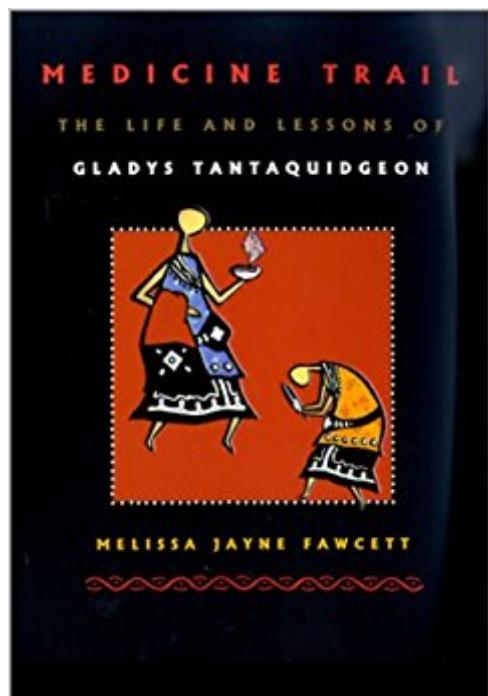


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Medicine Trail: The Life And Lessons Of Gladys Tantaquidgeon



Synopsis

Contrary to the fictional account of James Fenimore Cooper, the Mohegan/Mohican nation did not vanish with the death of Chief Uncas more than three hundred years ago. In the remarkable life story of one of its most beloved matriarchs—100-year-old medicine woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon—Medicine Trail tells of the Mohegans' survival into this century. Blending autobiography and history, with traditional knowledge and ways of life, Medicine Trail presents a collage of events in Tantaquidgeon's life. We see her childhood spent learning Mohegan ceremonies and healing methods at the hands of her tribal grandmothers, and her Ivy League education and career in the white male-dominated field of anthropology. We also witness her travels to other Indian communities, acting as both an ambassador of her own tribe and an employee of the federal government's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Finally we see Tantaquidgeon's return to her beloved Mohegan Hill, where she cofounded America's oldest Indian-run museum, carrying on her life's commitment to good medicine and the cultural continuance and renewal of all Indian nations. Written in the Mohegan oral tradition, this book offers a unique insider's understanding of Mohegan and other Native American cultures while discussing the major policies and trends that have affected people throughout Indian Country in the twentieth century. A significant departure from traditional anthropological "as told to" American Indian autobiography, Medicine Trail represents a major contribution to anthropology, history, theology, women's studies, and Native American studies.

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: University of Arizona Press (October 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816520690

ISBN-13: 978-0816520695

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #464,190 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Native American #1106 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies #5474 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Women

Customer Reviews

Contrary to the fictional account of James Fenimore Cooper, the Mohegan/Mohican nation did not vanish with the death of Chief Uncas more than three hundred years ago. In the remarkable life story of one of its most beloved matriarchs--100-year-old medicine woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon--"Medicine Trail" tells of the Mohegans' survival into this century. Blending autobiography and history, with traditional knowledge and ways of life, "Medicine Trail" presents a collage of events in Tantaquidgeon's life. We see her childhood spent learning Mohegan ceremonies and healing methods at the hands of her tribal grandmothers, and her Ivy League education and career in the white male-dominated field of anthropology. We also witness her travels to other Indian communities, acting as both an ambassador of her own tribe and an employee of the federal government's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Finally we see Tantaquidgeon's return to her beloved Mohegan Hill, where she cofounded America's oldest Indian-run museum, carrying on her life's commitment to good medicine and the cultural continuance and renewal of all Indian nations. Written in the Mohegan oral tradition, this book offers a unique insider's understanding of Mohegan and other Native American cultures while discussing the major policies and trends that have affected people throughout Indian Country in the twentieth century. A significant departure from traditional anthropological "as told to" American Indian autobiography, "Medicine Trail" represents a major contribution to anthropology, history, theology, women's studies, and Native American studies.

Melissa Jayne Fawcett currently serves as Tribal Historian of the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut. In 1992 she received the North American Native Writer's First Book Award in Creative Nonfiction from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas for *The Lasting of the Mohegans*.

Written in a fair way, by a Native Woman, you learn about early CT history, and indigenous life. Would recommend.

Having personally known Gladys Tantaquidgeon, this book was a delight to read, as it brought back memories of stories heard while visiting her, and I learned a few new things too.

I used this book as part of fifth grade curriculum that I wrote to supplement my social studies teaching. The class enjoyed and benefited from the stories, facts, and photographs.

I am so happy with my purchase, and am super grateful for the great service surrounding a great and unique book.

Received the book right away. I am pleased with the service. Thank you

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