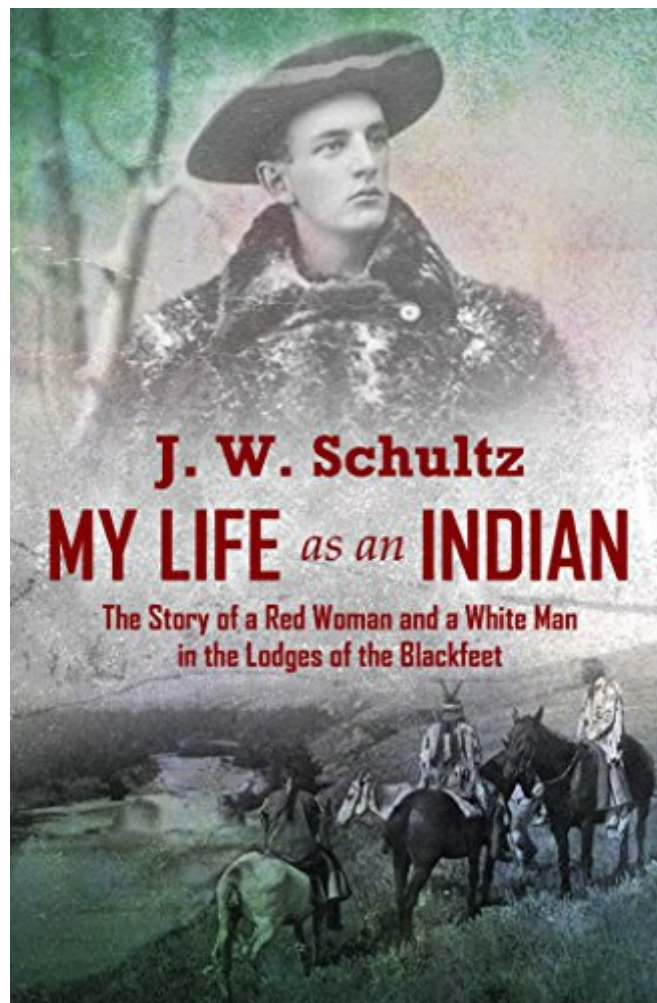




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My Life As An Indian: The Story Of A Red Woman And A White Man In The Lodges Of The Blackfeet



Synopsis

“A rip-roaring yarn and a dazzling glimpse into a vanished past.” • The New York Times
In the year 1880, James Willard Schultz left the comfort of his home in St. Louis, bound for adventure in the Far West. Fired by the writings of Lewis and Clark’s Journal, The Oregon Trail, Fremont’s expeditions, Schultz travelled across the breadth of the American continent to see some of the land and the tribes of which they told. As a young tenderfoot, Schultz quickly found his feet and before long he was under the tutelage of the experienced trapper, Berry, who introduced him to a tribe of Piegan Blackfeet. For the next few years, Schultz immersed himself in the ways of these Native Americans, assisting his friends in fighting rivals, hunting alongside them and even marrying Nat-ah-c̄ki, a Blackfoot woman. As George Bird Grinnell states, “It is an animated and vivid picture of Indian life. The scene is on the plains in the old days, in the picturesque period when the tribe lived in a primitive way, subsisting on the buffalo and at war with hostile neighbours.” • My Life as an Indian is essential reading for anyone interested in Native American culture as it depicts vividly how they lived and survived at a moment in history when their way of life was severely under threat. “James Willard Schultz was a master of storytelling in the Indian manner.” • John C. Ewers, author of The Blackfeet: Raiders on the Northwestern Plains “A sensation-creating volume.” • St. Petersburg Times
James Willard Schultz was given the name Apikuni, meaning Spotted Robe, by the chief, Running Crane. He was an early settler in the Montana region and wrote widely on Blood, Cree and Blackfeet Indians during the latter half of the nineteenth century. He published this book at the age of forty eight in 1907 and died in 1947.

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Customer Reviews

I'm enjoying this book, (I'm 3/4 of the way finished), but the Kindle edition isn't perfect. I don't know if it is a problem only with the digital edition that I bought, or with all of the editions, but on some parts of the book the text jumps abruptly from one story to another, almost as if there was quite a lot of text left out. I'm finding it frustrating as I would like to know how some of the stories turned out but can't. For example, the author tells a story about shooting a grizzly bear and his Indian wife refusing to help take care of the hide because...well I will never know why because the sentence isn't completed and suddenly the book is on another subject all together with other people talking. I have bought many, many, many Kindle books and this is the first time I have ever run across this issue. I would be interested to know if other readers of the Kindle edition of this book have experienced this?

Fascinating book written by a white man living with the Blackfeet tribe in Montana. Puts a different perspective on life in frontier Montana and the natives that were here and the life style they lived. Traces the transition of an Eastern U.S. educated man to become a respected tribal member. His return to "civilization" in the States and realization that the Indian lifestyle was what he preferred led him back to Montana territory.

This is an interesting read. It covers sociological as well as natural history details from the late 1800's in Montana. I am amazed that the Blackfoot Indian tribe was still in almost original historical condition at this late date. Plus the herds of bison and other game were not yet thinned out and nearly lost. The various stories individual natives told and the author reports are very rich in native american lore and various topics of things that happened. This is a good read.

This is the best book I've read in many years. Touching, poignant, happy and informative. A well-written chronicle of life in the waning West, the Native people who inhabited it, and the white men who lived with them. It's also an indictment of the treatment of the Indian by the U.S. government, and the greed of those who displaced the indigenous tribes. Near the end of the book, I was brought to tears.

James Willard Schultz (Apikuni), his Blackfeet wife (Fine Shield Woman) and William Jackson (Rising Wolf) explored, hunted, fished and gave names to the features of what we now call 'Glacier National Park'. Schultz brought the area to the attention of George Bird Grinnell (Fisher Hat), who brought it to everyone else's attention in his outdoor magazine in the late 1800's. Schultz began his life with the Blackfeet at 17, shortly after arriving for a visit to Joseph Kipp's trading fort in western Montana. He wrote home to tell his mother he wouldn't be coming back. For the rest of his life he befriended and studied the Blackfeet, documenting their language and alphabet, their gens and genses, spiritual beliefs and way of life. His son became the famous painter, Lone Wolf.

This is truly a good book with a lot of great information about Trapper, Indians, life on the plains and in the mountains, the demise of the buffalo with the ultimate defeat of the Indians. Human relationships with exciting adventures and an ending I never expected! You can't go wrong for .99...

The writer's life with Indians was really interesting but at times the book seemed to ramble on. For the most part, I gave the book 3 stars because the book ended abruptly, leaving the reader wondering about the end of his personal story. There's no back story either.

Very good first hand history lesson. Being from Montana I have been to many of these places, making it even more special for me. It is the bitter-sweet story of the end of a way of life, the almost extinction of the buffalo and the changing of a whole ecosystem. Gives you a whole new perspective of the way it was and the history as it happened.

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