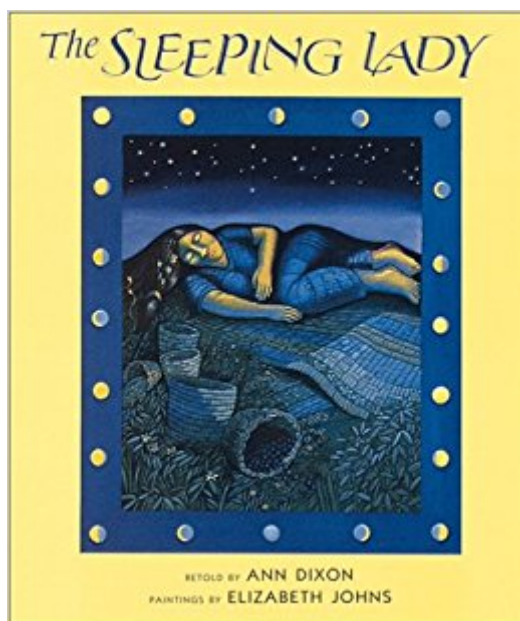


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The Sleeping Lady



Synopsis

To many people who gaze across Cook Inlet from Anchorage, Alaska, Mount Susitna looks like a slumbering woman. The Sleeping Lady is a modern-day folk legend that accounts for both Alaska's first snowfall and for the origin of this beautiful mountain. It is also a classic tale about a time of peace and the consequences of war. Enchanting oil paintings by artist Elizabeth Johns capture the village life of the giant people, a prehistoric, peace-loving group and the drama that ensues when they must face a band of menacing warriors. The tale centers on the fate of the story's two betrothed lovers, Nekatla and Susitna, whose encounters with war bring a lasting change to the land and their people. Cloaked in snow in winter and wildflowers in summer, Mount Susitna embodies the hope for peace so relevant at any age. As much a mythical explanation for natural phenomena as it is a tale about a time when people lived in harmony with nature and each other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alaska's Mount Susitna is the inspiration for this affecting pourquoi story with a pacifist twist. News of fierce Northern warriors disrupt the wedding plans of Nekatla and Susitna, two of the "race of giant people [dwelling] along the shores of Cook Inlet" during its halcyon times. Nekatla, determined to teach the invaders peace, sets out to meet them, leaving his intended behind to gather fruit, weave baskets and sew until his return. Wearied as the days pass, Susitna slumbers; the women who bring the news that her lover and his party have been slaughtered choose not to rouse her, their tears rising to form the world's first snowclouds. Only the coming of peaceful ways will awaken Susitna, now a mountain known as "the Sleeping Lady." Though this story's origin remains

uncertain (possible sources are noted in the author's afterword), Dixon's serene presentation resonates with the simplicity of a Native American legend. Johns's oil paintings are an apt complement, their handsome, ethnic-appearing characters and reverence for the land adding drama and atmosphere. Especially striking are the illustrations' thematic borders, which subtly reflect the story's changing moods. All ages. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 3-8?This retelling of a modern-day folk legend of unknown origin provides an explanation for Alaska's first snowfall and for the formation of Mount Susitna, known in Southcentral Alaska as the "Sleeping Lady." It is also a story about peace, love, the consequences of war, and the importance of living in harmony with nature and with one another. The oil on canvas illustrations capture the village life and spirit of the peace-loving, prehistoric giants who must choose how to face a group of warriors who threaten their home. The rich and vibrant colors, the patterns and intricate details, and the variety of artistic styles (some of the illustrations are reminiscent of Picasso, Rousseau, Gauguin, Matisse, Van Gogh) create visual images that are thought-provoking, intense, and sometimes more haunting than pleasurable to look at. Although the setting is unique to Alaska, the text, which focuses more on the story line and action than on description and detail, will hold the interest of readers, storytellers, and listeners everywhere. A great introduction to or enhancement for units on war, peace, decision making, cooperation, love, or myths and legends.?Roz Goodman, Bering Strait School District Media Center, Unalakleet, Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very happy with this book. I had also ordered an extra one for my daughter. The book was in excellent condition.

What an amazing story! This is a must have for children's books.

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