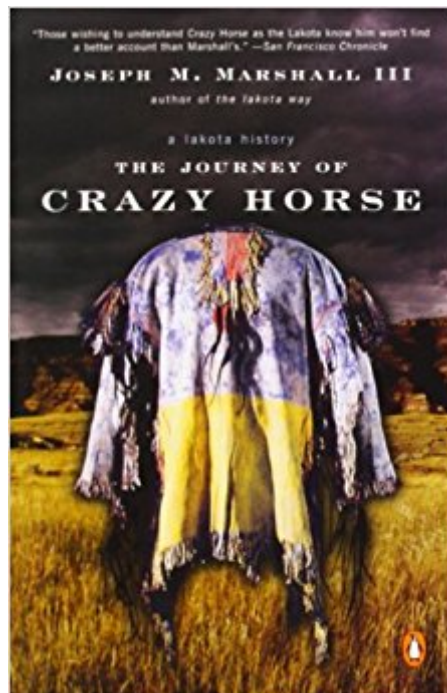


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# The Journey Of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History



## Synopsis

Drawing on vivid oral histories, Joseph M. Marshall's intimate biography introduces a never-before-seen portrait of Crazy Horse and his Lakota community. Most of the world remembers Crazy Horse as a peerless warrior who brought the U.S. Army to its knees at the Battle of Little Bighorn. But to his fellow Lakota Indians, he was a dutiful son and humble fighting man who fought for his people's land, livelihood, and honor. In this fascinating biography, Joseph M. Marshall, himself a Lakota Indian, creates a vibrant portrait of the man, his times, and his legacy. Thanks to firsthand research and his culture's rich oral tradition (rarely shared outside the Native American community), Marshall reveals many aspects of Crazy Horse's life, including details of the powerful vision that convinced him of his duty to help preserve the Lakota homeland—a vision that changed the course of Crazy Horse's life and spurred him confidently into battle time and time again. The Journey of Crazy Horse is the true story of how one man's fight for his people's survival roused his true genius as a strategist, commander, and trusted leader. And it is an unforgettable portrayal of a revered human being and a profound celebration of a culture, a community, and an enduring way of life. "Those wishing to understand Crazy Horse as the Lakota know him won't find a better account than Marshall's." -San Francisco Chronicle

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In one of the first Penguin Lives biographies (1999's *Crazy Horse*), novelist Larry McMurtry drew on what scant facts he had to craft a brief and rather novelistic look at the legendary Lakota warrior. Here, Lakota author Marshall (*The Lakota Way*; *Winter of the Holy Iron*) draws on a rich Native American oral tradition to carefully and lovingly "unfold the life of Crazy Horse as a storyteller would." The result is a vivid, haunting biography that acknowledges the author's boyhood hero worship but avoids hagiography. Raised on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, Marshall recalls hearing his grandfather share stories of battles fought 75 years earlier against "Long Hair," the Lakota name for Gen. George Custer, vanquished at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Marshall reveals Crazy Horse as loyal son, spurned lover, instinctive warrior, doting father, compassionate hunter and natural leader, one who "reluctantly answered the call to serve" and "literally had no desire to talk about his exploits." Marshall sidesteps blood-and-guts combat scenes, emphasizing the larger picture of the Indians' defiant, doomed struggle, as settlers and miners flooded the Great Plains of the Sioux tribes between the 1840s and the 1880s. This book adds spirit and life to our understanding of this enigmatic and important man. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Marshall's portrait of Crazy Horse builds on Mari Sandoz's 1942 biography of the great Lakota leader. Using his skills as a historian along with the oral histories Marshall collected from the children and grandchildren of contemporaries of Crazy Horse, he freshly characterizes the charismatic leader. The author of *The Lakota Way* (2001), Marshall seeks the man behind the legend; accordingly, less attention is paid to Crazy Horse's battlefield exploits than to his leadership qualities. Although Crazy Horse's famous taciturnity makes him an elusive subject, Marshall does a good job of bringing Crazy Horse to life by examining all his milestones: the boy's early military training by High Back Bone; his doomed love for Black Buffalo Woman; his role as leader of one of the last remaining bands wishing to retain their traditional ways. Marshall includes a few reminiscences of his own Lakota boyhood, which reveal some nice parallels. A highly readable, as-accurate-as-the-record-allows study of the nineteenth-century's best-known Lakota chief. Rebecca Maksel Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of the best stories of a repressed people standing up against aggressors. It speaks a lot of those who have not come out on the winning side of history, but not as some sad story of people

who did not make a stand. Also, it gives a very clear glimpse into the life, traditions, and forms of war between Indian tribes, along with how they took the battle to the whites. If you really want to live taste of the experience of their history, without the campy cartoon image propped up about Native Americans, then this is the book for you.

Crazy Horse has completely fascinated me for many years, as I have always had a very keen interest in the American West and the Native American tribes, particularly those that lived in the western plains, and in the south-west, like the Apaches. I thoroughly enjoyed this book- I found it very poetic and written by someone with an obvious knowledge of his chosen subject. I also found it quite sad and moving in what the white man did to the tribes in their never ending pursuit of land and gold. Crazy Horse will always remain a fascinating leader of his people to me and can only be admired for his never ending brave efforts in his endeavors to protect both his people and their sacred and much loved lands. Well done.

A knowledge of Crazy Horse is vital to our understanding of the American West and how the European immigrants shafted the indigenous peoples. This is especially important to those who visit the memorial to Crazy Horse which eclipses Mt Rushmore. All four heads of Mt Rushmore would fit within the head of the statue of Crazy Horse. It was wise for the various tribes to unite in honoring Crazy Horse for this incredible statue that should be seen by all Americans, even though it will not be finished in our lifetimes.

Well written & easy to follow & understand! First I had read about Crazy Horse! Found it to be very enlightening & interesting! So far I'm about 2/3 done with the book! I highly recommend this book to anyone who is concerned about or interested in the life & times of Crazy Horse or plight of Native Americans.

A book that tells the story of Crazy Horse the way it was handed down from the people who were there. Engrossing and informative and a must read!

WOW! . Crazy Horse as an anti-establishment founding father has been ignored. Books like this have helped me understand just how deeply I was indoctrinated into slavery thru the public school system and the entertainment media. I have spent hours thinking about the implications of a life lived the way Crazy Horse lived it. It's no wonder Crazy Horse isn't talked about much, he's a

reaaaally bad example for men to follow....when you're trying to make men into sheep. Thank you  
Joseph M. Marshall III

My adult children are getting copies because this is a morality tale, something children should hear as part of their development as human beings. This is a semi-narrative history, a narrative history with speculation acknowledged. Mari Sandoz wrote an entertaining and enlightening narrative story. Her book (also very good) is long (428 p) as a story and too speculative as a history. Larry McMurtry writes an objective history (148 p), complete with frank commentary on others. As McMurtry points out, there is more known factual information on Alexander the Great than there is on Crazy Horse. There are many reasons for this. Marshall acknowledges all this. From a Lakota perspective, he develops the 'legend story' of Crazy Horse, how Crazy Horse should be remembered, emphasizing a powerful thread: Crazy Horse was a human being, living in extraordinary times and influenced, at an influential age, by extraordinary events. Many small things made Crazy Horse special: He was smart and introspective; He was born to a respectable family but not into an elite family; He was, as Sandoz terms, 'strange'. His legend can present him as Christ-like. Marshall considers that to be shallow and non-constructive. Crazy Horse represents the human spirit that fights the whip rather than capitulates to the carrot. The warrior may not live to fight another day, but he should live forever representing pride & dignity. Marshall's is a very empathetic tale. This book is the first anyone studying Crazy Horse should read. Sandoz's story is definitely confusing without the sociological and language support Marshall provides. I am familiar with the territory, and Marshall's map was instrumental in my reading. I wish I had a larger version. Anyone not familiar with the territory might want a good political map handy to correlate geographic landmarks with cities, highways & boundaries. Marshall is very patient and thorough in explaining Lakota society. His writing is succinct and pragmatically purposeful: focused. I expect to read more of Marshall's work.

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