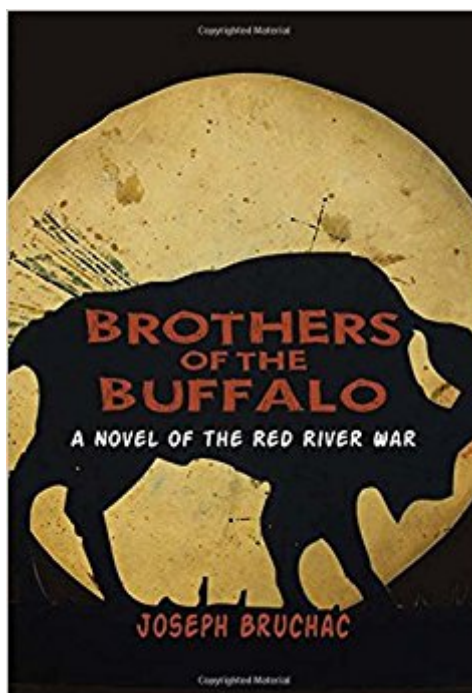


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Brothers Of The Buffalo: A Novel Of The Red River War



Synopsis

A captivating and historical story of two young men on opposing sides of war. In 1874, the U.S. Army sent troops to subdue and move the Native Americans of the southern plains to reservations. *Brothers of the Buffalo* follows Private Washington Vance Jr., an African-American cavalryman, and Wolf, a Cheyenne warrior, during the brief and brutal war that followed. Filled with action and suspense from both sides of the battle, this is a tale of conflict and unlikely friendship in the Wild West.

Book Information

Paperback: 392 pages

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing (February 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938486927

ISBN-13: 978-1938486920

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,444,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Teens >

Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #500 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction >

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

(I received a review copy of *BROTHERS OF THE BUFFALO* from the publisher.) *Brothers of the Buffalo* casts a spotlight on attitudes that, sadly, still exist in too many people in today's world. While that in itself is discouraging, the novel also offers optimism by showing that people of different cultures can co-exist with respect and compassion and subtly implies that education is a way to rise above any circumstance. Each chapter is introduced by a parable from either American Indian or African culture. Each parable is a precis of the chapter that follows. This literary technique adds a narrative richness to a compelling story about men seeking better lives--whether they be the valiant African American Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry or the Native American peoples striving to walk the narrow path of peace, honoring the word of their chiefs who made treaties with the white

men invading their country. The main characters Washington Vance, once a slave, now a Buffalo Soldier, and Wolf, a Cheyenne trying to feed his family despite the terms of the peace treaty that forced them to stop hunting and live on promised food from Washington. The problem is that food hardly ever arrives, or when it does, it's spoiled and/or insufficient. The lives of Vance and Wolf intersect throughout the story so it comes as no surprise, yet a pleasant ending, to see them meet again years later. The ending is at once inevitable and hopeful, spotlighting the spirit of endurance and imparting the feeling that people can create better lives.

Tensions ran high between Native Americans and whites in the southern plains of the U.S. during the 1870s. Natives who conceded lands and hunting rights often were not provided with enough food to sustain themselves, and some rebelled. White hunters slaughtered buffalo the natives depended on for food and warmth. The U.S. cavalry was supposed to keep the peace, but that often proved a difficult job. Against this backdrop, Joseph Bruchac has written a novel about these historic events seen through the eyes of Private Washington Vance Jr., a former slave and an African American cavalryman, and Wolf, a Cheyenne warrior. *Brothers of the Buffalo: A Novel of the Red River War*, shows us both sides of the story, as well as the circumstances that led up to the conflict in the years before it began. An expert storyteller, Bruchac, himself a Native American, includes African and Native American lore that helps the reader understand the traditions that shaped each character. Each young man has a mother and sister who depend on him for support. Each holds himself to high moral standards in deciding on actions to take. As the conflict heats up and the two cross paths again and again, they develop a bond through recognition of a kindred spirit from an opposing side. I highly recommend *Brothers of the Buffalo* for readers aged 12 and up. The issues it brings up should appeal to boys as well as girls and provide good discussion for mother-daughter book clubs. The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

The story about two teenage boys growing up in two very different worlds. An African American teenage boy who grew up in slavery and after freedom joined the Buffalo Soldiers to send money back to his family. The other a Native American teenage boy who after the death of his father is just trying to survive and take care of his family while watching the white men take more and more of their land and food. The story switches back and forth between their day to day lives. The life of a soldier learning to obey orders and that those orders often feel wrong and that the people he's told are his enemy aren't always his real enemy. And the life of a warrior trying to survive while realizing that sometimes fighting isn't always the best or wisest thing to do. Two boys who will eventually

meet and realize that they aren't that different after all. I think this would be a great book for age 12 and up. It tells about the massacres and bad treatment of the Native people and the prejudice and deaths from "friendly fire" against the Buffalo Soldiers without going into gory details. I got a copy of the ebook for an honest review from Edelweiss.

Since I don't read fiction and enjoy reading about First Nations People, this is a Great book.

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