



The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men

Vine Deloria Jr.

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Deloria looks at medicine men, their powers, and the Earth's relation to the cosmos.

The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men Details

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From Reader Review The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men for online ebook

Ash says

My favourite chapter was "Sacred Stones and Places." I would have rated it a 3 if not for this chapter, it really touched me the most.

Zach says

I was keenly aware of not being the audience for this book-- Deloria's intent was clearly to convince a native audience of an ancient cosmic connection and set of abilities that have been lost. As an outsider, my inherent lack of connection with his thesis made it a difficult read.

On an anthropological level the book is fascinating and impeccable sourced. But the credulous tone Deloria takes towards the anecdotes he recounts (using someone's "impeachable character" as reason to take stories at completely face value, for instance) rubbed me the wrong way. There were times when glaring holes in his arguments got on my nerves-- for example, stories where the storyteller had every reason to lie or fabricate are completely glossed over-- but, again, I wasn't someone he was trying to convince in the first place.

Megan says

I feel bad giving this book only 2 stars, but while the stories contained within it are fascinating, the way they're presented - anecdote after anecdote - made it hard to read and I did struggle towards the end.

Steven Howes says

This is one of those books that I would only recommend to people who are deeply interested in the subject. I will say that the late Vine Deloria is a noted native american writer, historian, and advocate. This book is a collection of documented accounts of actual healing and finding ceremonies performed by tribal medicine men.

Sean says

Deloria seems careful to avoid overgeneralizing, which I respect, but it makes this feel like a collection of anecdotes--sometimes invigorating anecdotes, but as often as not instead decontextualized and hard to get through.

Cheryl says

We recently quoted from it for hearing on health by Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Jody Mena says

Some pretty powerful stories and insights into the cultural and religious world view of Native Americans. The stories are all written as excerpts from first hand accounts of different sources, which lends them credibility, and they are such incredible tales, that someone who isn't a part of that tradition finds them hard to believe. It's an enlightening peek into a world that's been largely overlooked and/or forgotten by much of today's society. A really enjoyable read.

Julia Orloff says

So far this book is the Vine Deloria, Jr. book that has intrigued me the most. I appreciate the numerous accounts he compiled to set the frame for his thesis. Although this book tells stories of the past and "the world we used to live in," and may be an indicator to some of what we lost, to me it gives me hope, the knowledge is still there. We need to listen, pay heed, and reconnect.

Randilynn says

I am rereading this book.

Kirk Plankey says

I really do Like Vine Deloria, but I just couldn't finish this book. If you interested in anecdotal stories and tales (a lot of them) and you are interested in the lore and history of the Medicine Men then perhaps this will work for you. I only made it to page 51 before I gave up. His philosophical works are favorites of mine but this one just seems to have little to no point at least none to me. I really hated to set this one down but after multiple tries over several months this one is just not going to make it for me.

Sheila Rocha says

good good much needed reclamatory accounts of the oral tradition from Native America that celebrates the mystery and honors the medicine. A Deloria stroll off the usual path and deep into the heart of all that he committed his life to addressing. This book is working for me.

LaPinto says

I have read many books on Native American Legends and stories of the capabilities of the tribal medicine men, but this is the first book I have read that presents first hand accounts written by the Europeans who first came in contact with the different original Nations of North America.

These first-contact Europeans witnessed the actions of the medicine men when they were still pure in their beliefs and religions, before becoming corrupted by the Christian faith.

Many of the first hand documents are from military personel, Jesuit priests and common people who were amazed and sometimes frightened by what they witnessed.

If you have any interest in Native American medicine men and Native American religions, you will certainly enjoy this book.

Francesca Calarco says

If you are interested in learning about prominent stories surrounding medicine men of different U.S. indigenous groups, then [The World We Used to Live In](#) is a pretty solid source.

There are really great dreams, stories, and histories shared in this collection that are organized by spiritual themes. My only criticism would be a lack of context, especially in regards to specific tribal traditions. Stories presented in each chapter represent a multitude of groups from different regions, and given the personal nature of these accounts, I would have liked a little more exposition to better emotionally and culturally understand.

That said, it is an interesting collection. If you are interested in the specific topic, I would recommend it.
