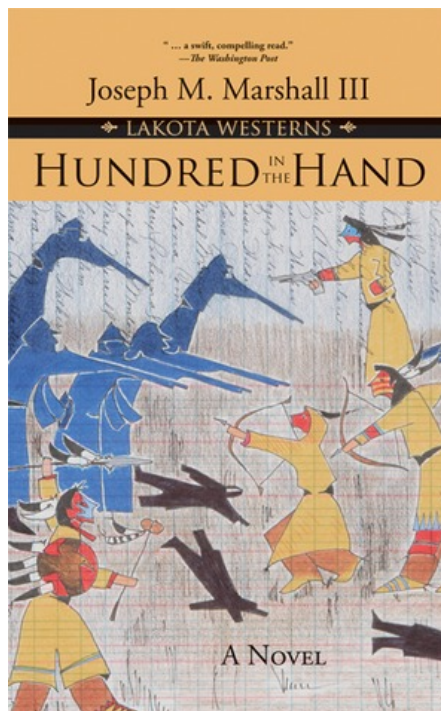




Hundred in the Hand

Joseph M. Marshall III

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The first in a series of groundbreaking novels about the American West from the Lakota perspective

Hundred in the Hand Details

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From Reader Review Hundred in the Hand for online ebook

Jessi says

Summary: The story of Fetterman's Massacre is or 1866 as told through the eyes of Cloud, a dedicated warrior who fights alongside a young Crazy Horse, as well as the white soldiers who mistake Cloud's redheaded wife for a captive. -- JCPL Catalog

I am intrigued by this story - it is essentially a traditional western told from the point of view of the Native Americans. However, I gave up reading it pretty quickly. It is very much a manly book. I believe anyone who reads and enjoys westerns a la Louis L'amour or war histories will like this story and I will keep it in mind to recommend, but this story was just not for me.

Emelie says

I found it really interesting to read this book, to get to experience the American history, happenings and the West through the Lakota Native American's perspective.

We get to follow Cloud, a Young Lakota warrior and his and his comrades experiences with the White Americans, or the Long Knives. We get to meet Young warriors, shamans and the well known Lakota warrior leader Crazy Horse.

I listened to this book and greatly appreciated that it was the authour himself Reading Cloud's parts of the book. Having it read by the author makes the story come to alive even more, as Marshall III knows how to read his own work, with pace, breaks, tones etcetera. His dialect made the story even more alive. I also liked that when we got to follow the American Soldier that it was read differently (by someone else than the author, I didn't pick up on that) and with heavy accent as well.

Maybe the book deserves more closer to a 4, but it took me a while to get through it.

Catherine Richmond says

Hundred in the Hand is the name of the battle known to Euro-Americans as "The Fetterman Massacre." Author Joseph Marshall shows this battle from the point of view of the Lakota. Cloud joins with other warriors to evict the invading Long Knives. Sweetwater Woman was found wandering near the Oregon Trail when she was two years old. She was adopted by a Lakota couple and raised to be Lakota, but the proximity of the whites has her wondering about her biological roots. She and Cloud are expecting a child and wonder what sort of world their child will grow into.

Lakota glossary and four maps aid in understanding the events.

Xarah says

This is the story about the Battle of the Hundred in the Hand/Fetterman Massacre in 1866 from the point of

view of the Lakota.

One reason I picked this book up was the fact it was told from the point of view of an American Indian and written by an American Indian. I thought it would be an interesting, and different, aspect to the same old "westerns" that I've read. At first the book was kind of slow and I didn't really get into it. But as the story continued, it kept my attention. Also noted, this book is the first in a series about the Native American struggle with whites taking their land.

Steven Howes says

The author of this book, Joseph Marshall III, is a noted Lakota writer, teacher, and historian. This novel is his fictionalized account of an actual historical event, the Fetterman Fight or Fetterman Massacre, which occurred near Fort Phil Kearny in NE Wyoming Territory on December 21, 1866, as told from the Indian point of view. The Indians refer to this battle as Hundred in the Hand.

The book begins in the Summer of 1920 with the return of John Richard Cloud (a Lakota participant in the battle) and his family to the battlefield. Cloud is disturbed by the inscription on the monument commemorating the event and feels compelled to tell his account of the battle to his children and grandchildren. The story then flashes back to the 1860's and details the runup and actual battle from an Indian perspective.

Again, this story is about an actual event and many of the characters are real. On December 21, 1866, Captain William J. Fetterman, disobeying a direct order from his superior officer, led his entire command including 3 officers, 76 enlisted men, and 4 civilians, into a well-executed ambush and to their deaths. This was a significant victory for the Indians and it helped lead to abandonment of Forts along the Bozeman Trail. However, by this time the future of Native Americans in the West was not really in doubt. Readers are given a good idea of what Lakota life and culture was like during the period.

Paul Bennett says

This engaging tale starts out with an elderly Lakota grandfather telling his children and grandson about the battle known as Fetterman's Massacre. That retelling sets the tone for this oral history-like story of the Lakota and their fears and reactions to the Long Knife forts along The Bozeman Trail in the mid 1860's. The lead up to the battle is told from the Lakota point of view and mainly centers on the warrior Cloud and his wife, Sweet Water Woman, though the author does a thorough job in his description of life in a Lakota village; and their fears and mistrust of the encroaching whites. The author also lays out the misconceptions prevalent among many whites concerning the native tribes, e.g. the military's disdain of the Indian's fighting ability. I was entertained and educated by this book and am looking forward to the second volume and it's tale of the Greasy Grass fight; also known as The Little Bighorn. 5 stars and a Hoover Book Review recommendation.

Teacatweaves says

Insightful and moving description of the Fetterman massacre from the Lakota point of view. Required reading, indeed.

Tim says

“Remember it is better to lay a warrior naked in death than to be wrapped up well with a heart of water inside.”

The author tells the story of what history calls The Fetterman Massacre, the first significant defeat of the US army at the hands of the Sioux and Cheyenne from three points of view. There's Cloud, a friend of Crazy Horse and married to a white woman, Rabbit, an angry young warrior who loses his right arm after being shot by traders and Hornsby, a white settler. The author is a Lakota and thus provides a new perspective on the events. It's essentially a simple adventure story. What I especially enjoyed was the simple earthy cadence of the prose which seemed to reflect the rhythms of the Lakota language and the cultural details and sayings and customs depicted. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

Karen says

Hundred in the Hand has been called a Western but it is not a cowboy Western. It is an Indian story through and through. The Battle of Hundred in the Hand otherwise known as the Fetterman Massacre of 1866 tells the story from the perspective of the Sioux. Specifically, the story is told by Cloud to his grandchildren many years after the fact. The story is somewhat compelling and kept my interest throughout.

Tom says

A telling of the Fetterman Massacre from the Lakota side. While it was really refreshing to read a western tale from the Native American perspective, it was a little to simplistic and overly-sympathetic to rate a 5 star for me. The natives (the good guys) are portrayed as intelligent, brave, master tacticians with only their lack of firepower keeping them from expelling the whites from their land. The whites (the bad guys) are portrayed as bumbling, cowardly and greedy. To be fair, the author does describe the butchery/atrocities by both sides, but marks it off to revenge, from the native perspective.

There's truth in all this, I suppose, but surely there were at least a couple good men among the whites and a couple bad men among the natives... after all, people are people, no? A more measured, realistic, deeper tale would have been more rewarding to the reader.

That said, I really appreciate the big change in perspective.

Beth says

I grew up with the "white man" version of American history; several trips to South Dakota, however, and my time spent working with the Lakota people taught me how truly there are two sides to every story.

The Fetterman Massacre of 1866 is a victory by the joined forces of Lakota that probably never received

more coverage than that in any history book. The "why" behind the massacre; the faces of the Lakota behind the massacre; and their lives, personalities, culture, and philosophy was something never explored by American history texts.

In this story you meet Crazy Horse, though he is not our main character. Cloud, a friend of the legendary Crazy Horse, and his white wife Sweetwater Woman carry the narrative for most of the tale. His cousin, Rabbit, is an angry young fighter seeking the honor of a true warrior against an enemy very few of them know about and understand. Our only background on the fort they attack is from a young traveller - Hornsby - whose emotions towards the Lakota range from fear, rage, terror, anger, and almost-respect.

It is a beautiful story from the "other side of history" - how the Lakota banded together to drive out those they felt were destroying their land and their old ways of life.

Jimmacc says

I enjoyed the book. As noted by others, it starts off slow, but is worth the time. Reading a "western" from a Lakota viewpoint is very different. I listened to the book and the different voices do a nice job of bringing the story out.

A couple of points to bring up. First, the story, when told from the ... "USA"?... side, depends heavily on one narrative. There are other variants of who played into the Lakota's trap. The Wyoming State Historical Society has some interesting articles on the Fetterman Massacre and other topics of this time period. This does not take away from the story and, from the Lakota view, the story is unchanged. I am still not sure about the infantry/stirrup thing.

Second, the end of the story does gloss over the mutilations. They are acknowledged, but no dialog occurs regarding the reason or the exceptions from the Lakota viewpoint. This is partially understood because the person narrating the story was not in a condition to know at the time. There were other Lakota voices expressed through the book, however.

Patrick Oden says

"Most people who are of the Earth live according to the truth that comes from the Earth," the old woman went on. "One truth is to take only what you need. It is a truth that was not always known, but we know it now. A nation of many people needs more land on which to hunt. We took this land because we were many and needed it. We took it from the Crow people. They fought us, but they understood that we are a nation of many more people. So they moved aside, not because they were afraid, but because they were wise... But we do not need to take any more of the land. The Long Knives are different. They take what they do not need, and I think some of us are learning their ways." (Hundred in the Hand, p. 167)

It is a reality of human culture that we see the world through our own values and priorities. We excuse and promote and honor and abuse to fit our perspectives, making those who compete against us the villains and those who fight for us the heroes. The story of the American West has long been told according to the perspective of the white settlers who came to find what they saw as new land, and new opportunities, to spread out and find a new freedom. Yet, there were people in that land who had already found their own freedoms and life.

Hundred in the Hand is the story of the people who were already there, people who were being pushed aside as more and more white settlers and soldiers came into the land. Although, a little foreign perspective at first Joseph Marshall's skilled story telling quickly draws the reader into the world of the Lakota and we begin to understand the events of the late 18th century from a different set of values and a different set of priorities.

At first the prose would catch me every once in a while, however I soon realized that this was being told as more of an oral tale, and in my head I tried to read it as though I was sitting and listening, rather than sitting and reading. The cadence and the voices began to live and I felt a part.

The story is not complex. It is mostly about various ambushes and preparations for these, with subtle character studies and gentle scenes that give insight into the Lakota perspective. But, in all of this we are smoothly drawn into the perspective of the Lakota, who faced the white soldiers with courage, and a little confusion.

Yet, this is not the whole of the book. About 100 pages in Marshall decides to bring in a white perspective, and so on and off through the rest of the book we occasionally see the story from the eyes of a white man, neither soldier nor settler who involves himself in various ways into the tale. Honestly I felt that while well written this 'white' perspective became a weakness for the book. Seeing the story solely through the eyes of the Lakota was a valued experience, and it seemed just when I was thinking along with them, I was pulled back, back into the typical stories and typical perspectives. I wish I could have gone through the whole book seeing the white settlers as true foreigners, and felt even more thoroughly the perception of the Lakota.

Yet, that is really the only negative. Hundred in the Hand is an engaging story that really is a valued addition to the genre. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Richard says

"Hundred in the Hand" is a compelling story of the Fetterman Massacre of 1886, relaying events from the Indian perspective with insight and care. Unlike other books and novels that include Indian characters and protagonists, Joseph M. Marshall III does more than just present believable characters, he gives them intelligent voices. When the characters speak, their words are "translated" into a vocabulary that you would expect from intelligent men and women. Other authors in the past would have Indians speak as if their vocabulary had no more depth than a 10-year-old's, but Marshall's characters speak like the intelligent and thoughtful adults that they are.

When the Northern Cheyenne White Elk shares his thoughts about the whites and the soldiers the Indians refer to as the Long Knives, the reader knows White Elk can both think logically and intuitively: "Things have changed, but it was not the firearm that brought the change, as some might think. The change was brought because the Long Knives are not warriors; they are killers. They do not fight for honor, as we did when we were young. They fight to consume everything in their way. If they do not like something, they kill it."

This book joins a long list of others that have been telling the other side of the story regarding the white man's movement west. The one narrative flaw I found is that while the novel's voice ostensibly is that of the character Cloud, there are portions of the story that Cloud would have no knowledge of, such as the times when the young warrior Rabbit goes off on his own, or what the soldiers are saying and doing. Cloud wasn't there during these moments, so how does that material become part of the story? That's the structure of an omniscient narrative voice, and Marshall starts this story as Cloud's account as he experienced it.

Nonetheless, Marshall's story is enthralling and draws the reader in from start to finish.

John says

A Lakota/Sioux perspective novel telling of the Hundred in the Hand Massacre would leave you short of the richness of this tale. Based upon a major historical event, the author takes this opportunity to explore the progress of immigrants and the destruction of a way of life for the indigenous people. He also explores the consumption of humanity by war created through greed, ego and hunger. This novel covers a lot of ground while making you feel the winter snow through the buffalo skins of the teepee and the beauty of the big sky country. On many levels this book entertains and educates or at least gets the grey matter to stretch. I would recommend this book.
