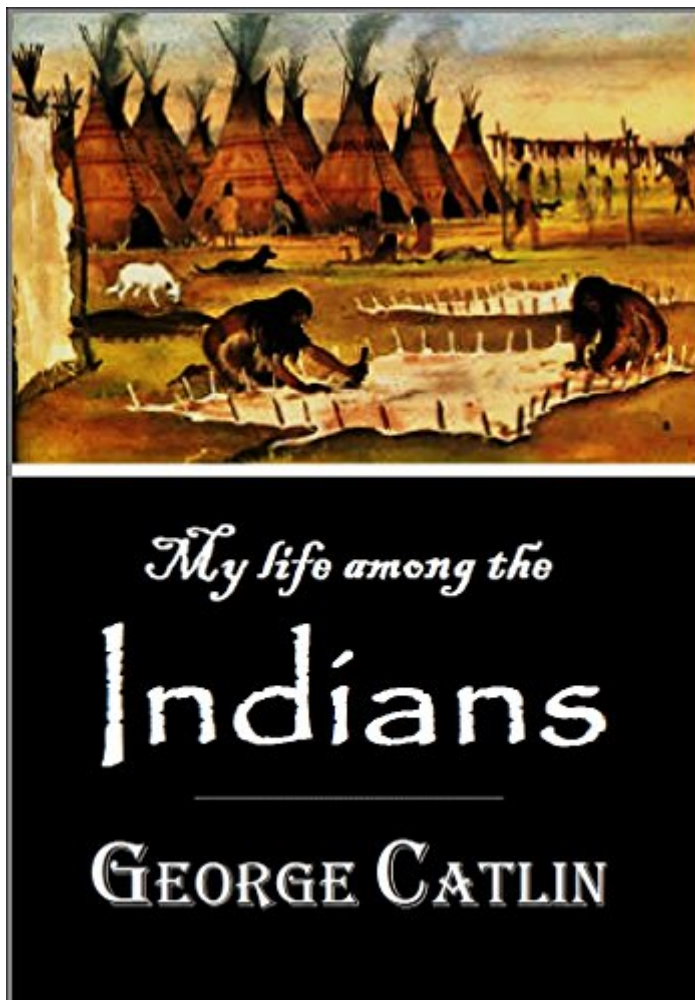


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# My Life Among The Indians (1909)



## Synopsis

George Catlin (1796 – 1872) was an American painter, author, and traveler of the Old West who specialized in portraits of Native Americans. Travelling to the American West five times during the 1830s, Catlin was the first white man to depict Plains Indians in their native territory. The author spent eight years traveling among the Indians of the Northwest and the prairies, noting their customs and recording his observations with pen and brush. Catlin published his observations in a multi-volume set of books on the Indian tribes he witnessed. In "My Life Among the Indians" the parts of Catlin's volumes on the North American Indians which will be of most interest to the public have been condensed and brought together in chronological order. It is a splendid book to read and to own, being made up from two large volumes of letters written by George Catlin, the well-known painter of Indian subjects. There are sixteen illustrations from the artist's original drawings. Mr. Catlin traveled extensively in the Indian country, making a fine collection of Indian specimens which he afterwards exhibited in this country and in foreign lands. Many of these specimens, together with his paintings, which were so true to life among the Indians, are still preserved in Washington. It was Catlin who, in 1832, made the suggestion that the government should set aside a great National Park in the Yellowstone region. "Mr. Catlin's scheme, as it then took shape in his mind, and was carried out without deviation, was the formation of an Indian gallery, for which he would use his skill as a painter in securing portraits among the different tribes he would personally visit; in reproducing pictorially their customs, hunt games, and manner of living; in collecting their robes, headdresses, pipes, weapons, musical instruments, and articles of daily life; and in studying their social life, government, and religious views, that he might arrive at their own view of their relation to the world in which they lived. This world he also wished to investigate geographically and topographically. In brief, he wished to see the Indian in his native state, and, if possible, to discover his past. His future he knew. The Indian would disappear before advancing civilization." Mr. Catlin's personal equipment for his task was a lithe, alert frame, about five feet eight inches tall, made sturdy and enduring by the outdoor life of his boyhood, a knowledge of woodcraft, a trained eye with the rifle, fine horsemanship, simple habits, a mechanical, even an inventive mind, and great steadfastness of purpose."

CONTENTSSketch Of Catlin's LifeI. The Missouri River In The Thirties II. A Studio Among The Guns III. Indian Aristocrats: The Crows And BlackfeetIV. Painting An Indian Dandy V. Canoeing With Bogard And Batiste VI. Mandans: The People Of The Pheasants VII. Social Life Among The Mandans VIII. The Artist Becomes A Medicine-man IX. A Mandan Feast X. The Mandan Women XI. Mandan Dances And GamesXII. O-kee-pa: A Religious Ceremony XIII. Dances Of The O-kee-pa XIV. The Making Of Braves XV. Mandan Legend Of The Deluge XVI. Corn Dance Of The

Minatarees XVII. The Attack On The Canoe XVIII. The Death Of Little Bear: A Sioux TragedyXIX. The Dances And Music Of The Sioux XX. A Dog Feast XXI. The Buffalo ChaseXXII. A Prairie FireXXIII. Songs And Dances Of The Iowas XXIV. Painting Black Hawk And His Warriors XXV. With The Army At Fort Gibson XXVI. Lassoing Wild Horses XXVII. Visiting The Camanches XXVIII. The Stolen Boy XXIX. A Cruel March XXX. A Choctaw Ball GameXXXI. Alone With Charley XXXII. Canoeing On The Upper Mississippi XXXIII. Painting The Portrait Of Keokuk XXXIV. The Land Of The Red-pipe Stone XXXV. The Sad Fate Of Osceola XXXVI. The Indian As An All-around Man

Originally published in 1909; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain occasional imperfection; original spellings have been kept

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## **Customer Reviews**

Great book well written.If you are interested in Indian history and how they lived you have to read this book Catlin was a famous artist and any of his paintings bring huge sums when sold

If you like ethnology, you will love this book. Catlin's powers of observation were extraordinary for

the times as he studied and painted Native Americans around the country in the 1800's.

The authenticity of this book is remarkable. Not only did he write the history but he painted it. So much of the writings about life with the Indians is obviously phony but this isn't one of them. I enjoyed every word of it and looking for more.

Great authentic western story by a person who lived there. Loved It.

I have just finished this book, it is very informative on the life and the celebrations of the plains Indians

interesting and refreshing to read a clear descriptive account without the entitled political correctness and self importance that characterizes much of today's journalism

like to read any info about the early Indian way of life...

true to his eye, hand, heart & honor. Every one should invest time in Mr. Catlin's knowledge of humanity, and the experience of his world of travels.

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