



## Sacajawea

*Anna Lee Waldo*

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Clad in a doeskin, alone and unafraid, she stood straight and proud before the onrushing Forces of America's destiny: Sacajawea, child of a Shoshoni chief, lone woman on Lewis and Clark's historic trek-beautiful spear of a dying nation.

She knew many men, walked many miles. From the whispering prairies, across the Great Divide to the crystal-capped Rockies and on to the emerald promise of the Pacific Northwest, her story overflows with emotion and action ripped from the bursting fabric of a raw new land.

Ten years in the writing, SACAJAWEA unfolds an immense canvas of people and events, and captures the eternal longings of a woman who always yearned for one great passion-and always it lay beyond the next mountain.

## **Sacajawea Details**

Date : Published July 1st 1984 by Avon (first published 1978)

ISBN : 9780380842933

Author : Anna Lee Waldo

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## **From Reader Review Sacajawea for online ebook**

### **John Clements says**

If you're up to reading this book get settled in and just accept that you're about to begin a very fruitful journey. Thoroughly researched and annotated, Waldo's SACAJAWEA is a historical epic worthy of being studied in high school history classes. But don't let that color your expectations, because this novel is also a sweeping tableaux of emotions and humanity.

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### **Jessica Vasquez says**

I read this book when I was in 4th and 5th grade. I realize this book was written for adults, but I was obsessed with learning more about Sacajawea at that age. My dad said it would be okay for me to read it, so I did. It took me close to a year to complete the whole thing--but I eventually wrote a 5th grade book report on it when we were assigned to read a historical fiction piece. My teacher rewarded us with a piece of licorice for every 40 pages we read. As you can imagine, with a book over 1000 pages--I got a lot of licorice. Needless to say, I was VERY popular with my 5th grade classroom the day I delivered my book report.

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### **Patricia says**

Definitely worth reading, I enjoyed every single page.<https://www.goodreads.com/review/list...#>

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### **Diane Nielson says**

Simply put, this is the most amazing story I know and the book is incredibly written. I read this very long book about 14 years ago, and I remember my mother reading it about 10 years prior to that. I still have the actual book that she and I read. It's very special to me, not just for the connection to my mother, but because the story of Sacajawea is so well depicted within its covers. I remember laughing on one page, then sobbing to the point of having to put the book down on the next. It's depressing, enlightening, romantic, devastating, heart-warming. It's real.

I can't wait to read it again and pass it down to my daughter.

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### **Sue says**

This is my favorite book of all time. It's the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from Sacajawea's point of view. Historically there are two theories about what happened to her after the expedition. One claims she died several years later, the other says she lived to a ripe old age and died in the late 1800s. This story takes the second claim and imagines what her life would have been. Excellent read for any historical fiction fan.

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### **Mary says**

Amazing read! I am sorry to leave it but happy to have visited. Excellent.

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### **L. (Super Easy. Barely An Inconvenience.) says**

I guess it isn't technically fair that I rate this book as I didn't finish it. I didn't even get to the part where Sacajawea joins Lewis and Clark, which was the whole reason I wanted to read this book in the first place. But I simply couldn't get caught up in the story as Anna Lee Waldo wrote it. I never found myself really caring for Sacajawea or what was happening to her. I'm still on the look out for a good book about this woman, but this thick novel is not it.

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### **Brenda Vanwormer says**

1328pages and i was suddenly all alone when i finished this book. I've read it twice and i intend to again. Wonderful book.

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### **Karina says**

I realize I never wrote a review for this book and it deserves such high praise. Waldo studied Sacajawea's (Shoshone Tribe) life for so long and did such a great job. It is easily in my top 10 books. It was long, 1000 pages, so I wasn't sure if I could handle it but I'm so glad I tried. I couldn't get enough of her life and how brave she was. Pocahontas has nothing on her!

The book is basically about her 8,000 mile journey with the Lewis and Clark expedition as an interpreter of Indian languages. This was a journey that shouldn't have happened bc 1. She was a woman 2. She had just finished giving birth to a baby boy. She marries a horrible Canadian-French man, Toussaint Charbonneau, that mistreats and belittles her but she perseveres and becomes a wonderful, smart historical figure all before feminism was a "thing."

I wish historians knew what became of her later life and when and how she died or even what became of her son, Jean "Pomp" Baptiste, but that will always be a mystery.

Highly recommend if you are into Native American subject matter.

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### **J says**

I think too many of my reviews start with "I love this...", but seriously, I read this in Jr High and I LOVED IT! Actually, I remember loving about 3/4s of the 1300 or so pages. The author offers a few hundred pages

of an alternate ending that kind of messed with my mind as I had been sucked in, and believed every word...then my trust in the author was whisked away as she said, "Or, it could have happened this way...". Still, the book is a remarkable feat of historical biography with enough conjecture to consider it historical probably, mostly true fiction.

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### **Jennifer says**

I read this book for the first time probably about 7 years ago and then reread it again about a year later. It is a fantastic book. Growing up you hear the story of Sacajawea in school but this book really puts a face to the legend. You really see things through her eyes and see what a hard journey it was. I would definitely recommend this book. Be sure to allow some time to finish it as it is over 1400 pages long -- but well worth the read.

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### **Kathryn Bashaar says**

I read this book 30 years ago and loved it. So, when I saw it was the May choice of the Historical Fictionistas, I was excited to re-read it. I didn't like it as much on the re-reading. I'm disappointed to discover that, along with everyone else in the world, my attention span has been eroded by the internet and a long, detailed book is hard for me. Also, I think this book has a Mississippi delta of a plot: meandering, sprawling and muddy. The first half, describing the L&C Expedition, is pretty tight, but the second half is all over the place. It felt like Waldo couldn't bear to leave out one little bit of her historic research, so she places Sacajawea, Forrest-Gump-like, in the middle of pretty much every single thing that happened in the American West between 1803 and 1875. Instead of good dramatic scenes, there's way too much "then this happened then this happened then this happened" exposition. But I stuck with it, and there were some things that I still like about this book. I liked the vivid detail about Native American life. I was in Chicago at a conference for a few days while I was reading it and ate a \$154 dinner and couldn't help thinking how excessive that was - when less than 200 years ago the majority of the residents of the Midwest were near starvation every winter. And I love the character of Sacajawea, so worthy and dignified even in the most difficult circumstances - and, in her old age, so wise.

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### **Colleen says**

I really, really liked it. More like 4.5 stars, but it was long, and not a quick read for me. Really well done. Fascinating research and history.

Also, I remember my grandmother having this book in her apartment as well, back in the 1980's, so it has sentimental value also!

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## **Holly says**

I couldn't take myself away from this book. Again, I sat with my laptop looking for more pictures, maps, timelines, letters, anything I could find. This novel was an excellent bridge for me to pull together the country's infancy, westward expansion, the Mexican-American War, and the Trail of Tears. Although I have been to much of the area covered by the Lewis and Clark expedition, I would like to revisit now that I have the images described in this book to consider.

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## **Melissa says**

This book is not for the faint of heart or those who want a quick read. At 1328 pages for just the story and an additional 61 pages of notes this is a titan of a read. But every page is well worth it.

It starts out when Sacajawea is a young girl and covers her capture and enslavement by the Mandan tribe. While with the Mandans she is subjected to rape at around age 11 (the book makes it somewhat hard to pinpoint her age at times), learns the art of glass making, and then is eventually sold off to another tribe. This tribe is a lot kinder to her and she has a few easy years until she is lost in a wager to her future husband (the perverted Toussaint Charbonneau).

We next see Sacajawea pregnant with her first child (John Baptiste also known as Pomp) when she attracts the attention of Lewis and Clark. As her man Charbonneau is to be an interpreter for the expedition, her wit and intelligence cause Clark to ask for her to come along as well. He also reasons that a party traveling with a woman and baby will not look like a war party.

Regarding her travels with Lewis and Clark, while the travel west was covered extensively, the return was not given as much detail. Upon their journey they meet several local Indian tribes and the author seems to really hone in that all these people are fond of the native salmon, rotting or fresh, and the character's disdain for the meal. In all, I expected this to be a large part of the book when in reality it was only 300-400 pages worth of the book. While the rest of her life was definitely worth writing about, it seems like the author could have spent more time on this subject as it is one of the more well known parts of her life. The return back east lasted only a couple of chapters and didn't seem to give as much depth as everything else.

Upon her return from the expedition they settle peacefully in St Louis where Clark's wife teaches her to sew and embroider and they have no worry of starving in the lean winter months (something that is shown quite prevalently in other parts of the books when she is with her native Indian tribes).

One day, when the beatings from Charbonneau finally push her to the breaking point, she packs up her belongings and leaves and her ten year old son Baptiste stays with his father. She is taken in by a tribe of Comanche and remarries. Over the course of 26 years she has an additional five children, but only two out of them survive childhood.

When her husband dies she leaves and seeks out the white man, hoping to find her first born son. The rest of the book follows this journey until she's well into her eighties and has settled down with her daughters and grandchildren.

Sacajawea faced many hardships and Waldo's book explores many of them. It also faces her triumphs and

her sorrows and really makes you believe you know everything she went through and can take a real peek at her life. Waldo also did a wonderful job of incorporating quotes and citations from numerous journals of the time at the beginning of each chapter. It provides factual background that helps make this fictional telling more believable. Each chapter starts out with an excerpt and she bases the next chapter loosely upon that excerpt, creating a story line for each chapter within the story itself. Her writing itself is very detailed and she seems to put a lot of emotion behind her words.

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### **Mary says**

1400 pages!

I first read this book in 1984 during the summer when I was working third shift at a plastic factory. I was saving money for college. I was sleeping in my brothers room because it was the darkest one in the house. It was also filled with a bunch of traps, guns and animals in various stages of taxidermy. It set the stage for an awesome adventure with Sacajawea.

The story is still wonderful all these years later.

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### **Karla says**

Lots of research, but simply too damn long and suffered from "author wants to put in every single thing she discovered and dramatize every little thing." It sometimes happens with these huge doorstoppers. But nice cover art by Tom Hall, as always.

For the record, I made it to page 300, but it took a few weeks to even get that far. A sad rate for the time period I read it, when I was knocking off a 500 page book every 3 days (and no skimming, either). If I had to describe this book in 3 words, it would be "Molasses in January."

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### **Teresa says**

Fabulous historical fiction! Waldo spent many years reasearching to write this book and includes copious notes, which solidify the actual history and give the reader a sense of why the fictional parts weave the way they do. Growing up in Portland, Oregon, I was taught about Lewis and Clark in school, but it came nowhere near the depth and breadth of Waldo's research.

Sacajawea's story runs deep: as an Indian, a woman, an intrepid traveler, a lover of peace. As I approached the last of the 1328 pages, I was truly filled with melancholy. I wanted to know the wonderful ending, but I didn't want the story to end!

Waldo really did a wonderful job making the many facets of Sacajawea's life so real to me that I felt a great kinship with her by the middle of the great Expedition, which ended about a third of the way through this book.

For those history buffs, many points along the Expedition's trail are pointed out, including what Lewis and Clark named them and what their current names are. Many references to the diets of different Native tribes were a bonus for me. Covering from about 1800 to 1900, there is a wealth of knowledge on the daily lives of

early Americans.

This is a rare novel for me - I WILL read it again!

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### **Stephanie says**

An absolutely amazing narrative of this extraordinary woman. I truly believe that Lewis and Clark would never have survived if not for her. She had a hard life. It will make you appreciate women's rights.

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### **Judy says**

This book was simply amazing and I recommend it to anyone who likes to see history come alive! It was a very long book; however, I was totally engrossed throughout the book. Sacajawea led a very extraordinary life through her experiences with the Lewis and Clark expedition that taught her so much more than other Indian women of the period. She learned many languages and lived with several Indian tribes as well as with white explorers. The book is extremely well-written and, although it is an historic novel, many facts are woven into the story (duly footnoted so you can see the inspiration for the story and read for yourself the actual evidence available). This book had to have been researched intensively. Anna Lee Waldo brought Sacajawea to life and this book seems a tribute to her life.

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