



Dream Catchers: Legend, Lore and Artifacts

Cath Oberholtzer

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An investigation into the symbol of Native heritage.

In Ojibwe (or Chippewa in the United States) culture a dream catcher is a hand-crafted willow hoop with woven netting that is decorated with sacred and personal items such as feathers and beads. The Native American tradition of making dream catchers--hoops hung by the Ojibwe on their children's cradleboards to "catch" bad dreams--is rich in history and tradition.

Although the exact genesis of this intriguing artifact is unknown, legend has it that a medicine woman forms a circle from a willow branch and, with sinew, borrows the pattern from a spider, weaves a web, and hangs it over the bed of a sick child who recovers by morning. In some versions dream catchers catch good dreams and let bad ones through, while others catch bad dreams and let good dreams through. This legend accompanies dream catchers offered for sale across North America and beyond.

These themes, among others, are carried throughout this book which explores the appropriation of dream catchers by Native Americans of different nations, as well as the New Age movement. Dream Catchers also discusses the blending of two religious philosophies whereby Native and Christian icons are mixed.

More than 40 color photographs feature contemporary dream catchers and artifacts with informative captions that identify and comment on the different patterns, their significance and history. Dream Catchers features the work of Native artist Nick Huard who creates dream catchers in his studio in Kahnawake outside of Montreal.

Dream Catchers: Legend, Lore and Artifacts Details

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From Reader Review Dream Catchers: Legend, Lore and Artifacts for online ebook

Fredrick Danysh says

Dream catchers play a role in many Native American cultures. The author exams their history and usage in various cultures and provides many photos of examples. This is an interesting read about Native Americans.

Rachel-Ann says

I received this book from a goodreads giveaway.

Overall, I thought this was a great book, especially for those who might not know a lot about dreamcatchers. The content was very well researched, and the beautiful dreamcatchers featured in the book were amazing and eye catching. This is certainly a very beautiful book, inside in out. My only complaint is that it can sometimes feel a tad dry, but not overly. Definitely worth a read if you are interested in the subject matter.

Theresa says

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by Cath Oberholtzer

beautiful descriptions and stories.. the art work and meaning of the assemblages of dream catchers by artists and tribal members

Christine says

I won a copy of this book through Goodreads and can hardly wait to read it. Review to follow.

Ali AlGarawi says

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Darcee Kraus says

I am now totally enlightened of Native American art, a bit of their culture and the hideous truth of dreamcatcher manufacturing. A wonderful book with stunning pictures of real pieces by an interesting Native artist.

Sussu Leclerc says

Very interesting book, but also very academic.
