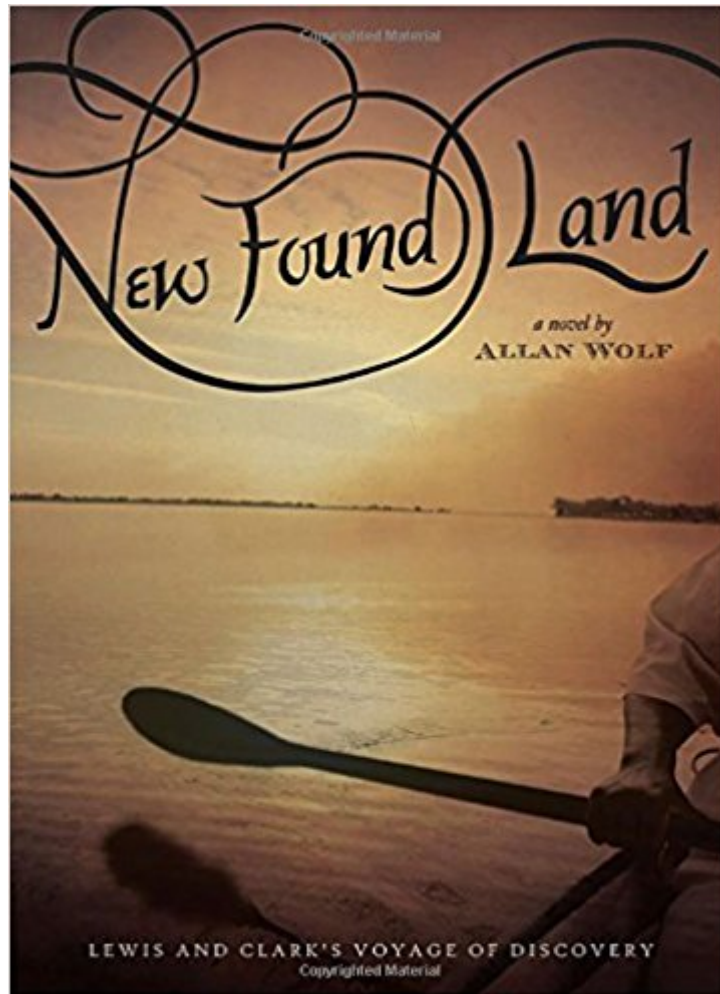




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New Found Land: Lewis And Clark's Voyage Of Discovery



Synopsis

"This amazing work presents the adventure of Lewis and Clark through the eyes of its participants."
• SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review) In powerful, lyrical language, here is the journey of Lewis and Clark told by themselves and their diverse crew • from a one-eyed French-Indian fiddler to Clark's African-American slave; from Sacagawea to Lewis's Newfoundland dog, a "seer" whose narrative resonates long after the book is closed. An American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults An International Reading Association Children's Book Award Notable A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age A SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL Best Book of the Year A Lion and the Unicorn Honor Winner for Excellence in North American Poetry Two starred reviews (KIRKUS, SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL)

Book Information

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Fiction > United States > 19th Century

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Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

SACAGAWEA THE BIRD WOMAN After my eleventh winter I was kidnapped by our enemies and made to be their slave. My people, the Shoshone, were in hiding in the Shining Mountains at the place where three rivers become one. In times of war, we never left the camp unescorted. That day the young brave Split Feather watched over my cousin and me. Split Feather kept lookout from atop

his horse while we two girls crouched by a creek mashing pah-see-goo roots with a heavy stone. We were filled with hope. Spring had arrived. We would soon return to the plains to hunt the buffalo. Soon there would be skins to cover our tepees. Soon there would be meat to fill our stomachs. I was yet a young girl, but a strong one. Cousin was older and due to marry Split Feather soon. They brought joy to each other and their union was a blessing to our family. Long ago my father had promised me to Sitting Hawk, an important Shoshone scout. I was to become his wife, but not until I reached womanhood. Despite our hunger, Cousin and I were always laughing. That day was no different. She held her basket, filled with roots, against her stomach. "Look, Watches the Sky," she said, joking. "I am pregnant with many small children." Even serious Split Feather cracked a smile. Suddenly we heard the sound of the hawk. It was Sitting Hawk, at watch in the forest, signaling to the tribe that the enemy was near. Every bird ceased its singing. My cousin and I fell silent too. We were still as the trees. Split Feather raised his head to listen- the high whine of a flying arrow. The thud of arrow hitting flesh, cracking bone. Split Feather's chest erupted in blood; his eyes were wide; he died instantly. The arrow passed through him as if his body had been river mist. Cousin ran across the water and vanished into the woods at the far side of the creek. I remained crouching by the stream. Try as I might, I could not move. Split Feather slumped onto his horse. His eyes, open in death, watched me. His body slid to the ground. A Hidatsa warrior broke through the thicket. He sat high atop a white horse. In his left hand he held the rein. In his right hand he held a long battle club. He gestured with the club as if to say, Now bow your head - you are mine. Instead I stood. I remembered the rock in my hand. And I hurled it. I managed to hit him between the eyes. The warrior's expression was fear and surprise. But then he smiled. Blood streamed down his painted face, across his white teeth. He licked it from his lips, his grin turning red. As if in a dream I turned, like a doe, to leap as the warrior on the white horse raised his club and, still smiling, brought it down against my head. GEORGE SHANNON THE KID I'm a talker. My mom always said George, if you were a blackberry, you could talk your way out of a hungry bear's mouth. So I came to Pittsburgh to stay with Uncle Will while I went to school to study the law. At least that's what my mother thinks. The past few weeks I've been working as an apprentice at the Tarascon Brothers Shipyard. My plan was to eventually hop on a ship bound for the open ocean. I figure I can always become a lawyer later but for now I want to live a little, see the world, get my feet wet. Anybody can become a lawyer. I want to become something special. I want to accomplish something that no one else can top. I want to read my story in the history books. Not like my father. He worked like a dog doing ordinary things and then he up and died just like that. Well, that's not for me. Now, today down at the Green Tree Tavern the boys are all talking

about this officer come to town to have a keelboat built to sail himself on an expedition of discovery to explore certain secret stretches of our great country that no other civilized man has yet seen. Well, that sounds like the boat George Shannon has been waiting for.

Allan Wolf is a member of the national touring company Poetry Alive!, and is able to recite hundreds of poems from memory. Perhaps it is unsurprising, then, that he chose to write this novel in poetic form. As he says, "During the four years it took to research and write NEW FOUND LAND, my head was constantly crowded with the novel's fourteen voices. They talked to me as I made breakfast, as I dressed the baby, as I delivered newspapers, and as I brushed my teeth. They talked and talked. Alone in my car I began to talk back. And together all fifteen of us worked out the details of the story. Happily, my head is now quiet, the voices having moved to their permanent home within this book." NEW FOUND LAND is Allan Wolf's first novel.

I very much enjoyed this book. It might be a good book for older students, but there are several spots where it talks about very adult natured issues. For example it goes into some detail about Sacajawea going into her monthly cycle and what happened at one point. I am a 4th grade teacher and would not use this as a read aloud with my class. Not sure how other teachers of elementary school got by this, but it is a problem I prefer not to create in my classroom.

Written in a very unique format that is a little hard to get used to at first, but once I got used to it I enjoyed the book very much. I like that it tells about events from different viewpoints. I liked how the end deals with some of the harsh realities of what life was like after they returned. There is also a section at the end that basically tells about each character and what we really know about them vs. any literary license that was taken by the author. That is typical of historical fiction, but I liked the format this author put it in--its written more like a list so it is easier to follow, especially with so many characters. Some of the chapters are written from the viewpoint of their dog--those seemed a little strange to me, but still it worked ok. It must be hard to get copies of the book. I am a school teacher so I ordered copies to use with a class last year and they came two or three at a time over several weeks. By the time I got all of them I had probably waited 3-4 weeks. This year I am ordering about twenty more. I ordered them about a week ago and they still haven't shipped yet and it actually says on the page that sometimes they take 1-2 months to ship! I'm used to quick shipping and didn't really notice that when I placed the order. It isn't a big deal to me because I don't plan to use them soon, but be prepared for a wait. If its just one copy I don't know if the wait is as long, but if you want

this in a week it probably will not happen.Update..Ordered on Oct. 1st. Received email from on Oct. 25th saying they are still not available to ship and that the new estimated delivery date is between Dec. 4th and Jan. 6th. That is three months after I ordered them! I went to Barnes and Noble and ordered them and about half will ship in two days, the other half in about two weeks. Normally I prefer to Barnes and Noble, but not in this case.

Interestingly written as almost diary entries by various members of the expedition party including Lewis's dog and Clark's slave. A bit raw, but those were the times. Two more opposite men than Lewis and Clark coming together to explore new lands acquired by Jefferson's government and forcing the native inhabitants to be thrilled with our occupation of 'our' land sets the stage for the exploitation of Native Americans which still exists. Much of the excursion isn't pretty or exciting according to this book, but I would assume it is more accurate than the romanticized version of us assimilating into the land of extreme beauty and potential.

I purchased this book for my grandson for Christmas last year. He was struggling in reading, except when it came to history where he just couldn't get enough. Lewis and Clark enthrall him and he found this novel fascinating.

Read this book 12 years ago and think of it still to this day often.

Easy read -- great way to learn about Lewis and Clark's expedition without getting bogged down in detail. Creative synopsis of their journey.

Nice variation on the theme.

Excellent!

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