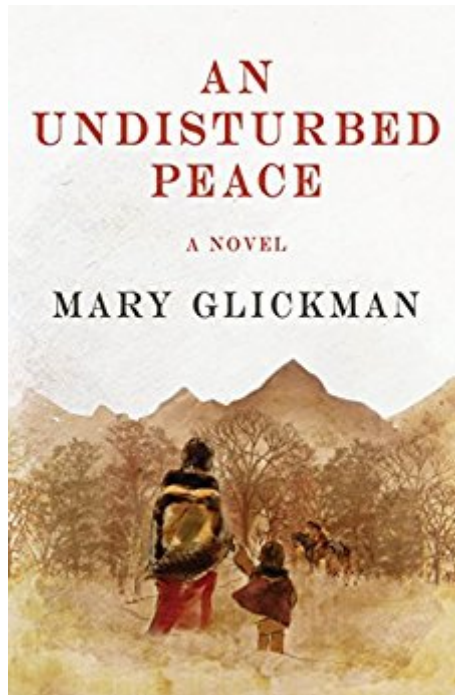




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An Undisturbed Peace: A Novel



Synopsis

Hailed as "the finest depiction of the infamous Trail of Tears," this unflinching novel sheds light on a tragic history (Pat Conroy). As the tribes of the South make the grueling journey across the Mississippi River, a trio of disparate characters is united by a far-reaching story of love, courage, and honor (Booklist). Greensborough, North Carolina, 1828. Abrahan Bento Sassaporta Naggar has traveled to America from the filthy streets of East London in search of a better life. But Abe's visions of a privileged apprenticeship in the Sassaporta Brothers' empire are soon replaced with the grim reality of indentured servitude. Some fifty miles west, Dark Water of the Mountains, the daughter of a powerful Cherokee chief, leads a life of irreverent solitude. Twenty years ago, she renounced her family's plans for her to marry a wealthy white man—a decision that soon proves fateful. And in Georgia, a black slave named Jacob has resigned himself to a life of loss and injustice in a Cherokee city of refuge for criminals. From the author of *Marching to Zion* and *One More River* comes a sweeping novel of American history. As their stories converge in the shameful machinations of history, three outsiders will bear witness to the horrors known as Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act—just as they also discover the possibility for hope. See why Library Journal raves, "This absorbing and vivid portrait of 19th-century America will attract serious historical fiction fans."

Book Information

File Size: 1861 KB

Print Length: 380 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media (February 2, 2016)

Publication Date: February 2, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0116EBY7G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,612 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American #4 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > United States > Jewish American

Customer Reviews

This book is much more of a romance novel than a historical piece. Instead of a Native American being a central character, it was a white man trying to create a business, and on the side obsess over a Cherokee woman. The actual 'trail of tears' was not really an important part of the story.

Here it is the AMERICAN novel, our warts-and-all history revealed in a tragic, always poignant, love story, epic saga and - just in case any reader needs reaffirming - page-turning visit to a time and place most of Americans have no concept of. For readers of the true American Indian history, the brilliantly researched and truthful depiction of the Cherokee nation's plight here at the hands of Andrew Jackson - well, let's just say that this reader now hates \$20 bills as much as native Americans seem to. For readers of historical fiction centered on love stories - here is the cross-over, multi-cultural story we all revel in. Passion, desire, character-shaping events played out with only the passion of true love can engender. Real and moving, heart-warming and -breaking... you will never forget.

Our family is blessed with Cherokee ancestors on both sides. Recently, while researching these ancestors, this book popped up in my queue, and I dived into it. An Undisturbed Peace explores not only the so-called Indian Removal Act, but other minority groups on the fringes of society in the early history of the United States. Abraham (Abe) Bento Sassaporta Naggar immigrates to the United States from East London. A Jew searching for new opportunity in America, he comes to work for his uncle Isadore Sassaporta. Isadore oversees a large and successful troupe of traveling salesmen in the southern states. Abe winters at Isadore's camp in North Carolina and goes on the road during the spring, summer, and fall. While out riding his circuit, Abe meets and falls in love with Dark Water. The beautiful and mysterious daughter of a powerful Cherokee chief, she lives in solitude in the hills of North Carolina. But, Dark Water loves another man, the exiled slave Jacob. Eventually their three lives become forever entwined as the Cherokee are forced from their homes on the Trail of Tears. An Undisturbed Peace depicts the tragic reality of the Trail of Tears and the corruption involved in the planning and logistics. Supplies meant for the Cherokee (and other relocated Native Americans) were taken by soldiers and others involved in

overseeing the relocation. They were held in crowded and filthy conditions resulting in hundreds of deaths. Glickman compares and contrasts the heady and intoxicating notion of this land of opportunity with the sad reality of the marginalized. Consider this passage: "This country, he thought. So rich it opens one's eyes to boundless ambition and blinds them to the misfortunes of others." This book immediately pulled me in. When I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about it. Both haunting and beautiful, it left me brooding for days. As I looked among the names of my Cherokee ancestors, I wondered what their lives had been like. In fact, this book prompted an ongoing search for information. I still spend hours looking for traces of these family members and trying to piece together their lives. Even if you don't have a connection to the Cherokee, Jewish settlers, or slavery, I think anyone interested in American history will enjoy this book. Highly recommended. But will my mom like it? Definitely.

Glickman's book is not bad in and of itself, but it is certainly not a tale about the Trail of Tears. If one wishes to learn about Jewish merchants in the antebellum South, there is a good deal for the reader to enjoy. But the hero's story of obsession with a Cherokee woman is only relevant to his character development, and in no way presents a true picture of the horror that was imposed on the displaced nation. Unfortunately, this work is another in a long history of "white savior" stories, where the very life of the Native American secondary character rests on the benevolence of the white hero. As a work about the Native experience, it is quite disappointing.

Writing was stilted and characters not defined enough. History was important but came too late in the story.

Giving this book 3 stars is very generous. The story was very flat. The writing was amateur-like. I spotted a lot of typos in the kindle version. The story did not grab me. The characters were not well developed. A lot of the story seemed unbelievable. A good story will make you believe you are part of the story, and that you know the characters intimately. You may love or hate them. In this story, the characters were just kind of there. It would have been better to read the historical facts without the story. The story did not add to the historical events, and there really wasn't enough historical facts to justify reading it for historical value. It was a struggle to get through this one. I am glad I only paid \$1.99 for this kindle version.

In this exquisitely written, well-researched novel about the shameful relocation of the Cherokee

nation and infamous "the trail of tears", author Mary Glickman does not once sugarcoat her version of this horrific event, nor shrink from the gruesome truths buried in America's past. Glickman's brilliant creation---a unique love triangle between an immigrant Jewish peddler, a stunning and strong Cherokee woman, and a black slave, set against this backdrop of our history is reminiscent of Charles Dickens: his unforgettable, struggling and flawed characters, as well as his dedication to addressing human rights and social reform through the powers of great storytelling.

I was hoping for a story narrated more from the Indian's experience. I found Abraham to be weak and whiny and selfish. I kept waiting for the story to get really good. It never really grabbed me. I was relieved when it ended.

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