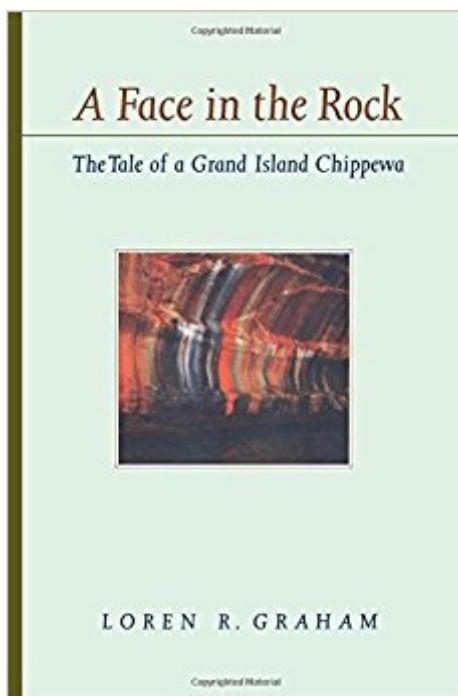


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A Face In The Rock: The Tale Of A Grand Island Chippewa



Synopsis

Eight miles long and four miles wide, Grand Island lies off the south shore of Lake Superior. It was once home to a sizable community of Chippewa Indians who lived in harmony with the land and with each other. Their tragic demise began early in the nineteenth century when their fellow tribesmen from the mainland goaded them into waging war against rival Sioux. The war party was decimated; only one young brave, Powers of the Air, lived to tell the story that celebrated the heroism of his band and formed the basis of the legend that survives today. Distinguished historian Loren R. Graham has spent more than forty years researching and reconstructing the poignant tale of Powers of the Air and his people. *A Face in the Rock* is an artful melding of human history and natural history; it is a fascinating narrative of the intimate relation between place and people. Powers of the Air lived to witness the desecration of Grand Island by the fur and logging industries, the Christianization of the tribe, and the near total loss of the Chippewa language, history, and culture. Graham charts the plight of the Chippewa as white culture steadily encroaches, forcing the native people off the island and dispersing their community on the mainland. The story ends with happier events of the past two decades, including the protection of Grand Island within the National Forest system, and the resurgence of Chippewa culture.

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Customer Reviews

Eight miles long, four miles wide, Grand Island lies off the south shore of Lake Superior, near Munising, Mich. One of its scenic features is the Pictured Rocks, and it is the locale of Hiawatha.

Grand Island was once home to a small band of peaceful Chippewa whose decline began during the 1830s when their mainland brethren goaded them to join in fighting the Sioux. Only one islander survived the battle-Little Duck, who became Powers of the Air. Shortly thereafter, the Chippewa abandoned the Island. Graham (The Ghost of the Executed Engineer) offers a fine piece of local history and a vivid account of white encroachment, desecration of natural resources and degradation of the Chippewa-all within the lifetime of Powers of the Air. Graham concludes his story on a positive note: since the mid-1970s, the Chippewa have undergone a resurgence, and Grand Island is now part of the National Forest system. Illustrated. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Off the south shore of Lake Superior lies an island eight miles long and four miles wide, shaped like the palm of a hand. Known as Grand Island, it was once home to a sizable community of Chippewa Indians who lived in harmony with the land and with each other. The tragic demise of the Grand Island Chippewa began more than 200 years ago when their fellow tribesmen from the mainland goaded the peaceful islanders into joining them in a senseless battle with their rival the Sioux. A Face in the Rock tells the fascinating story of the Grand Island Chippewa, presenting a morality play about the plight of populations destroyed by the violence of other cultures. The Chippewa heroes are personified by "Powers of the Air", a young brave who was the sole survivor of the fateful battle with the Sioux. He witnessed the desecration of Grand Island by the fur and logging industries, the Christianization of the tribe, and the near total loss of the Chippewa language, history, and culture. The story ends with happier events of the past two decades, including the protection of Grand Island as part of the National Park System, and the resurgence of Chippewa culture. -- Midwest Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I truly enjoyed this book. It is a fabulous story of a trip to Northern Michigan and the discovery of a rock carving of a Native American man's face in a rock along the shore of Lake Superior. The author tells us of her interest in this carving and unfolded a very interesting story about the native American Chippewa people who existed just prior to the advent of French explorers. The area is near the framed Picture Rocks and an Island (now a state park) where the subject of the carving once lived. It's a story of a peaceful band of Chippewa Indians their times, religion, history, wars, loss, and culture. If you plan to travel to the UP or interested in native American history and mystery, this is a book to read.

Loren R. Graham spent years gathering information about the Chippewa of Grand Island and his passion for telling the story of this beautiful place is readily apparent. Growing up in Michigan's upper peninsula I was familiar with the enchanting Munising shore of Lake Superior and the mostly marginalized Chippewa of modern-day Michigan. However, I knew little of how the Chippewa lived in the past or the story of the Grand Island Indians' life in isolation and the impact after the whites came. It is a story of change brought about by cultural pressures from within the Chippewa tribe and much more so by the industrial-age expansion of white men. Graham keeps the story interesting by anchoring it around the life of Powers of the Air, an endearing Chippewa man who survived a tragic battle with the Sioux in which he lost his father, only to face many more losses in the story that unfolds. Through Powers of the Air, Graham teaches Grand Island Indian tradition and folklore. He tells of the magical beauty of the island. He shares Powers of the Air's interactions with whites on the island and how the resources of Grand Island were threatened. Carrying the story forward, he tells how in recent times both Grand Island and the Chippewa are seeing a promising future. If you have experienced the notable beauty of Superior's southern shore yourself, this story will add depth and meaning to what is already something special. If you simply enjoy a well-told history, then you won't be disappointed either.

I have bought so many of these books because I keep telling people to read it and then never get it back. Now I drive people to the Falling Rock Bookstore in Munising Michigan so they can buy their own. You can get it here on . But, the story is true and I have been (and taken many people once they read the book) to see the Face in the Rock. I rarely re-read a book but this one is so readable. I also recommend Loren Grahams other books about Grand Island.

This is really a wonderful and sometimes sad story of the native people of Grand Island in the upper peninsula of Michigan. It is an absolutely spectacular area adjacent to Pictured Rocks and this book details the history of the island. If you have visited or plan to visit, this book will give you an insight into life in the early days on the island and nearby Munising.

This book belongs on the shelf labeled "American Indians," when it's not in an appreciative reader's hands! Mr. Graham is a master weaver of stories, with attention to details that captivate, and respect for his subject. Visitors to Grand Island can't be blamed for expecting to see "Powers of the Air," and others of the Chippewa, living there still. . . .

Descriptive on Native American traditions and life in Munising Michigan area. Author interviewed relatives and friends of the main character.

now I have my own copy

Touching story of a splinter tribe of Chippewa faced with an unwanted dilemma. I loved every part of it. Bravo!

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