute truth. It makes no difference, the larger truth is as real to me as the Cosmic Christ. And to me, that is real! Beautifully written, loved her relationships with her spiritual teachers. For me, these books were real medicine, true spiritual healing.

Becca says

I read about a third of this and then it was due at the library and I didn't pick it up again until months later. I've missed how much of a journey this woman's writing is. The whole book feels like a trip, and it teaches so much through Lynn's lessons with her teachers. It's also just really beautifully written, well-structured, and entertaining. My third book by Lynn Andrews.
