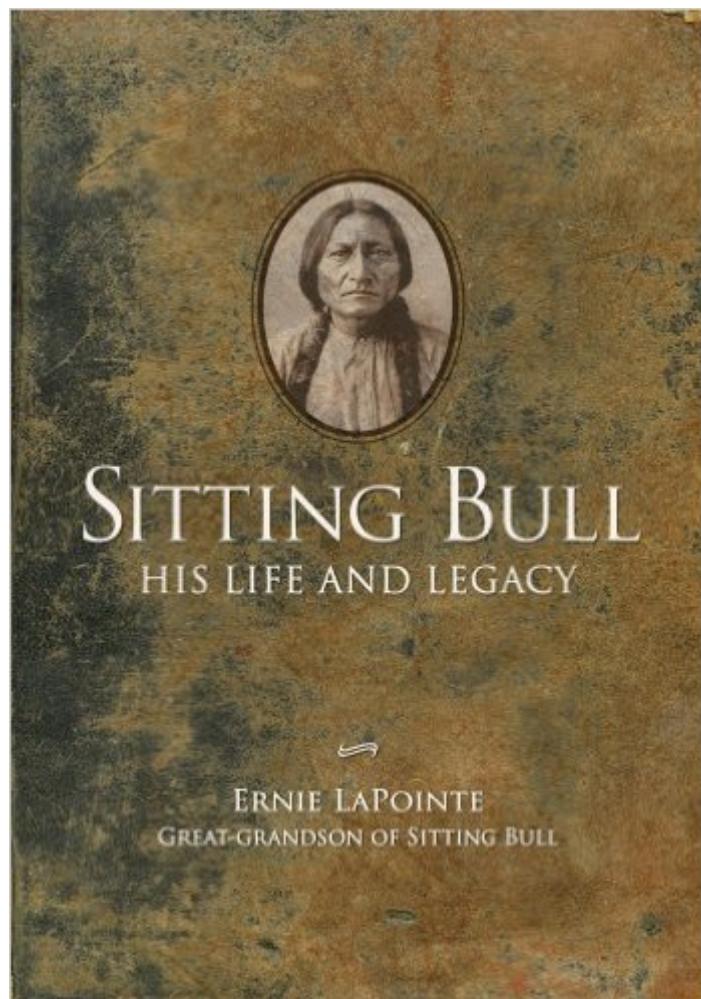


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Sitting Bull: His Life And Legacy



Synopsis

The only book on Sitting Bull written by a lineal descendant Ernie LaPointe is the great -grandson of the famous Hunkpapa Lakota chief, and he presents the family tales and memories told to him about his great-grandfather. In many ways the oral history differs from what has become the standard and widely accepted biography of Sitting Bull. LaPointe explains the discrepancies, how they occurred, and why he wants to tell his story of Tatanka Iyotake.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

LaPointe is the great-grandson of Sitting Bull, the Sioux Indian icon. His Grandma was Standing Holy, Sitting Bull's daughter. In his book he tells anecdotes about his great-Grandfather from birth until his violent death in 1890, which was handed down in the family from generation to generation. In this book the first time, relatives in a straight blood line give their view of the events and this makes this book so valuable. Good to read and surprisingly in relation to some facts. Some supposedly assured facts are very differently transmitted by the family, compared to the official historiography. This book is a must for everybody, who is concerned with Plains Indians or Lakota history.

The first biography of Sitting Bull written by a direct lineal descendant based on oral history and backed by official documentation. It is an excellent read, because it is written well, short, concise, to the point and in plain language so it is easy to understand. At the same time it is also a fascinating book because it is written on a very personal level. Not far into the book, the reader realizes that this

is a matter close to Mr. LaPointe's heart. The reader gets a personal insight on Sitting Bull's life from birth to death, from adolescence to adulthood, the ups and downs of Sitting Bull's life. Incidents and details not known to public before. Sitting Bull, the last true leader of the Lakota Nation, lived in an eventful time, where the way of life of a warrior changed rapidly and dramatically. Where it was common practice to count coup on your enemy to receive great honor to actually killing your enemy in order to preserve a way of life. I recommend this book to anyone, from teens to retirees, who is interested in history and the Native American culture and way of life. The book includes the following chapters: Jumping Badger, Earning His Name, The Strong Heart Society, Jumping Bull, Wives and Children, Gazing at the Sun: The First Vision, Encountering the Americans, The Leader of the Lakota, Arrow Creek, Broken Promises, The Stage is Set, The Battle of the Greasy Grass, In the Land of the Grandmother, Military Custody, A Limited Captivity, The Ghost Dance, Betrayal, The Murder, Burying the Dead, Leaving Standing Rock, The Burial Site of Tatanka Iyotake, Living the Legacy.

Ernie LaPointe did a masterful job of writing this book on his great grandfather, Sitting Bull. He understood Sitting Bull's values as only a family member could. This book explains more about Sitting Bull in human terms than any other book I have read on Sitting Bull. On one hand it is a wonder how the family who knew him best could be overlooked by all the historians, and yet on the other hand it is a gift that allowed us to read it in his Great Grandson's own words. Words that a historian wouldn't know how to begin to write. Not Vestal. Not Utley. No one. I recommend this book highly. If you want the truth about the past, then to not have this book in your library is to leave a hole in your knowledge base.

Beyond the beautiful, lyrical words in which the author writes (a direct descendant of "Sitting Bull") there in lies the subtext of a culture, life, legacy and truth that has laid untold for far too long. This country which is founded on a core value system of freedom and liberty picks and chooses when those rights are applied. Natives to this country are an invisible people, long stripped of their identities and persecuted solely for their belief systems. This book is an essential part of history, the true history that we, who are taught in the American school systems, are never privy to. And what a gift this book is to all of us because it is written from a direct relative of truly one of our country's founding fathers. This book must be read because to not just further institutes the lies our country is so accustomed to accepting.

As a Native American, I am very happy that someone has wrote a book about Sitting Bull that gets

the facts right. This book needed to be written just because there is so much misinformation about Sitting Bull. There are so many people out there that claim to be rightful decedents but Mr. LaPointe and his family are the only true descendants of this great man. If you are an American western history buff, this book is a must for you.

This is an important book. It's also a highly readable and passionate account of the famous Hunkpapa leader by a direct descendant. Ernie LaPointe received his information from his mother Angelique, who learned it from her mother Standing Holy, Sitting Bull's daughter. This direct link of Lakota speakers gives this biography of Sitting Bull an unrivaled immediacy and emotional power. It also makes it required reading for anyone interested in this famous Lakota leader. There are the well known biographies by Stanley Vestal (aka Walter Campbell) and Robert Utley (both based on Campbell's interviews with Sitting Bull's nephews One Bull and White Bull). Now there is LaPointe's gripping account of Tatanka Iyotake.

The book could be titled "Sitting Bull, The Inside Story." To have the Native American perspective, particularly a family member who has access to stories outsiders wouldn't hear, is huge. A different portrait emerges, a far more personal one. Beyond Sitting Bull, it is also very revealing of Native culture and values. This is an essential complement to Anglo biographies, which have their own value through the integration of numerous sources.

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