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The Youngest Mountain Man: A Nate Grisham Young Adult Adventure



Synopsis

A coming of age story by acclaimed Western author W.R. Benton. Life on the frontier could be harsh and even deadly, as fourteen year old Jared Patton learns when he is suddenly an orphan after his entire family is murdered by Oto Indians. Discovered by Nate Grisham and fellow mountain man Cotton, they informally adopt him and teach him how to live in a harsh, rugged land, where death may linger behind every tree, over any ridge, or come creeping silently in the middle of the night. In a meeting with a Shoshone chief, the chief tells about dreaming of a boy named Eagle who will one day be a man much feared by his enemies, and deeply respected by his friends. He then gives Jared a new name, Eagle Talon, and from that point on he is known as Eagle. Another young man, a fifteen year old Sioux boy called Toad, is struggling in his efforts to become a man. He feels no urge to seek a vision, which is required before he can become a true warrior. He worries of his lack of desire, speaks to his grandfather, who says, "Have patience my son. You will have your vision when it is time and not before." Eventually having his vision, Toad is transformed into Fire Eyes, and "a chosen one". He is to give away all wealth (including horses), care for the poor, and to honor and pray for those he kills in battle. His way is not the usual path of a Sioux warrior and he is warned by the village shaman to never move from the trail he has been given to walk, or he will die. When a deadly measles outbreak strikes the Sioux, Nate, Cotton, and Eagle go to the village to help care for the sick. Fire Eyes' vision foretold of an eagle as his spirit helper. Here the two boys meet and begin to forge a powerful friendship. Together they battle common enemies to preserve the safety of the tribe and each other. Suitable for ages: 14 and up (not for younger children) CONTENT CONTAINS: realistic descriptions of frontier violence and death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am enjoying this book immensely. It's well written and is a good read for anyone interested in this sort of storyline. Even though it's presented as a book for young adults, I think it appeals to a much wider audience. I'm in my 60's and enjoy westerns and adventure stories and this is top notch. The characters are well developed and I already feel as though I've known them for years. I look forward to reading the other books in this series. Situations are realistic and details are interesting and well presented. I can see Jared/Eagle growing page by page. Very glad I found this book and author.

A 13-year old boy comes home from gathering wood to see Indians kill his father, and take his mother and sisters away. Two mountain men come along and rescue him, leading him to a life he never knew existed, and adventures he could never have dreamt. Later, this same teenager meets a 14-year old Indian boy and a new adventure begins. Throughout this book, the author describes the trials and tribulations they endure, and how these youngsters become teenage men. There is plenty of action. The author describes the good and bad of all people. This is another must read from this author.

Great reading

Great read... could not put it down! Love the adventure and action....very good book. You feel like you are fighting right beside the characters.

For a young adult, there was too much killing in my opinion, and the boy never did do any mountain man stuff. The characters in the book were well done and I liked the story told from two different

perspectives. As there are not many YA adventure books on the market, this is still better than all the sci-fi stuff that's out there.

I really enjoyed this book. It begins with Oto Indians attacking Jared's family, killing his parents and taking his sisters as they left. Nate and Cotton came along and took Jared, trying to kill out the Oto and get back Jared's sisters. Failing this, Nate and Cotton took Jared with them back to the Shinning Mountains. A very good mountain story. I have read other of W. R. Benton's mountain books. Worth every penny!

This story is one of the best W. R. Benton books that I've read. Once again the author takes you on a journey with numerous plot changes.

WR Benton has become one of my favorite writers. I would have given it 5 stars had he feathered out the ending a little more and not ended so abruptly. I like how he colors the scene without using so much profanity and vulgarity. I realize some is necessary to capture the true character of the mountain men. I will read his other books.

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