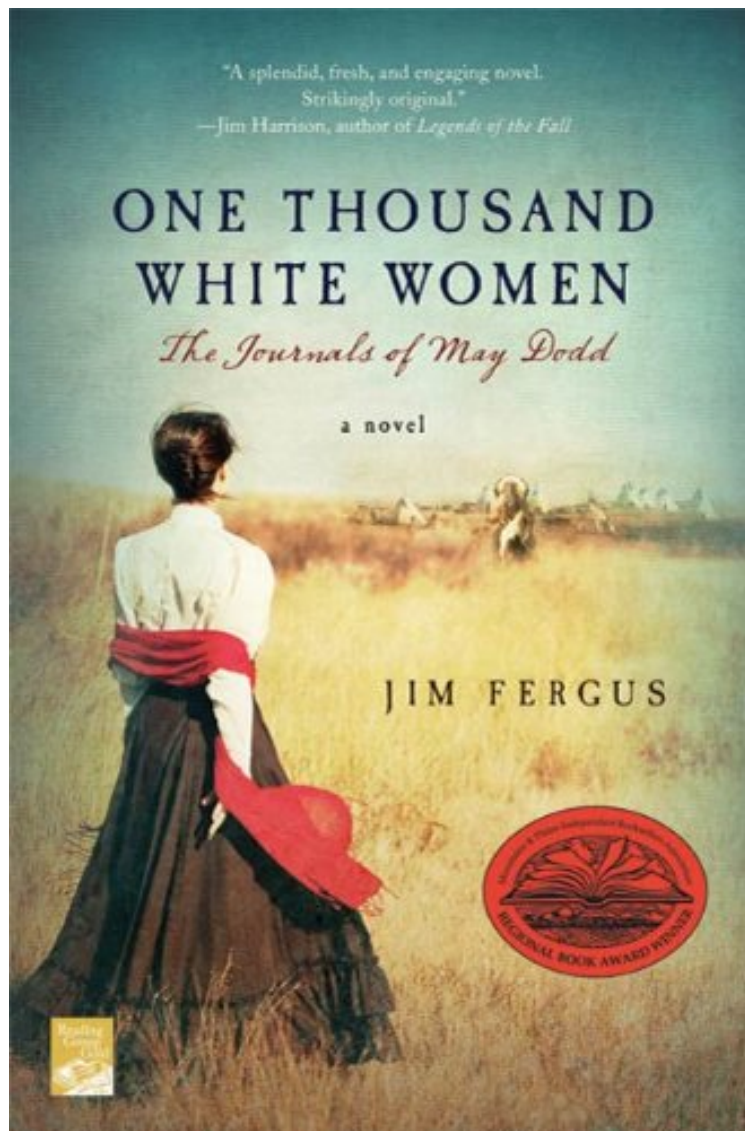


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One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd (One Thousand White Women Series)

Von Jim Fergus

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Von Jim Fergus : One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd (One Thousand White Women Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd (One Thousand White Women Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The

premise on which this book is based offers promise. Von Ein Kunde The idea of basing a novel around an interesting but little-known fact - that Cheyenne Chief Little Wolf traveled East to Washington, D.C. to ask President Grant for "one thousand white women" to intermarry with members of his tribe - was a stroke of genius on the part of author, Jim Fergus. It is historical fact that the offer was made and whether the women's trip West actually happened does not detract from the novel. Jim Fergus is quite clear, from the outset, that the story is fictionalized. What does detract, however, is the fact that Mr. Fergus has not done his homework on Women's Issues. May Dodd is a contemporary, 1990's, woman plunked down in the 1880's. Even the language of her journal entries does not ring true as the language of the times. Scholars and historians have been looking to journals and letters of women in order to understand their place in a particular time period, rather than viewing their thoughts and feelings through the lens of an author or historian who may have been biased. Therefore, it seems ironic that Mr. Fergus would choose this format for his novel - the format of what is true - and then bend it to his will. If I were to use this book for a class reading, I would dub it "fantasy", and not historical fiction, the genre Mr. Fergus probably intended. There is a Paul Bunyan-esque quality to May. She is not only larger than life but so one-dimensional there is no space for the reader to develop his/her impressions about the character. We are constantly being pushed to embrace the author's point of view, that point of view being: "Isn't she wonderful?!". Coincidences occur which defy belief, frequently coincidences meant to bolster May's credibility and strength in the readers' eyes. Before the story even begins, we learn the extremely wealthy and well-positioned Chicago family, which dared to disown May, goes bankrupt. However, the young male family member, clearly smitten with her (what man isn't?) and wanting to learn about her life, is a highly successful magazine editor...and May Dodd's journals are considered "sacred tribal treasures" among the Cheyenne. These events continue (such as twins marrying twins, and both giving birth to twins) throughout the novel, and rather than giving credibility to the character or events, wear the reader down to the point of numbness. Most of the characters are, in fact, stereotyped and "cartoonish", which seems a shame when the relationships unfolding on the early train journey could have broadened as the novel unfolds. Mr. Fergus' depiction of the Cheyenne way of life seems accurate, and indeed, the passages relating the way they lived are among the most pleasing and vivid. Mr. Fergus' characterization of Little Wolf was one of his best. Unfortunately, he loses some of our respect as he develops too much patience for May - her lectures on war, how his tribe should not go to war. War was the way of life for the Plains Indians. Among the reviews listed on the book jacket and inside, none appears to be written by a Cheyenne. Their input is important. It is certainly possible to take some historic events, build a framework, and make up (or fictionalize) a story within those limits. Mr. Fergus, though, has really tried our patience.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Jim Fergus: One Thousand White Women Von Jutta Dahl Das Buch spielt in der 2. Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts, sein Thema ist die Eroberung des Westens Nordamerikas, der Prrie jenseits des Mississippi, durch amerikanische Truppen (Custer und Co), und die Auslöschung der dort lebenden Native Americans (Shoshone, Cheyenne, Sioux, Crow u.a.). Der Autor bezeichnet sein Buch als "fiction", historisch verbrgt ist einzig der Ausgangspunkt: Cheyenne wenden sich 1874 an den Prsidenten der USA mit der Bitte, ihnen 1000 weie Ehefrauen fr ihre jungen Mnner im Tausch gegen 1000 Pferde zu "verkaufen". Der Hintergrund dieses Angebots ist der Wunsch nach Frieden zwischen Roten und Weien. Hier setzt die Phantasie des Autors ein.... Im Buch kommt es zu diesem deal, junge Frauen sehr unterschiedlicher Herkunft, hufig aus der Unterschicht, ziehen in die Wildnis, viele von ihnen in der hehren Absicht, ihre Mnner zu "zivilisieren", zu christianisieren, und ihre gemeinsamen Kinder zu Reprsentanten einer neuen Bevlkerung zu machen, in der Ureinwohner und Weie vershnt sind. Der Reiz des Buches liegt darin, dass das Aufeinandertreffen beider Kulturen aus der Perspektive dieser in und mit allen Vorurteilen der Weien erzogenen jungen Frauen erzht wird: Grundlage des Romans sind die fiktiven Tagebcher der May Dodd, die mit einem der Huptlinge verheiratet wird und fast tglich in ihrem Tagebuch ber das Experiment berichtet. Stck fr Stck lernen die jungen Frauen, dass die "Wilden", die sie kultivieren wollen, ber eine zwar andersartige, aber durchaus bemerkenswerte Kultur verfgen, dass ihre Mnner sensible, einfhlsame, zuverlssige Partner sind, dass sie als Frauen in vielerlei Hinsicht mehr Wertschtzung erfahren als in ihrer eigenen Kultur. Wir lernen die Cheyenne nicht nur als "Wilde" kenne (das auch), sondern als tolerante, als frhliche, witzige, grozgige und geduldige Menschen. Der Ausgang der Geschichte ist leider bekannt: Gebrochene Vertrge, Auslöschung jeglichen Widerstands, Dahinvegetieren der letzten Ureinwohner in der Reservation, so setzt das weie Amerika sich durch. Das Buch hat mir gefallen, auch wenn ich manches ein wenig konstruiert fand (daher nur 4 Sterne), ich empfehle es allen zu lesen, die sich fr Amerikas Ureinwohner interessieren.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great concept, beautiful cover, but Von Chris Garcia One Thousand White Women joins a peculiar genre, the fantastic-premised historical fiction, that includes beauties like Little Big Man, Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All, and I'd love to know what else. However, while these others (especially Little Big Man of course) are full fantastic novels, with challenging and entertaining insights into people's lives, a particular time and a compelling situation, One Thousand White Women is a Gothic romance of historical fantasy. From the choice of journal format, followed by a writing style that it is inconceivable that anyone would use in a journal writing (dialogue in a journal? Maybe, but not THIS dialogue), to the flat characters (Indian and otherwise) with their ahistorical attitudes and concerns, to the injection of contemporary public-school characterizations of burning political issues, the book fails to use its fantastic but rich premise to say anything the reader is better for having read. There are

fascinating (and romantic) women's journals of this period--Susan Shelby Magoffin's, for instance--that make a better novel. This said, I read it all, which is something, I guess.

KurzbeschreibungOne Thousand White Women is the story of May Dodd and a colorful assembly of pioneer women who, under the auspices of the U.S. government, travel to the western prairies in 1875 to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. The covert and controversial "Brides for Indians" program, launched by the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, is intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man's world. Toward that end May and her friends embark upon the adventure of their lifetime. Jim Fergus has so vividly depicted the American West that it is as if these diaries are a capsule in time.
From BooklistAn American western with a most unusual twist, this is an imaginative fictional account of the participation of May Dodd and others in the controversial "Brides for Indians" program, a clandestine U.S. government-sponsored program intended to instruct "savages" in the ways of civilization and to assimilate the Indians into white culture through the offspring of these unions. May's personal journals, loaded with humor and intelligent reflection, describe the adventures of some very colorful white brides (including one black one), their marriages to Cheyenne warriors, and the natural abundance of life on the prairie before the final press of the white man's civilization. Fergus is gifted in his ability to portray the perceptions and emotions of women. He writes with tremendous insight and sensitivity about the individual community and the political and religious issues of the time, many of which are still relevant today. This book is artistically rendered with meticulous attention to small details that bring to life the daily concerns of a group of hardy souls at a pivotal time in U.S. history.
Grace Fill
From KirkussLong, brisk, charming first novel about an 1875 treaty between Ulysses S. Grant and Little Wolf, chief of the Cheyenne nation, by the sports reporter and author of the memoir *A Hunter's Road* (1992). Little Wolf comes to Washington and suggests to President Grant that peace between the Whites and Cheyenne could be established if the Cheyenne were given white women as wives, and that the tribe would agree to raise the children from such unions. The thought of miscegenation naturally enough astounds Grant, but he sees a certain wisdom in trading 1,000 white women for 1,000 horses, and he secretly approves the Brides For Indians treaty. He recruits women from jails, penitentiaries, debtors' prisons, and mental institutions offering full pardons or unconditional release. May Dodd, born to wealth in Chicago in 1850, had left home in her teens and become the mistress of her father's grain-elevator foreman. Her outraged father had her kidnaped, imprisoning her in a monstrous lunatic asylum. When Grant's offer arrives, she leaps at it and soon finds herself traveling west with hundreds of white and black would-be brides. All are indentured to the Cheyenne for two years, must produce children, and then will have the option of leaving. May, who keeps the journal we read, marries Little Wolf and lives in a crowded tipi with his two other wives, their children, and an old crone who enforces the rules. Reading about life among the Cheyenne is spellbinding, especially when the women show up the braves at arm-wrestling, foot-racing, bow-shooting, and gambling. Liquor raises its evil head, as it will, and reduces the braves to savagery. But the women recover, go out on the winter kill with their husbands, and accompany them to a trading post where they drive hard bargains and stop the usual cheating of the braves. Eventually, when the cavalry attacks the Cheyenne, mistakenly thinking they're Crazy Horse's Sioux, May is killed. An impressive historical, terse, convincing, and affecting. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.